

Hells Canyon Chamber of Commerce

Minutes for Meeting of February 6, 2018

Held at Quilts Plus • Halfway, Oregon • 1:05-2:15pm

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

Present: V.P. Tami Waldron, Treas. Lauri Bryan, Sec. Bill Schuhle, Roberta Bryan, Whitey Bloom, Becky Kaaen, Karen Beidler, Timothy Bishop, Stephanie Baird. V.P. Tami Waldron presided.

Minutes of Last Meeting

Bill had emailed out copies of the December minutes. They were accepted as emailed.

Action Items Report

Lauri reported on the \$500 we were supposed to have received several years ago as payment up front for several years of Chamber dues for the City of Richland. She confirmed with Richland Mayor Dick Peterson that that amount had been donated to the City by Snake River PCS for the purpose, but Lauri indicated it never got to us. Dick will investigate.

Finance Report

The finance report was approved as presented.

New Business

Snowmobile Club: Whitey asked if we'd do the traditional **\$500 loan** to the Snowmobile Club for the Poker Run "bank". **This was approved and a check was written on the spot.** Whitey gave details of the Poker Run which is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 18th. He also thanked Timothy and Baker County Tourism for their \$1,000 grant to the Club to help with additional signage that was put up this winter and with the printing of updated trail maps which are done and distributed. Whitey said the ladies' ride that traditionally happens the weekend after the Poker Run has opted to go elsewhere this year. Becky indicated that the original founder and organizer of that ride has moved on to other projects.

MainStreet Stage: Bill indicated that annual fees for the Stage's web site domain and hosting would be coming due soon and **Lauri said she would take care of that when notified of the amounts.**

Crappie Shootout: Timothy said that this kayak fishing tournament, now in its third year, would be putting in at Hewitt Park on May 19th. He sent the particulars to Bill who forwarded it to Cindy Thayer to add to the HCCC web site. The tournament drew 40 participants last year and expects approximately 60 this year.

Cycle Oregon: Tami indicated that Cycle Oregon will be coming to Halfway this year and will be here the weekend of Pine Fest. In March, there will be a meeting at Quilts Plus for organizations who would like to receive funding in exchange for helping with Cycle Oregon support activities.

Bike-Related: Becky asked if we might want to offer a welcoming bike rack for transcontinental cyclists. Lauri said they would be putting one up at Old Pine Market. It was suggested that Heritage Square Park might be a good place as well. Bill suggested welcoming signs at the entrances to town.

Boise Outdoor Expo: Timothy shared that the Expo is March 1-4 (Thurs.-Sun.) this year and he needs help with staffing of the Baker County booth, particularly for Saturday and Sunday. It would be a great opportunity for folks from charter services or fishing guide outfits to do some self-promotion. **Bill will email the Chamber list with Expo information for volunteers.**

Oregon Festival & Events Conference: March 4-6 in Seaside. This could be good training for someone from Jr. Rodeo. Baker County reps are needed and registration scholarships are available.

Oregon Governor's Conference on Tourism: April 29-May 2 in Bend. Registration scholarships are available.

Baker County Tourism Planning Process: At least one session will be held in Halfway. Air B'n'B's and VRBOs (Vacation Rental By Owner) are shaping the market differently, bicycle tourism and fitness travel are growing, new companies are starting up for hiker/biker shuttles, guided hikes, Sasquatch hunting, charter fishing, etc. There is talk of possible self-service bicycle repair stations being strategically placed around the county. Bill suggested contacting Adventure Cycling in Missoula, which planned and oversees the trans-America cycling route that comes through the county, concerning best practices for establishing such stations. Timothy said the green belt in Boise already has such stations as do a number of communities on the Oregon Coast. Bicycle Rides Northwest will be using Baker City as a hub for an event this summer which will raise funds for bicycle-related projects. **Becky will put the folks in charge of the Hells Canyon Relay in touch with Timothy regarding marketing of the Relay.**

Transient Lodging Tax Committee: The Committee has been budgeting very conservatively for several years due to a major hotel in Baker struggling financially and far in arrears on their TLT assessments. At the same time, activity around the eclipse gave committee coffers a real boost, so that now they have a noticeable surplus – a good position to be in with regard to funding the strategic planning process and also funding proposed projects resulting from that process. An additional \$3,000 has also been recently approved for project grants in the county (such as their co-funding of our brochure printing last year) to be awarded before the end of the TLT's fiscal year June 30th. One opportunity would be to fund a MainStreet Stage event.

Eastern Oregon Tribute Fest: A festival dedicated to tribute bands will be coming to the County Fairgrounds in Baker City August 17 & 18 this year.

Hells Canyon Junior Rodeo: Stephanie Baird joined our meeting to let us know what's been going on with HCJR. They have an all-new board this year with lots of fun activities and events planned. Their focus will be on getting families back involved with the rodeo by offering activities for all members of the family, no matter what age. They are planning for a two-day rodeo as well as having a number of non-rodeo events take place over the weekend. The rodeo is planned this year for July 7 & 8 to avoid a conflict with Eagle Valley Day which has been an issue in the past. There was discussion of how to work out a rodeo parade since July 4th is the Wednesday before the rodeo and two parades just days apart would be a bit much. There was some enthusiasm for the idea of joining the 4th and the rodeo into a five-day "palooza" event. Timothy pointed out that a lot of folks will be making a five-day weekend out of it anyway and a big event in Halfway could be promoted at other venues around the county. Becky mentioned the popularity of the 4th of July pie auction and said that she had actually gotten addresses of "high roller" pie bidders and sent out postcards to them letting them know of our upcoming "next event".

Baker Chamber Awards Banquet: Tami said the banquet was fabulous and she was so glad to see Mike Lattin of Snake River PCS win Business of the Year, given all of his service to the community and the area over the years.

Soroptimists: The club is offering grants of up to \$2,000 for startup businesses and Tami plans to inform the new Dry Creek Bakery of this opportunity. Becky wondered if, when the bakery has their grand opening, the Chamber might provide a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Candy for Carnivores: Becky asked about this rather new business that is an off-shoot of Old Pine Market. Lauri said they had been making jerky and other products for their custom cutting customers and eventually got authorization from the state to sell such products retail which they are doing by mail all over the country. They do plan to expand and may eventually have several more employees.

Three-Color Building: Note was taken of the recently-opened massage and acupuncture businesses upstairs in the Three-Color Building and the wildly successful open house that was held for all the businesses in that building shortly before the holidays.

PEEF: Becky inquired about exactly what the Pine Eagle Education Foundation provides for the school and Lauri explained that it was funding for extracurricular art and music activities, utilizing an annual budget of around \$12,000.

Board Election: Becky Kaaen was elected to the President's position vacated by Ron Hunter several months ago and Tami Waldron, Lauri Bryan, and Bill Schuhle were confirmed to continue in their current positions of Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary respectively.

Membership Work Session: A work session will be held immediately following our next meeting to get our 2018 membership mailing out.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be on April 3rd, 1:00pm at Quilts Plus.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Schuhle, Secretary