

FRIDAY WITH *Friends*

MEETING NOTES

Experience Chehalis

June 14, 2024 | 8:30 a.m.

Attendees: Annalee Tobey, Jessica Kinney, Brian Wilkins, Michael Ervin, Terry Harris, Lance Bunker, Tony Ketchum, Christine Fossett, Tony Baker, Jason Matthews, Kate McDougall, Jo Kruhner, Mary Kay Nelson, Joanne Schwartz, Stacy Dunham, Mitch Moberg, David James

Partner Updates

Chehalis Centralia Railroad - Mary Kay Nelson and Joanne Schwartz

- The train continues to wait on reimbursement funding from FEMA for flood recovery. All the documentation has been submitted and they are just waiting for FEMA to do their part.
- They are working with Goose Lake Railroad who is operating the train. They have been put on their insurance while they regain their own insurance.
- On September 1, tickets will go sale for the popular Polar Express Trains. This year will feature a new option to choose your own seats. Several volunteers recently attended a training on hosting these events.
- The train has hosted several school field trips including 250 Adna students as well as Toledo and Onalaska.
- They have a vintage trailer group coming. The train can be rented for chartered events.
- The train is sold out for Father's Day. There will be Bingo Trains June 22 on July 13th. The Pumpkin Trains in the fall will feature Hunting's pumpkin from Cinebar. This year the train will also offer Bike and Ride events. The train will take riders and then they will bike out. These will be held on the second and fourth Saturdays at 11am, 2pm, and 5pm.
- 80% of train riders come from outside Lewis County. The Holiday Inn Express offers 10% discount to ride the train.
- The steam engine has serious maintenance issues. A recent evaluation reported that it will take \$1,000,000 to repair the steam locomotive.

Jo Kruhner

- She rented the Veterans Memorial Museum and it is available this Saturday to attend free of charge.

Committee Reports

Promotion Committee – David James

- Work continues on the reprint of the Experience Chehalis Brochure. The committee is near finished refreshing the walking tour which will include building placards to share QR code for narrated tour. The art tour will be launched as soon as plaques are finished being printed and affixed to area murals. The website is also getting a refresh. Social media management and newsletter programs continue.
- Lance Bunker shared the Imagine Downtown Chehalis Open House last month was very successful. There is not a fixed timeline set for this project. The next year through February 2025 will involve design of the project followed by engineering of the project which is projected to take another year. Construction of the project would follow once grants are secured and the project is funded. The Transportation Improvement Board is aware of the project and the city will continue to update them in hopes of having this project be a strong candidate for TIB funding. In addition, a TIB grant was secured to repave National Avenue from Chamber Way to the Ice Kiosk at night. The project is expected to take 10 days to complete. Striping will follow as the new pavement cures. There will also be chip sealing on Cascade from Main Street to 13th Street this summer.
- ChehalisFest is coming up on July 27th which will feature the annual car show, live music from 9am-9pm on Prindle and a Vendor Fair including food trucks. The Farmers Market will be open on Boistfort Street where selfie row will also be located. There will be a kid's zone with games, face-painting, and balloon animal fun. The LC Museum will host its annual pancake breakfast from 8-11. The street dance is back this year and will run till 9pm in the beer garden. Cooper's Corner is now open in the former Flood Valley Brewing location which will add to restaurant choices during the event. New this year is also the ChehalisFest Cruise happening on Friday evening at 5pm. Drivers will meet at the Veterans Memorial Museum for a short debrief of the rules and then caravan over to downtown.

Good of the Order

- The Imagine Downtown Chehalis survey is live. We encourage all to participate and share their feedback on this important project.
- Babe Ruth is going well and hosting a home run derby on June 29.
- The Chehalis Flying Saucer party is looking for sponsors and will host a new parade this year as part of the festivities.