

CASTLE ROCK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Minutes of Regular Meeting
July 14, 2011

MEMBERS AND GUESTS:

Mike Vorse, President Chamber of Commerce; Carolyn Kennington, Vice-President; Myron Nelson, and Georgia Cox, Castle Rock Senior Center; Susan Barker, Castle Rock School District; Karen Johnson, Castle Rock Visitor's Center and Exhibit Hall; Pat Bartley, Another Right Hand; Joan LeMieux, iRamb!; Mike Shannon, Castle Rock Exhibit Hall; Ryana Covington and Dave Vorse, City of Castle Rock; Nancy Chennault, The Plant Station; Carrey Mackey and Kathy Miller, Red Canoe Credit Union; Jon Cox, Cowlitz PUD; Steve Barker and Paul Simonsen, Mt St Helen's Motorcycle Club; Janet Bredfield, Bredfield's True Value; Shannon Cahoon, Fibre Credit Union; Jennifer Keene, COG; Christine Randall, Relylocal; Angie Hughes, The Rock Church; Ashley Helenberg, Port of Longview; Taryn Paget, Chamber Scholarship Recipient.

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Vorse at 8:2 a.m.

Welcome to New Members-Keith and Terry Forsyth of To Every Season Antiques

GUEST SPEAKER:

Ashley Helenberg, Public Affairs Manager to Port of Longview gave an informative presentation on port operations. Our Port, one of 75 in the state of Washington, generated over \$27 million in revenue during 2010. The soon to be finished Export Grain Terminal is the newest terminal to be constructed in the United States during the last 25 years. The presentation could be given to other groups or schools if there is interest. Also available upon request are Port tours.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

A motion was made by Myron Nelson, second by Kathy Miller to accept the minutes of the June meeting as presented. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

No treasurer's report was provided.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mike Vorse reminded members of nominations for Chamber officers will be taken at the next two regularly scheduled meetings.

Carrie Mackey reminded everyone of the August 13-14 Relay for Life. Additional information may be found at cowlitzrelay.com.

The parade will be held this evening at 6:30 p.m. with an amended route due to downtown construction. The fair opens this evening as well.

RelyLocal will be hosting an annual trade show on September 6 located at Rightway RV in Kelso from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Chamber will be provided a booth for free.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Economic Development** Progress Report:
The interviews for hiring the project director/manager for tasks related to the Strategic Marketing Plan were conducted. Start date for the successful candidate has yet to be determined.
2. **Chamber Scholarship Recipient:** Myron Nelson introduced Taryn Paget, Recipient of the 2011 Chamber of Commerce Scholarship. Taryn plans to attend Lower Columbia College in the fall and then transfer to Eastern Washington University where she intends to pursue a career in physical therapy. Taryn also shared her experiences during a recent trip to Joplin, Missouri, to provide respite and aid to children affected by the recent flooding and devastation. Our best wishes go to Taryn as she begins her next level of education.
3. **Mt. Mania** Update: Dana Marcil was unable to attend. The Senior Center will be holding their annual pancake breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. For the small price of \$5.00 you can sample the talents of Chef Myron and Chef Georgia!
4. Fund Raising: **STP** events were completed and attendance was better than anticipated. Thanks to all who assisted with the Pancake breakfast. Approximately \$600 was generated. Final report will be provided by Jacqueline Hergert at a later date. **Logger Dinner** will be held from 4:00-7:00 p.m. on July 23 at the Middle School. **Mt. Mania Garage Sale** no progress report was provided. **Calendar Committee** could still produce a calendar before October. Mark Plotkin is unable to provide the leadership on this fundraiser. Pictures in the Visitor's Center could be used to develop a "Castle Rock-Then and Now" calendar with minimal efforts to complete the project.
5. Dave Vorse provided an update on the **downtown construction**. Concrete can be poured when the weather cooperates. Traffic can begin using the new road surface as early as 7 days after pouring or as long as 3 weeks after. The sidewalks are done in places and look fantastic. Phase Two of the project is scheduled to begin July 25 however; start of this phase is dependent upon the concrete pour of Phase One. The Growler's Gulch bike group has started work at the old **BMX site** with work planned for the next 3 weekends.
6. Nancy Chenault reminded everyone of the **Chamber After Hours** event scheduled for August 18 at 6:00 p.m. The potluck welcomes Chamber members, families and children at 653 Sandy Bend.
7. Pat Bartley shared plans in progress for the September 10 Riverfront Trail completion celebration. Tentative time for the ribbon cutting is 10:00 a.m.
8. The first **Concert in the Park (ing lot)** was a phenomenal success thanks to the efforts of Myron Nelson and Joe Boertmann. The high school jazz band played several numbers and provided a brief history of jazz. It appeared the 175 (or so) concert goers completely enjoyed the program, the sun and of course, our Mary Hadaller singing *Summertime*. Way to go, Castle Rock!
9. The **Pepsi Challenge** online voting to generate funds for paving the parking lot at North County may not have secured enough votes to be eligible.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The **"Nationals"** return to Castle Rock. Paul Simonsen and Steve Baker shared the return of National Motorcycle Races to our town with Speed Week scheduled for August 4, 5, and 6. This is the first time the event has been here since 2006. Pre-ticket sales appear to be normal and local hotels are filling or at capacity. Several options were discussed for encouraging race fans to support other local businesses by offering a percentage discount. Karen Johnson moved and Pat Bartley seconded a motion to allocate up to \$350 of Chamber funds for printing flyers to be distributed at the gate. RelyLocal will design the flyer and garner local business participation for the opportunity to place the RelyLocal insignia of the flyer.

2. Dave Vorse reported on the bike track under Old Business.

ADJOURN:

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

REMINDERS:

- Next meeting: **August 11, 2011, 8:30 a.m.** at the **VISITORS CENTER**
- 2012 Calendar fundraiser
- Garage Sale

PROJECTS:

- Hi speed internet for Visitor's Center
- Exit 49 sign
- Lion's Pride light box

COMMITTEES"

- By-Laws review – Susie Barker, Mike Vorse
- Membership/Welcoming Committee – Carolyn Kennington, Pat Bartley