

# FRIDAY WITH *Friends*

## MEETING NOTES Experience Chehalis June 10, 2022 | 8:30 a.m.

**Attendees:** Brian Wilkins, Annalee Tobey, David James, David Hartz, Susan Delaire, Michael Ervin, Jason Mattson, Tony Ketchum, Kate McDougall, Justine Pense, Shelley Hanson, Jill Anderson, Jo Kuehner, Cynthia Mudge, Sarah Bent, Eric Sonnenberg, Jason King, Brandon Rakes

### **Jill Anderson, City Manager**

- 4 new members of the city's management team have been hired since January 2021.
- Work on Chehalis Avenue between 3rd and 9th Street will begin soon working on water and sewer. Work will be starting soon on National Avenue as well.
- The Building and Planning Department is working on processes to streamline development. Backlog is getting processed
- A new carwash being located on Louisiana Ave. should be open this summer.
- Honda will resume their filling on Louisiana Ave soon as well.
- Large construction project continues at Greenhill.
- Recreation Park continues to be vandalized by area youth. The city has cameras installed and is working with the Chehalis School District to catch the criminals.
- With a new grant received by the Parks & Rec Dept, a new Movies in the Park program will be happening this summer.

### **Jason Mattson, Lewis County Historical Museum Director**

- The museum recently hosted a 100 years of Rotary exhibit.
- Recently hosted a discussion/speaker about the Japanese internment camps and its effect on our local citizens removed from their homes.
- They look forward to hosting the annual pancake breakfast at ChehalisFest on July 30.
- This fall they will host their Flying Saucer Party on Sept. 17-18.
- In December they will host an Author's Afternoon where local authors will sign books.

### **Promotion Committee - David James**

- Postcards are designed and being shopped around at local stores.
- Self-Guided Art Tour rack card is designed and printed; ready for distribution.
- Experience Chehalis Brochure is printed and being distributed.
- Working on merchandise to sell at ChehalisFest including a commemorative poster.

### **Organization Committee - Annalee**

- As the organization matures this committee will focus less on developing processes and moving to outreach, focusing on communication with stakeholders and volunteers.
- The committee would like to collect business information and fun details including anniversaries to highlight them in our downtown throughout the year.

### **Economic Vitality - Annalee**

- Currently offering Facade Grants, Security Grants and Digital Marketing Grants
  - Facade grants in progress: Garbe's, Taqueria Lolita, Runway Boutique. Grants complete and awarded to Visiting Nurses and Shona's Food Company. Several other businesses plan to submit soon.
- We continue to look for a work study/intern to work part time for Experience Chehalis.
- Mint City Coffee, a new coffeehouse, will be opening in fall later this year next to the Hotel Washington.
- The sale of R.E. Bennett is complete.
- Gracie's on Market opened earlier this month in the former Mt. Capra space on Market Boulevard. Wonderful improvements; store carries women's clothing and accessories.

### **Design Committee - Annalee**

- Flowers, banners, benches and baskets are out for the spring/summer season!
- Coloring books have been reordered and will be distributed. Only update was to change the name of the organization and add the new logo.
- Murals planned for this year:
  - National Frozen Foods wall along West Street; RFP pending.
  - Palmer Lumber seeking design of a vintage Palmer photo; RFP pending.
  - Kaija's yellow warehouse on West Street; painting begins in early July.
  - Lewis County's historic Royal Bakery / Star Tavern; RFP process will begin in late July/early August.
- Chehalis Clean Team
  - We welcomed Shelley Hanson who has been an inspiration for the Chehalis Clean Team. Litter pick-up supplies including garbage bags and pickers will be available at the Veterans Museum and the LC Historical Museum soon. Jo Kuehner offered to cover costs of vests.
  - The city will collect garbage bags on Mondays and Fridays. Call and leave a message with Parks & Rec to have bags removed.

### **Community Sharing**

**Jo Kuehner** - Having an anniversary party at Veterans Memorial Museum. Open to the public.

**Tony Ketchum** - Friends of Westside Park is having a meeting at the park on June 18th.

**Cynthia** - Ridership at STP is down this year. Expect fewer people in town.