

FRIDAY WITH *Friends*

MEETING NOTES

Experience Chehalis

March 8, 2024 | 8:30 a.m.

Attendees: Terry Harris, Michael Ervin, Tony Ketchum, Kate McDougall, Annie Oien, Jill Anderson, Lance Bunker, Jenna Nacht, Jenny Zenkner, Jessica Kinney, Travis Kinney, David James, Annalee Tobey, Tony Baker, Sarah Prock, Melinda Wilkes, Amanda Berg, Ryan Berg, Paul Wilkes, Susan DeLaire

Lance Bunker, City and Chehalis Public Works Director

Lance provided an update on the year-long process taking place with design firm HBB to provide a redesign plan for Market Blvd in historic downtown as well as Washington Ave, Pacific Ave, and Boistfort Street in the downtown area. An advisory committee is being formed to work with HBB including members of city staff, Experience Chehalis, and downtown business owners. The committee will meet first in mid-April, and the first public open house will be in May. There will be surveys sent out to the community as well as a presentation to the city planning commission and the historical preservation group as well. A parking study will be conducted next month.

Updating stormwater, sewers, electricity infrastructure will be a top priority. There will also be consideration given to issues of previous infrastructure including tracks, brick, and coal vaults. There will be a comprehensive communication outreach effort for the community led by Experience Chehalis.

Amanda Berg, PNW Axe House

PNW Axe House opened last weekend on Market Boulevard. They have six lanes for throwing available, each accommodating up to six throwers each. The building has a capacity limit up to 70 people. The activity is a great way to kick off an evening or afternoon. A session of axe throwing takes about an hour. Lanes are rented at \$25/per person, per hours and they will be open Friday, Saturday and Sundays. Reserve online, and guests can bring in their own food. They also provided snacks and will have beer and cider soon. Ages 8 and up are welcome.

Promotion Committee – David James

- The committee is working on historic walking tour plaques and art tour plaques to provide reference and information to those taking these self-guided tours. Website updates are being finalized. Website
- Ladies Night is this Saturday from 2pm-7pm on Market Boulevard. Experience Chehalis is supporting this event managed by Gemini Events. There will be a vendor market at the Washington Hotel and local businesses downtown will be offering deals and special events as well.

Design Committee – Annalee Tobey for Jen Kinsman

- Earth Day Community Clean-Up will be April 20th 10am-2pm at the Lewis County Historical Museum. The public is invited to join in the activities cleaning up the community including weeding and litter pick-up throughout Chehalis. Nature Nurture Farmacy will also be having a street fair on Boistfort Street during that time as well hosting booths on celebrating Earth Day.

Outreach Committee – Annalee Tobey for Angela French

- We have launched a new block captain program to support and communicated with local businesses in downtown Chehalis. Twelve block captains have been assigned areas and will deliver packets of information to businesses every two months and check in with them on any questions or concerns they might have.

Economic Revitalization – Annalee Tobey for Laura Six

- There has been a strong start to our grant program this year with several applications received for our façade, digital marketing, and safety and security grants.
- We are excited to welcome several new businesses downtown include the NW Salmon Smokehouse, The PNW Axe House, Good Fork Juice and Nutrition.

Good of the Order

- Babe Ruth Baseball is seeking a supply baseballs and equipment as well as volunteers.