

**Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT)**  
**May 15, 2020**  
**Meeting Notes**

Andy Skinner called the meeting to order at 9:05 A.M. with the following members present: Jill Anderson, Katie Blurton, Susan DeLaire, Bill Deutscher, Michael Ervin, Tamara Hayes, Bobby Jackson, Patty Kaija, Tanya Laeger, Larry McGee, Randy Mueller, Nicole Sampson, Lindsey Senter, Andy Skinner, Annalee Tobey, and Ed Wegele

***Meeting was held via Zoom***

- 1. Welcome and Introductions of Guests**
- 2. City of Chehalis:** Jill Anderson, City Manager, informed the group that city offices remain closed to the public at this time. Work on Penny Playground has resumed; the pergola and playground equipment will be installed soon. Work on the pool continues and staff is trying to determine if a pool season will be feasible due to the outbreak. She informed the group that Lewis County Fire District #6 had decided to terminate the station lease agreement and work has begun to find a temporary location to house city firefighters. Jill Anderson briefly explained temporary options to the group. The budget is being closely monitored due to the loss in sales tax revenue due to the COVID-19 shut down.
- 3. Lewis County:** Commissioner Bobby Jackson informed the group that the county has requested that the county move forward to Phase 2 of COVID-19 restrictions set by the state. Jill Anderson expressed her support of the county and praised them on the work they have done.
- 4. Columbia Bank:** Michael Ervin explained that the PPE loans were on their second loan phase. These loans are working to prevent the strain felt in the last recession.
- 5. Lewis County Together:** Larry McGee explained that the focus of Lewis County Together was to remind people that businesses were open. A packet for businesses thinking about reopening soon provided much needed information. Bags containing hand sanitizer, masks, signage for doors, and other such necessities are being prepared for any business looking to reopen.
- 6. Chehalis-Centralia Railroad and Museum:** Bill Deutscher explained that the steam train rides had a tentative opening of June 13<sup>th</sup>. Gift certificates are available online. He thanked both the City of Chehalis and the State of Washington for their contributions to locomotive repairs in lodging tax funds and grant monies respectively.
- 7. Committee Reports:**
  - a. Executive Director's Report:** Annalee Tobey informed the group that the website had received over 6,000 views on the restaurant listing page and over 18,000 views on the website itself. A business recovery toolkit is being created for all local businesses, not just Chehalis businesses.
  - b. Economic Restructuring:** Nicole Sampson explained that she will be the interim chairperson for the Economic Restructuring Committee due to Trevor Elliott stepping down for work related reasons. She appealed to everyone to attend one of their meetings which are currently being held via Zoom.

- c. **Promotions:** Lindsey Senter explained that ChehalisFest had been cancelled for 2020 due to COVID-19. Posters of support had been created and will be distributed to businesses in the area.
  - d. **Design:** Annalee Tobey informed the group that planning for art benches, coloring books, and other art projects downtown continue, though have been placed on hold due to the pandemic.
  - e. **Organization:** Andy Skinner explained that the B&O tax credit cap had been maxed out by the CCRT. He thanked the donors, the City of Chehalis, and the Port of Chehalis. He thanked Lewis County and the City of Chehalis for their Lodging Tax contributions. The strategic planning process continues and a draft plan would be reviewed by the Board soon.
- 8. Other Updates/Announcements/Good of the Order**
- a. Music in the Park has been cancelled for the season.
  - b. The Farmers' Market plans to open in June.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 A.M. by Andy Skinner.

**Next meeting is Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 A.M. via Zoom**

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