

## **Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT)**

### **General Meeting Notes**

**March 13, 2020**

Nicole Sampson called the meeting to order at 8:34 A.M. with the following members present: Jill Anderson, Larry Cook, Andrea Culletto, Susan DeLaire, Bill Deutscher, Michael Ervin, Terry Harris, Tamara Hayes, Tanya Laeger, Jerry Lord, Shelleen Lundeen, Nicole Sampson, Joy Templeton, Annalee Tobey, Ed Wegele, and Brian Wilkins

**Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce:** Shelleen Lundeen invited everyone to participate in the Chamber's annual Spring Fling event which encourages families to explore Chehalis.

**Southwest Washington Fairgrounds:** Tamara Hayes explained that due to concerns regarding COVID-19, many events had been cancelled at the fairgrounds. A new PA system will be installed at the fairgrounds soon. She also informed the group that the White Pass Scenic Byway would be working with Discover Lewis County to encourage outdoor tourism activities and promotions for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mt. St. Helens eruption.

**City of Chehalis:** Jill Anderson informed the group that the ribbon cutting for the new ballfields at the Chehalis Sports Complex was planned for March 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 P.M., subject to change due to the ongoing concerns with COVID-19. She explained that the City was preparing for state and federally ordered closures for the virus and was planning how to ensure the continuation of critical operations like police and fire. The council approved a due diligence period with a contractor for the possible new fire station location; the project is moving forward.

**Executive Director's Report:** Annalee Tobey informed the group that the main street forum was also taking action to ensure resiliency for small businesses during possible COVID-19 closures. The county has developed a page regarding virus updates and may be viewed at: [www.lewiscountywa.gov/departments/public-health/covid-19-information](http://www.lewiscountywa.gov/departments/public-health/covid-19-information)

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Promotions and Design:** Ed Wegele explained that plans for how to add color to Chehalis were in the works. Chehalis themed merchandise is in creation and they are narrowing down the first five products they would like to produce. Annalee Tobey informed the group that the 'Things to Do' cards for local hotel rooms would be completed soon.

**Economic Restructuring:** Nicole Sampson explained that the next Downtown Business Academy is planned to be held on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at the Coworks depending on the state of closures due to COVID-19. Annalee Tobey informed the group that the Chehalis Coworks was now being run by the CCRT only; the port is still a partner in the project, but billing and day to day functions will be overseen by the CCRT.

**Organization:** Nicole Sampson explained that the Board continued to work with Stephen Paige and Hailey Fagerness from UW to create a long-term, stable strategic plan for the CCRT.

#### **Good of the Order:**

- None

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 A.M. by Nicole Sampson.

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