

Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT)
October 11, 2019
Meeting Notes

Andy Skinner called the meeting to order at 8:34 A.M. with the following members present: Jill Anderson, Katie Blurton, Larry Cook, Susan DeLaire, Bill Deutscher, Chip Duncan, Trevor Elliott, Valarie Filer, Terry Harris, David James, Tanya Laeger, Shelleen Lundeen, Julie McDonald-Zander, Randy Mueller, Brandon Rakes, Andy Skinner, Heather Stewart, Joy Templeton, Annalee Tobey, Ed Wegele, Brian Wilkins, and Shane Wood

1. Welcome and Introductions of Guests

2. Partner Updates & News:

- a. **Veterans Memorial Museum:** Chip Duncan explained that the museum had held their regular programs such as the Desert, Vietnam, and Korean War Veterans dinners, a Gambler 500 event, the Rust or Shine car show, and has planned many events for next year. He explained that the museum was researching the possibility of opening up a veteran's assistance center in downtown Chehalis, the aim to provide peer counselling and healthcare benefit assistance to veterans in the area.
- b. **Boys and Girls Club:** David James explained that the Boys and Girls Club was now in its third year with 204 children, and approximately 135 daily attendance. He informed the group that a fundraiser would take place at the end of the month for the club. Shane Wood explained that the focus was to instill leadership qualities in the children and asked that anyone with a passion (cooking, art, etc.) please contact them about holding a class for the children.
- c. **City of Chehalis:** Jill Anderson informed the group that the City had participated in a strategic planning session in September. She thanked the members of the Chehalis Foundation, the City Council, and members of the community for their continued support with the Recreation Park/Penny Playground project. She explained that the City was in the midst of budget season, collective bargaining with three labor groups, the Recreation Park/Penny Playground project, and researching a possible location for a new fire station.
- d. **Chehalis History:** Julie McDonald-Zander explained that a new local history book about Matilda Koontz-Jackson was now available.
- e. **Chehalis-Centralia Railroad and Museum:** Bill Deutscher informed the group that pumpkin trains would run on October 26th and 27th. The Polar Express™ train rides will begin on November 22nd. He also explained that a bid for the rail line would be submitted to the Port of Chehalis by the end of the day. He informed the group that repair work on Locomotive #15, the steam engine, continued. Terry Harris informed the group that a Lodging Tax Advisory Committee meeting had been scheduled for October 23rd to review the application for repairs made by the Chehalis-Centralia Railroad and Museum.

3. Committee Reports:

- a. **Executive Director's Report:** Annalee Tobey explained that the 2020 budget will be reviewed soon. She thanked everyone involved with the CCRT for dedicating their time and effort.
- b. **Economic Restructuring:** Trevor Elliott informed the group that new façade grants had been applied for by the owners of the Elks Building, San Juan Arms Apartments, and Kitty Kat Haven. Downtown Business Academy will take place in Centralia at Black Dog Pottery and will cover merchandising.
- c. **Promotion:** Annalee Tobey explained that data for the 2020 Chehalis brochure is being collected and asked that anyone with programs please contact her. She informed the group that projects such as Chehalis merchandise and 'Things to do' cards were being created as well.
- d. **Design:** Ed Wegele informed the group that the electrical boxes around Chehalis. Larry Cook and many other members expressed their excitement about the various works of art around the city.
- e. **Organization:** Andy Skinner informed the group that the future of the Chehalis Coworks was being discussed; he explained that the discussions were very positive. He informed the group that the CCRT Board would be participating in a strategic planning session through the Evans School of Public Policy.

4. Other Updates/Announcements/Good of the Order

- a. Terry Harris informed the group that there were only 76 days left until Christmas!
- b. Valarie Filer of Kitty Kat Haven informed the group that there would be an open house for the feline rescue before Halloween. She explained that the entire organization is volunteer and donation-based.
- c. Susan DeLaire explained that the Lewis County Seniors would be hosting a fundraising magic show on Saturday, October 19th and invited everyone to attend.
- d. Randy Mueller informed the group that the Port of Chehalis has put the rail line up for sale to be sold to whichever entity will bring the greatest benefit to the community. He also informed the group that the Port of Chehalis plans to provide the CCRT with a \$30,000 donation in 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 A.M. by Andy Skinner.

Next meeting is Friday, November 8th at 8:30 A.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kiley Franz, City Manager's Administrative Assistant.