

FRIDAY WITH *Friends*

MEETING NOTES

Experience Chehalis

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

Attendees: Susan Delaire, Lindsey Pollock, David James, Annalee Tobey, Bill Deutscher, Sarah Bent, Joanne Schwartz, Chastity Pennington, Jason Boettner, Chelsea Barr, Terry Harris, Jill Anderson, Laura Six, Michael Ervin, Brian Wilkins, Tony Ketchum

Guests:

Jason Boettner - Mint City Coffee Roasting

- Soft opening is happening now. They will have a focus on wholesale to local businesses. They have partnered with Lucky and Lawless Bakery who is offering their coffee and they are serving their pastries.
- They are interested in starting a subscription service coffee club and would like to offer cuppings and group tastings.
- Their grand opening will be held in January.

Joanne Schwartz - Chehalis Centralia Railroad & Museum

- They held a "Santa's Grinchy Christmas Train" event (stationary). All three events were sold out and very successful as they did not run the Polar Express due to track and insurance issues.
- The organization continues to work on obtaining insurance so they can restart their train operations. They are making good progress with an agent finding a good option for the organization.
- The damaged tracks from flooding last year have been repaired.
- A new crossing gate was installed on Highway 6 thanks to received grant funding. They are currently looking into another crossing gate at River Road.

Chastity Pennington - United Way of Lewis County

- They have received five palettes to toys and books from Save the Children and they will be distributing them on December 17th at Centralia College. Recipients do not have to show proof of need to receive a toy.

Committee Reports:

David James – Promotions Committee

- Projects are wrapping up for the year. We are hosting a Downtown Bingo. Visitors can pick up a bingo card and local businesses, and those who play the game and receive a bingo can turn in at local businesses for \$100 in local gift cards.
- We have partnered with Book N Brush and Totally Pawsome to collect kids' letters to Santa through December 12. Those who provide a return address will receive a handwritten response from Santa. It has been well received and we have collected many letters.

Laura Six - Economic Vitality Committee

- We have awarded 19 grants to date in 2022. This includes façade, safety and security and digital marketing grants.
- Chehalis Coworks is having its busiest year yet. We just ordered five new 27" monitors for members to use. The three we had previously have been very popular.

Annalee Tobey - Design Committee

- Planning for next year's projects.

Annalee shared that downtown Chehalis has welcomed several new businesses. These include Paula Burrow Real Estate, Spruce Skin & Wax Studio (opening Jan '23), Lauren Urich Yoga, Ocean Prime (opening Jan '23), Mint City Coffee, and Stout Coffee House.

Sarah Bent shared that the Chamber has successfully created a new Rob Fuller Scholarship as a 501(c)3 allowing donors to receive tax deductions for their donations.