

FRIDAY WITH *Friends*

MEETING NOTES

Experience Chehalis

September 9, 2022 | 8:30 a.m.

Attendees: David James, Annalee Tobey, Brian Wilkins, Chris Dumas, Kate McDougall, Heidi M, Shannon Glenn, Chris Judd, Jill Anderson, Naomi Robb, Laura Six, Joe Kruhner, Muriel Wheatly, Lindsey Senter, Susan Delaire, Jenny Collins

Jenny Collins, Chehalis Foundation

- Communication wall will be installed at Penny Playground for non-verbal communication
- Estimated \$700,000 of additional revenue generated by the baseball fields and playground.
- Current projects:
 - Returfing the WF West baseball field
 - Tennis facility at 0 Bishop Road. The cost of this project has almost doubled due to high construction costs.
- Student Achievement Initiative:
 - 96% of WF West seniors graduated last year
 - 100% applied to college
 - 74% of grads are college ready, a percentage well exceeding the state average.
- Upcoming events:
 - Gala will be held November 19th at Jester Auto Museum.

Chris Judd, United Way of Lewis County

- Chris recently joined United Way of LC and his main role is fundraising for the organization
- Current Initiatives include:
 - Lifting 30% out of poverty by 2030 by focusing on education
 - United Learning Center project in Centralia is also seeing increasing construction costs
 - Reading Buddies program reinstated that will bring volunteers into schools to read with K-3rd graders in school districts across the county.
 - Sheriff Snaza has stated that reading rates at 3rd grade are an indicator of jail beds needed in the future
 - The Affinity Group, Women United has started the Supplies Period program that aims to reduce/eliminate period poverty by providing supplies to the schools.
 - Lewis County has one of the worst FAFSA completion rates in the state. United Way is working with partners to offer help to seniors complete the form.
 - Fundraising event will be held October 22 featuring a country concert with Aaron Crawford at the Chehalis Theater.

Naomi Robb, Kiddin' Around

- Kiddin' Around is a non-profit based in Centralia with the purpose of providing free activities for families. They have hosted many events including a school supply drive. They have a board of 6 people, and meet every 2 weeks
- They will host Literacy Day on Oct 1st. More information coming soon on their website.
- They are refreshing/bringing back the popular Business Week program held at Centralia College for Chehalis and Centralia students.
- They are starting a youth board program placing high school students on non-profit boards in Lewis County
- In March they will host an adult dodgeball event.

Committee Reports

David James, Promotion

- ChehalisFest was a success. Many businesses report increased traffic and there was a good turnout even though it was extremely hot.
- Postcard program is still in process.
- Updating kiosk maps around town and adding a new map at Stan Headwall's RV Park.
- Creating information about the parking extension passes available through the city, that can be utilized by local businesses. Will be cleared through the city and police dept.

Laura Six, Economic Vitality

- Year to date we have provided 12 grants totaling \$22,000 and project total of \$43,000.
- 3 grants in the past 2 weeks.

Annalee for Emily von Flotow, Design

- National Frozen Foods mural will begin very soon.
- Utility box at Main Street and Chehalis Avenue has been painted by Irisa Kennedy.
- Palmer Lumber's building on Prindle Street has 2 candidates and the business is making final decisions.
- The Lewis County mural on the Royal Bakery/Star Tavern building is on hold until more construction to the building has been completed.

Other Announcements

Kate McDougall, City of Chehalis City Council / LC Historical Museum Board Member

- Chehalis Flying Saucer Party is September 17th in locations in Downtown Chehalis

Chris Demus, Centralia/Chehalis Chamber of Commerce

- Cornhole competition will be September 17th at Dick's Brewing
- Chamber will host an 80's Party on October 29th at Dick's Brewing