

# Hells Canyon Chamber of Commerce

## Minutes for Meeting of April 13, 2021

Held at Halfway Lions Hall • 1:00-2:30pm

**Financial commitments are highlighted in green, action items in blue.**

**Present:** Pres. Becky Kaaen, Sec. Bill Schuhle, Treas. Lauri Bryan, Hopi Wilder, Whitey Bloom, Lisa Steele, Melody Huff

### Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were used as an outline for this meeting.

### Finance Report

The report shared by Lauri showed a current balance in our general fund of \$6,479.64 (including \$1,257.65 dedicated to the fireworks) with profits from the Hearts Project (33 two-sided hearts for a total of 66 messages) contributing \$1,549.33 thus far with a couple of payments still outstanding.

### Business

**LaRue Transfer Station:** Positive comments all around on the (simultaneous with our meeting) re-opening of the Transfer Station which has been closed for many months for rebuilding.

**Pine Valley Fair Association (PVFA):** Fair Association President Melody Huff indicated that they would be having a car show and yard sale with concession profits going to the fireworks fund. Over Memorial Day Weekend, there will be a concert by Seth Brown. Admission will be free and donations and concessions profits will likewise benefit the fireworks. Fireworks have been ordered and the bill, which will be close to \$6,000, will be due in June. Plans are to have Brady Goss perform as in the past and Mib Daley will be contacted about doing the Pie Auction which this year, due to the vast number of pies donated last time, will include a “buy it now” table. This could also include other items such as cakes, cookies, jams and jellies, etc. which folks also donate.

**Memorial Day Weekend:** Becky said that Seth Brown will be here to do a concert at the Fairgrounds on Saturday the 29th from 6-9pm and while there will be no admission charge, he will make it clear that donations and income from concessions will be going toward the fireworks fund as well. Bill was “hired” to design and print posters and **a budget for this of \$75 was approved.** The traditional posters that Lauri gets for the 4th of July were also approved.

**Main Street Hub Workshop:** Becky told us about a group, funded by the Ford Family Foundation and others, who are holding a business and community resource Zoom conference in the next few days. **She is planning on listening in and will provide participation information to anyone else who might be interested.**

**100th Anniversary Fair Historic Billboards & Banners:** Becky has been exploring the options for creating and displaying large historic images for the 100th celebration and beyond. A grant request is being prepared for presentation to the Baker County Transient Lodging Tax committee for possible funding for this project. Following the Fair, these could be displayed around Halfway, Richland, and Oxbow in an ongoing rotation. We are also looking into offering the low-impact sports of “geocaching” and “volkswalking” to bring visitors to the area during our shoulder season times.

**Hells Canyon Inn:** Becky has visited with Sydney Johnson recently and she and Drew are working toward having the Inn open for business within a month or so and Becky told her we’d be happy to do a ribbon cutting ceremony.

**Oregon Film Trail Project:** This was introduced to us by Timothy Bishop who provided forms for us to offer our input on what should go on the plaque they wish to mount in a public place in Halfway commemorating the filming of “Paint Your Wagon” in the area in 1968. Becky is working with him on a public location for mounting the plaque.

**Advertising in the Baker Herald’s Annual “Go Explore Baker County” Visitor’s Guide:** Becky said that the TLT Commission will pay 25% of any ads purchased in this publication by restaurant and lodging businesses.

**Baker County Cultural & Heritage Passport Project:** A group in Baker has put together a “passport” project to encourage locals and visitors to visit all of the museums in Baker County plus the Crossroads Carnegie Art Center. Getting all of your passport pages stamped qualifies you for an annual drawing for the (secret) grand prize.

**Cornucopia Jail Project:** Bill reported that the Museum’s project in Cornucopia is making progress with installation of the solar lighting system to (hopefully) be completed this year. At this point, potential visitors are let into the



jail for a tour by neighbor Paul Tarter when he is there and notices curious visitors at the Jail. Bill is also working on a sign to be mounted on the outside of the building for visitor information about the Jail (and Cornucopia) even if they can't get an inside tour.

**Mercantile Community Bulletin Board:** Becky asked what could be done to get this fixed up as it's currently in sad shape. **Becky will talk with the Merc** to see what their plans are with the idea that we could take it on if need be (which was agreed to by the group). She will also contact Ne-Hi Signs in Baker to price new Plexiglas panels.

**Snowmobile Club:** Whitey said the Poker Run went great with a record 827 hands sold. The season is winding down with the club's last meeting happening tonight and the last trail grooming already done.

**Wayside Directional Mileage Signs:** Whitey said Bill Wilson won't be able to do these after all. Bill asked if folks might go for the black-on-white plastic signs that he had showed a proof of at one of our Zoom meetings. These could be had quickly for about \$7.00 each. The consensus seemed to be that black lettering on a wood-grain background would be preferable to the stark black and white. **A budget of \$200 was approved for the project.**

**Cornucopia Mountain:** Lisa said that they've had a new management couple at the Lodge for about a month. Currently meals are only being prepared for Lodge guests. They are seeking a new person to run the Pack Station as that position is currently open.

**UCP Representative Report:** Hopi Wilder came to the meeting representing United Community Partners and indicated that things are rather slow there at the moment. She mentioned that one person had recently applied for assistance from The Village Fund and that there was discussion on how UCP might help with the continuing operation of the local Azure co-operative food buying group since the passing of Keldon Gross whose family had handled bringing the food orders from Baker to Halfway for many, many years. At Becky's request, **Hopi will explore what the Chamber and UCP can do to help each other and will report back.** At Becky's query as to what projects UCP has funded in the past, Bill offered that he had been the treasurer for several years so noted that such projects included the reconstruction of the fairgrounds grandstands and rough stock pens (facilitation) as well as the building of the Main Street Stage (direct funding of \$5,000).

Becky wondered if there might be a way for UCP to help with advertising for the rodeo and the fireworks. Hopi said it was worth looking into.

**Disc Golf:** Becky inquired about the recently-opened disc golf course on the school grounds and discovered that it's a "going thing" with Kevin Pfeifer teaching the school P.E. classes how to play, etc. Becky wondered if disc golf tournaments might be something we could look into putting on as a "shoulder season" activity to draw folks to the area.

**Snow Park Improvements/Expansion:** Whitey reported that letters have been written and submitted to the Forest Service and things are moving along as fast as can be expected in a government bureaucracy.

**Electric Car Charging Station:** No one seemed to have more information on this, but Whitey suggested that any such station should include a 110 volt cord for charging electric bicycles.

**Halfway Welcome Sign by the Co-op Gas Pumps:** This still needs re-painting in the worst way. **Bill will contact Wix Covey to see if he still intends to do the necessary painting.**

**Ford Family Foundation Community Breakfasts:** Melody wondered what might be happening with these. No further information was forthcoming.

**Halfway Quality Water Dispensing Station:** Melody asked about the status of Lynette Hauptman's water-filling station concept. Becky said the ball was in Lynette's court with a standing invitation for her to come back to the Chamber with further information and/or a request for assistance.

**Next Meeting:** Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 1, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Schuhle, Secretary