

# FRIDAY WITH *Friends*

## MEETING NOTES

### **Experience Chehalis**

**March 10, 2023 | 8:30 a.m.**

Attendees: David Hartz, Eric Sonnenberg, Lindy Waring, Jill Anderson, Jeff Roberts, Chelsea Barr, Mandy Schoolfield, Jessica Kinney, Brandon Rakes, David James, Kiera Pennington, Joanne Schwartz, Bill Deutscher, Annalee Tobey, Brian Wilkins, Tony Ketchum

#### United Way Update – Kiera Pennington

- They are hosting the first Educator Appreciation night tonight.
- They will host the next Community Impact Luncheon at Jester Auto Museum on September 7.
- May 3<sup>rd</sup> will be the next Community Resource Partners meeting, Location TBD
- United Way and Women United have partnered with the Economic Alliance for a Women in Business seminar at the Vintage Hotel Washington from 1-3pm on March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The annual golf tournament is June 16<sup>th</sup> at Newaukum Golf Course.
- Power of the Purse is Aug 2 at TransAlta Commons at Centralia College.
- Pints for a Purpose is being moved due to vendor challenges. It will take place in October at the Sports Hub
- The final event for United Way will be their second annual concert at McFiler's Chehalis Theater in November.

#### City of Chehalis - Jill Anderson

- Facilities staff have completed installing a new irrigation system downtown. This will save 3-5 hours a day of staff watering. The city has also upgraded the flower baskets to include a reservoir to reduce watering.
- Public Works is working on an RFP for the downtown area improvement project which will span Market Boulevard in downtown from building to building.
- The city recently hired a waste water superintendent.
- New online registration system for recreation activities will launch this spring streamlining the process for signing up for activities.
- Honda is coming to Chehalis and will open in May. Glint Car Wash opened last month and Panda Express will open near Home Depot.
- The city is working on planning in the south UGA, as well as the city plan and the airport master plan
- Yard birds is now for sale.

## Committee Reports

### Promotion Committee

- Monthly meeting has been postponed to March 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Executive Director update - Annalee Tobey

- Experience Chehalis has moved offices to an office inside the Fechtner building. Access the office from Pacific Avenue.
- Ladies Night Out is highly anticipated and has enjoyed positive press leading up to the event on March 11
- The Experience Chehalis 2022 Impact Report is out. Printed copies are available and the report is posted online.
- Department of Commerce has launched new hospitality grants for COVID Recovery. Annalee will be reaching out to local restaurants to inform them of the grants
- Parks and Rec Dept is looking for local businesses to partner with offering summer classes. Contact Lilly for more information.
- Wells Fargo has been purchased and we look forward to meeting the new owner.

## Good of the Order

**Joanne:** The Railroad is hosting a stationary dinner train on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Mayor Ketchum:** Hope Alliance is doing a fundraiser in April to raise money for their domestic violence support programs.

**Jessica:** The Farmers Market is looking for a new location downtown that can support a year-round market. May 9<sup>th</sup> is the farmers market preview and plant sale. Also, Catch-up Over Coffee on Thursdays from 8:30-10am is meeting at Stout Coffeehouse this month.