

Hells Canyon Chamber of Commerce

Minutes for Meeting of October 3, 2017

Held at Quilts Plus • Halfway, Oregon • 1:10-1:50pm

Action items are highlighted in blue, financial commitments in green.

“MSA” indicates “moved, seconded, approved”

Present: V.P. Tami Waldron, Treas. Lauri Bryan, Sec. Bill Schuhle, Roberta Bryan, guest Patsy Mitchell, member of the Richland City Council. Pres. Ron Hunter has moved from the area, so V.P. Tami presided.

Guest Comments: Tami invited Patsy to speak a bit about what’s happening in Richland and she said that it’s really hard, being such a small community, to get the County, the Corps of Engineers, etc., to hear their plight with parks being closed, very low water in the reservoir, etc.

Minutes of Last Meeting

Bill had emailed out copies of the August minutes. It was MSA that they be accepted as presented.

Finance Report

The finance report was passed out and Bill wondered what the monthly payments to Idaho Power were since Lauri pays the MainStreet Stage bill on an annual basis. She said they were for the street light that illuminates the welcome sign on 86 and one other light in town, the location of which she couldn’t immediately recall. **She will find that out and report back at the next meeting.** Bill mentioned that the very nice welcome sign is getting a bit ratty, could use some new paint, and wondered who could do that. It was suggested that Wix Covey might be a good person to ask. **Bill will contact him to see if he might take care of it.** It was MSA that the finance report be accepted as presented.

Old Business

MainStreet Stage: Bill returned to Lauri the MainStreet Stage money bag containing \$79, the \$40 ‘bank’ that Old Pine Market had provided at the start of the season plus \$39 in chair rental income. Bill ran down the list of performances that the Arts Council brought to the Stage this year. First was “Much Ado About Nothing” (held at the Presbyterian Church due to weather), then The Charmed Project with Brook Falk (Amy Bigelow), ukulele virtuoso Casey Magill (also at the church), Thistledown from Boise, Clear Creek Music Festival students, Truckstop Honeymoon, The Wasteland Kings from LaGrande, Caleb Klauder & Reeb Willms, Jezebel’s Mother from Wallowa County, and two final performances in the church: ukulele master Kevin Carroll and Four Shillings Short.

Bill reiterated that Steve Backstrom has been allowing us to store the Stage’s sound system in his rented storage space in the rock-bottom building at no charge for which we are grateful. Bill plans to move the sensitive equipment to his apartment for the winter to avoid possibly subjecting it to seriously cold temperatures as happened last winter. He also commented that audiences at the Stage next summer will have a much nicer view since the deteriorating windows on the north side of the Three Color Building adjacent to the Stage have been replaced with new, modern ones. He also mentioned that a group of local folks will be opening a new bakery in that space. Most folks present already knew and were excited about that news.

Lauri reported that she had talked with Arts Council president Steve Backstrom about our contributing to the Council’s insurance expense for covering performances at the Stage. **He said that they’d be very happy with \$100. It was MSA that we make this contribution.**

Hells Canyon Info Wayside Display: Bill indicated that he had been able to get the poster-size blowups of the new visitor’s guide brochure made and installed at the wayside the Wednesday before the eclipse so folks coming into the area would have up-to-date information available. He said that he was donating his time for setting up the poster printing, assembling the panels, and installing them at the wayside, but would like to be paid for the printing of the dozen 13”x 19” panels needed for the project. **He presented an invoice for \$60 for these. It was MSA that we pay this invoice.**

Roberta was reminded that she had a plethora of tourist-oriented publications in storage at Quilts and asked if anyone would like some. Patsy said she would take some to Richland.

Marketing Discussion: Tami asked about whether she recalled correctly that in years past the City of Richland had had a web site. Lauri said that Jenny Gulick was working on one when she worked for the City. Patsy said that they currently have a lady named Angie working on one. Lauri said she will try to get Angie together with Cindy Thayer, who does the HCCC web site, so they can be linked.

Lauri brought up our annual banquet idea which had been put off from spring to fall which is now here. One motivation for a banquet is that members who don't come to meetings sometimes will come to a banquet. The last banquet was at Cornucopia Lodge. Per meal cost was \$25 of which the Chamber paid \$10 and attendees paid \$15. No decision was made regarding a banquet.

Lauri wondered about the City of Richland being Chamber members. Patsy said that Dick (their current mayor) said that some time ago **he had paid \$500 for Richland to be members of 10 years. No one seemed to know anything about this. Lauri will look into it.**

Patsy asked about how many businesses pay the Transient Lodging Tax. Someone said they though most everyone on this side of the hill does so. Patsy said some folks in Richland had had an unsuccessful experience when trying to obtain TLT funds for a project and Lauri said she was pretty sure they had not gone through proper channels. **Tami suggested that maybe we should invite Timothy to give a presentation at our next meeting about how the tax works, how it's collected and how it's allocated. Agreement all around, so Tami said she would do that.**

Patsy suggested **inviting Bill Harvey** to our next meeting as well and that was agreed to. Tami suggested **inviting a representative of the Fair Board to the meeting** as well to let us know what's happening with their hot chocolate event or anything else they might be up to. **Tami will do this.**

Patsy reminded us that the New Bridge Grange Fall Bazaar will be at the Grange on October 14th. Tables are available by calling Sharon Speelman at 893-6783.

Our next meeting will be on December 5th, 1:00pm at Quilts Plus.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Schuhle, Secretary