

**Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT)**  
**November 8, 2019**  
**Meeting Notes**

Andy Skinner called the meeting to order at 8:35 A.M. with the following members present: Jill Anderson, Larry Cook, Susan DeLaire, Bill Deutscher, Chip Duncan, Michael Ervin, Terry Harris, Tamara Hayes, Patty Kaija, Tanya Laeger, Shelleen Lundeen, Jason Matson, Karen McSwain, Randy Mueller, Nicole Sampson, Pam Simpson, Heather Stewart, Thomas Sutley, Annalee Tobey, Ed Wegele, Brian Wilkins, and Shane Wood

- 1. Welcome and Introductions of Guests:** Annalee Tobey introduced Thomas Sutley and explained that he is the artist behind the mural at Ewe and I, the trash can lids, the 'Love Chehalis' mural, and many other projects. Jill Anderson thanked Thomas for his work and expressed her belief that the art was a major benefit to the city.
- 2. Partner Updates & News:**
  - a. Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce:** Shelleen Lundeen invited everyone to attend the Business After Hours event at the chamber. Choose Local First bags will be distributed the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. She explained that the theme of this year's Santa Parade is "I'll be home for Christmas" in support of active military members and veterans.
  - b. Synergy Networking:** Shane Wood explained that this event had evolved from another networking event that had lost momentum. This event will take place on Tuesdays following the regular Chamber of Commerce event. He explained that Synergy Networking had a Facebook page and encouraged everyone to follow it.
  - c. Port of Chehalis:** Randy Mueller informed the group that the Chehalis Coworks will be a permanent fixture. The Port of Chehalis will be the landlord for the Coworks and the CCRT will be managing it. The rail line had been sold to the Chehalis-Centralia Railroad and Museum. The Port has committed to funding the CCRT in 2020, has doubled their marketing budget, and are building their first new building in 20 years.
  - d. State Avenue:** Patty Kaija informed the group that the signs for State Avenue and the Welcome to Chehalis sign had been switched so that they were in their correct positions! The State Avenue group was excited to be part of the CCRT and planned to decorate for the holidays as well. Next spring, it is planned to extend the pollination corridor to include State Avenue.
- 3. Committee Reports:**
  - a. Executive Director's Report:** Annalee Tobey handed out the CCRT general meeting schedule for 2020. Committees are brainstorming ideas for 2020 projects. She thanked all B&O tax contributors for their support of the CCRT.
  - b. Promotion:** Lindsey Senter explained that work on the Chehalis brochure continued. Annalee Tobey informed the group that the holiday décor discounts offered through the CCRT would once again be offered this holiday season.
  - c. Economic Restructuring:** Annalee Tobey informed the group that work on the 11<sup>th</sup> façade grant had begun. Nicole Sampson announced that the next Downtown Business Academy would occur on November 21<sup>st</sup> at the Chehalis Library and would focus on

Instagram. Annalee Tobey explained that the block captain program had been formed, seven of the thirteen necessary positions had been filled.

- d. **Organization:** Nicole Sampson was excited to announced that the Board had enlisted the assistance of UW professor Stephen Page for the strategic planning process. Board meetings in November, December, and January will be extended to allow time to begin the strategic planning process.
  - e. **Design:** Ed Wegele informed the group that the war on beige continued.
  - f. **Holiday Decorations:** Terry Harris informed the group that there were 47 days until Christmas. He explained that the holiday decorations would be put up on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.
- 4. Other Updates/Announcements/Good of the Order**
- a. Chip Duncan reminded the group that the Veterans Day Parade was the following weekend and encouraged everyone to attend.
  - b. Patty Kaija explained that the weekend of November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup> eight businesses would be participating in a passport event. If patrons made it to all participating businesses, they had a chance to win a gift basket.
  - c. Heather Stewart invited everyone to attend Blade Realty's customer appreciation party on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 A.M. by Nicole Sampson.

**Next meeting is Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 A.M.**

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