

Hells Canyon Chamber of Commerce

Minutes for Meeting of December 4, 2018

Held at Pine Valley Lodge • Halfway, Oregon • 1:15-3:00pm

Financial commitments are highlighted in green. Action items are summarized in blue at the end of the minutes.

Present: Pres. Becky Kaaen, Sec. Bill Schuhle, Treas. Lauri Bryan, Whitey Bloom, Shelly Powell, Lisa Steele.

Minutes of Last Meeting

Perusal of the August minutes (there was no October meeting due to a shortage of attendees) occurred later in the meeting when Becky went over items in the minutes and these are related below. At the end of the meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.

Finance Report

[Editor's Note: Since there was no October meeting, Lauri emailed the October financial report to the board members which showed a General Account balance of \$6,507.85 and a MainStreet Stage Account balance of \$257.35. A copy of her report is included as an addendum to these minutes.]

This meeting's finance report covered Oct. 2 – Dec. 4 and showed current balances in the General Account of \$7,540.20 and in the MainStreet Stage Account of \$257.35. We were pleased to receive a check for \$1,000 from Cycle Oregon for Tami's hard work in helping organize that event and as well as a check for \$500 from Baker County Tourism as a co-op payment toward our printing of the updated Visitor's Guide brochure.

Lauri noted a \$110 charge from US Bank for "security purposes" and found out it was related to the use of our particular card reader through US Bank to take pie auction payments at the 4th of July. Lauri had a visit with the bank and as a result the \$110 charge will be reversed and we will be replacing the reader with a Square scanner and account which will not involve such fees. **A check for \$3,348 from pie auction proceeds was signed for delivery to the Fair Association toward next year's fireworks display.**

Lauri reported that our bill with the HCJ runs around \$100-\$110/month which includes our ongoing mini-display ad in the service directory and about \$75-\$90 for web site maintenance and updating.

The finance report was approved as presented.

Old Business

Chamber Telephone Billing: In Tami's absence, Bill related that she had mentioned wanting to discuss the billing for our cell phone which she has been paying out-of-pocket since we switched from our land line a number of months ago. Lauri said that she had planned on reimbursing Tami and will do so.

Valentine Hearts: Whitey said he has the hearts and will get them to the Lions Hall January 21st for painting on the 22nd & 23rd. We need to start advertising right away and, after some discussion, pricing was set at \$30 for re-ups and \$45 for new. Michelle Butner has offered to take orders and money for signs and Susan Sciarrino or someone else will be responsible for making re-up calls. Becky will talk to Susan, who normally heads up the project, to see how much she is willing to do this year. As soon as responsibilities are established and a phone number to call for heart orders is determined, Lauri will work with the HCJ to re-up our ad(s). Becky asked if we could use more hearts and the consensus was that we're maxed out with what we have, both location-wise and labor-wise.

Fourth of July Music Contribution: Bill brought a request from Tami for the Chamber to, as we did last year, chip in half of the fee to bring The Wasteland Kings back for the 2019 Fourth of July celebration. Her family foundation would again cover the other half. **It was unanimously approved that we chip in the \$300** and Lauri will communicate this to Tami so she can proceed with booking the band.

Cycle Oregon: Becky asked about what we may have learned in the way of best practices for supporting and benefiting from the phenomenon that is Cycle Oregon. There were comments about the politeness and general "fabulousness" of the cyclists as visitors to our community. Becky related having several offers to buy the "Hells Canyon" apron that she'd had made and wore and felt such items might be a good thing to consider producing for sale next time around. She also suggested the idea of businesses painting their windows in welcome to the cyclists. Ideas included contacting the lady in Baker who does store windows for Miner's Jubilee as well as asking at the school about students who might be artistically inclined and able

to do windows. Bill said maybe he could get his sister, who is a very good artist, to finally come visit with a contract to do all the windows folks want done.

Shelley said that both the Pine Valley Lodge and the Main Place Hotel were totally booked during C.O., some guests being walk-ins, some being C.O. volunteers and administrative staff.

Apparently the hope that our local fuel suppliers would be open extended hours to serve C.O. customers didn't really work out. We need to be more emphatic next time about making that vital service available.

Junior Rodeo: Becky suggested that, given their overwhelming success this past summer, we think about ways to support the Junior Rodeo and possibly help in increasing their capacity to handle the much-larger-than-expected participation. Lauri shared that a stock contractor from Nevada(?) has offered to provide animals at no charge next year and a rodeo production company has offered to come in and just do the rodeo. Fantastic!

"Oregon's Wilder Side" Welcome Signs: Bill said that Wix Covey, who has promised to repaint the signs as needed, has not yet done so, having been busy with other things this past summer/fall. He expects that Wix will keep his promise come next spring/summer.

Joint Memberships with Baker County Chamber: We will look forward to Shelly Cutler of the Baker Chamber filling us in on her proposal at our February meeting in anticipation of offering a dual membership option during our annual membership drive in April.

New Business

MainStreet Stage: Bill shared a letter to the Chamber from the Cornucopia Arts Council requesting discussion of a proposal for the Council to assume ownership of both the MainStreet Stage and its attendant sound and lighting equipment. A copy of the letter is included as an addendum to these minutes and offers excellent arguments in favor of the proposal.

It was noted that the annual Idaho Power bill for maintaining electricity to the Stage is about \$120 and was not included in the items recognized in the letter. This will be communicated to the Council when appropriate. Bill noted that his duties in maintaining the Stage web site, producing promotional materials, running the sound system, etc., would need to be done under the auspices of the Council rather than the Chamber.

There was discussion about our (undocumented) ownership of the Stage and whether we had any obligation to the organization (United Community Partners) who provided the grant funds to build the Stage. Bill was sure that UCP has no interest in the Stage whatsoever as the original agreement was that, once built, ownership of the Stage would be with the Chamber. Concerning documentation, we will need to check with Rev. Bill Shields to see what may be the situation there.

Considering all of the above, Lauri moved that we transfer ownership of the Stage, its attendant equipment, and its maintenance and liabilities to the Cornucopia Arts Council. This was seconded and unanimously approved.

Bill noted that funds for the Stage sound system came from the Janzck family in the Portland area, the primary understanding being that the equipment would be used for public, not private, endeavors. There was a question as to whether the sound equipment could continue to be used for open mic nights and Bill didn't think it would be a problem. *[Editor's Note: Bill later recalled that the "public use only" stipulation came from the Ford Family Foundation regarding their \$2,500 grant for a sound booth shade structure, stage lighting equipment, and several small sound system additions. He does not recall any such stipulation from the Janzcks regarding the main sound system.]*

Additionally, Bill was to query Bruce Honeyman about the dismantling of the shade structure that once graced the MainStreet Stage. With the transfer of ownership, this is now a moot point for us, but Becky urged that we talk to Steve Backstrom about it for the Arts Council's consideration.

Availability of Premium Fuel: We discussed, and made note of, the fact that non-ethanol premium gasoline, used by motorcyclists and snowmobilers, is available in town at Halfway Feed & Seed and on the mountain at the Cornucopia Lodge. Shelly will check to make sure that this information is available on the Lodge web site.

New Fair Board President: We noted that Melody Huff was recently elected president of the Pine Valley Fair Association board. Our primary interaction with them, of course, is the 4th of July celebration.

VRBO: Lauri pointed out that local businesses that provide services or activities for visitors can now list their amenities on www.vrbo.com.

Snowmobile Poker Run: Lauri will get the traditional \$500 loan check to Whitey to bankroll the poker run, to be repaid after the event is over. Becky encouraged Whitey to contact Cindy at the HCJ to see about getting advertising on the Chamber web site for the Poker Run. Becky asked that Whitey see that the snowmobile club Facebook page is kept up to date with pictures and snow amounts so she can link those to the Chamber FB page. Also, going to www.snotel.org and searching for Schneider Meadows will produce a daily report.

Halfway & Richland Events: Becky commented that it was unfortunate that there was not more back and forth between Eagle Valley and Pine Valley in terms of folks from one valley attending events in the other and wondered what might be done to facilitate that. More communication between active planners might be a place to start.

Quilts Plus Coffee Bar: Word has it that Michele Wilson is going to re-open the coffee bar in the former Quilts Plus building and that a beautiful remodel has already taken place.

Snake River Smokehouse: Lauri said their new business has made it through the rigorous process of getting permitted by the state to sell their products at retail. They are revving up and shooting for selling at the huge farmers' market in Pendleton when it opens for the season to begin getting their name out.

Pine Valley Lodge: Shelly shared that the Lodge gets guests from all over the world whom she helps plan their vacation by putting them in touch with local activity providers such as Hells Canyon Adventures.

Lavish Salon: The new salon next to the former Quilts Plus building received positive comments from those who knew something of it.

Action Items/Responsibilities Summary

Becky: Will contact Susan Sciarrino and talk Valentine Hearts. She will also contact Shelly at the Baker Chamber regarding promotion of joint memberships.

Shelly: Will contact Sara at the Cornucopia Lodge regarding fuel availability.

Whitey: Will get the Valentine Hearts where they need to be on time. He will also see about keeping the snowmobiling info on the HCCC web site – snow depth, Poker Run, etc. – up to date.

Lauri: Will talk to Tami about the phone bill and co-sponsoring the 4th of July band and to the HCJ about re-upping our Valentine ads.

Bill: Will transmit to the Arts Council our decision regarding the transferring of the Stage.

HCCC Financial Report
Aug 6 - Oct. 2, 2018

General Account balance Aug. 13, 2018 : 7435.97

deposits for this period plus CC receipts for July: \$371.01

7/5 \$371.00 digital funds

7/5 .01 test run

9/27 \$159.14 (Two Memberships plus 27.20 MSS)

Total deposits for this period: \$530.15

Disbursements for this period:

7/2 EFT 10.00 US Bank service fee

8/15 1634 109.26 Bill Schule Wayside posters and visitors guide

8/15 1635 400.00 Pine Valley Fair and Rodeo gate sponsor

8/22 1636 765.30 Lauri Bryan re emburse for payment to Go-Print for 5000 brochures

9/10 1637 30.00 Aspen Digital annual domain renewal

9/13 EFT 17.71 IPCO

9/26 1638 126.00 Hells Canyon Journal web work plus ads

Total disbursements for this period: \$1458.27

General Account Balance Oct. 2, 2018: \$6507.85

Main Street Stage: \$257.35

HCCC owes \$3348.00 pie auction proceeds to the PVFA. Which will leave the HCCC general account balance: \$3159.85



Cornucopia Arts Council
PO Box 921
Halfway, OR 97834

December 3, 2018

To the Hells Canyon Chamber of Commerce:

Cornucopia Arts Council would like to initiate a dialog with the Hells Canyon Chamber about the future of the MainStreet Stage and its associated sound system and insurance requirements. At our meeting in September 2018, we voted unanimously to initiate such a dialog and see what the Chamber's feelings are in these matters.

This year, the arts council has secured additional sound equipment for the MainStreet Stage at a cost of \$2,770. We anticipate spending between \$1,000 and \$2,000 (maybe more) next year for additional upgrades to the system, depending on donations and grant funding. The pairing of our new equipment, which at this time includes a sophisticated mixing board and recording module, with the Chamber's existing system suggests that such a dialog is needed.

While we don't anticipate any specific problem with shared ownership of the system in the immediate future, the potential exists for a lack of clarity between the two organizations should each make plans or have needs for the system that don't dovetail neatly with what the other group has in mind.

With this as the background, we feel it could be beneficial for one group or the other to own the entire system for simplicity's sake and to avoid confusion going forward.

Since the arts council is the group that is actively using the system for concerts on the stage, and storing the system when not in use at no cost to the Chamber, we ask that the Chamber consider ceding ownership of the sound system and associated lights, stands, other hardware, etc. to the arts council to avoid the potential downside of mixed ownership.

Along the same lines, we feel that there may be an advantage to the Chamber in transferring ownership of the stage itself to the arts council. We have been required by both the current and former owners of the park to maintain a general liability insurance policy that specifies the park's location and names the park owners as additional insured in order to be allowed hold events there.

However, the Chamber's ownership of the stage brings a third party into the picture and, we believe, exposes your group to liability issues under the current arrangement. If the Chamber were to transfer ownership of the stage to the arts council, we feel that all parties involved in the summer concerts would be covered under our existing insurance policy.

Additionally, in our role as concert producers, we have received input from performers and others about physical modifications that would make the stage safer and more user-friendly. Were we the owners of the stage, we would be in a position to act on those ideas, provided funding and labor was available.

We understand that taking on ownership of the stage would involve a certain amount of additional expense, such as materials for painting/sealing the structure, web hosting/domain name registration fees for the website, and materials for helping to promote events held there. There are probably other expenses we have not thought of that you could enlighten us about.

Thank you for your consideration of these ideas. We look forward to having a dialog with you if you feel some or all of these ideas merit follow-up. If not, no hard feelings on our part.

Steve Backstrom

President, Cornucopia Arts Council