

3/12/21

CCRT Meeting Notes

Attendees: Brian Wilkins, Chip Duncan, David James, Larry McGee, Annalee Tobey, Larry Cook, Brandon Rakes, Nicole Sampson, Bill Deutscher, Terry Harris, Lindsey Senter, Michael Ervin, Susan DeLaire, Julie McDonald-Zander, Celene Fitzgerald

Jill Anderson - City of Chehalis Report

- Approved lease for auto dealership near Dutch Bros. and I-5 Toyota
- Owners of Sonic Drive-In are planning a car wash location near Sonic
- There is currently robust interest in our community for business development
- Mike Bannon has been selected as new Chehalis City Counselor filling Chad Taylor's former position
- City staff transitions – Judy Schave has retired and Caryn Foley is retiring this month.
- Repairs are scheduled at Recreation Park and Penny Playground. Damage to the concrete underground extends repair timeline in addition to replacing surface equipment

Bill Deutscher - Chehalis-Centralia Railroad & Museum Report

- Shamrock Family Fun Train and Dinner Train happening March 13 and 17 - both are sold out
- Easter Eggspress will take place on April 3 with 50% capacity
- Saturday, April 10 kicks off regular season rides at 1pm and 3pm, Dinner trains will begin May 29 on Saturdays and Sundays.
- Dinner/Murder Mystery trains will begin in June
- Restoration work continues on Engine 15 thanks to a state grant
- New business car is getting painted. Seats 20 people in first class setting

Chip - Veterans Memorial Museum Report

- Taking volunteers to work at museum
- Certified peer counseling program is being set up. 18 veterans coming from all over state of Washington to work with the program. The ROI on the program is huge, over \$2 billion saved in mental health costs. The program pairs veterans with veterans in need. April will begin an in person training with active duty at JBLM. Adds an avenue of healing missing in the current system. Grant funds will pay for CPC for the next 2 years.
- VMM is building a movie theater for drive-in movies. Planning to have movies last and first sat of every month
- Car shows planned for August hoping for better odds of happening
- VMM has been working with Weyerhaeuser and have purchased land adjoining their location. VMM and The Steam Train plan to use the area as a junction point for VMM and Steam Train. They would like to add a ticket booth so the parking lots are shared hopefully improving traffic to both.

Annalee - Executive Director's Report

- Working Washington Round 4 coming out at the end of this month through Department of Commerce. CCRT will share with business community when grants open
- New business-focused e-newsletter “3 Things to Know this Week” produced every other week. Folks encouraged to sign up.
- Main Street Bill - HB1279, increase the MSP tax credit from \$2.5 million to \$5 million. Bill saw much support in House and appears to be generating support in Senate currently.
- Annalee attended Federal Preservation Advocacy Week this month. Meeting with Congresswoman Jamie Herrera-Beutler to ask for support for historic preservation.
- Spring Fling - Chamber will host Spring Fling Apr 2nd and 3rd as part of the Sportsman Show. The event will not be held downtown Chehalis as in past years.

David James - Promotions Committee Report

- Ongoing work on social posts and new small biz spotlights
- Ongoing work on pivoting ChehalisFest
- Working with new blogger to add content to website, social media, enews and share stories of Chehalis

Laura Six - ERC Report

- Chehalis Coworks is seeing increased usage by membership. Have added more cleaning services
- Talked to Randy at the Port of Chehalis about hiring a work study student for additional staff support.
- One new digital marketing grant application received this month.

Annalee Tobey - Design Report (on behalf of Emily Von Flotow)

- Planning summer art projects and talking to owners about mural installation
- Contracted with Gary Van Auken Enterprises to do litter pick-up throughout the city.
- Wrapping up coloring book project

Nicole - Organization Report

- Fundraising and B&O season is going well. B&O pledges are due by March 31, 2021
- Committee is reviewing bylaws and looking into increased volunteer engagement