

Chamber of Commerce  
Location: Hattie's Courtyard

June 9, 2005  
8:00 a.m.

Attending: Linda Bauska, Carolyn Kennington, Ryana Covington, John Kramer, Wayne Lunday, Police Chief Bob Heuer, and Cowlitz County Tourism Director Mark Plotkin.

President Linda Bauska opened the meeting at the above time and location. She noted that Jessica Robertson (Community Revitalization Coordinator) is not present. She is serving as an evaluator for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class project presentations. This year's topic requires students to evaluate our community's revitalization needs and make recommendations. Student presentations will be held today and tomorrow and Bauska encouraged Chamber members to attend.

**Payment of Invoices:** A motion was made to approve payment of the following invoices: U-Line Great States, amount of \$25.53 for purchase of the teal welcome bags; Barney & Worth, Inc, \$512.07 for web site services; and \$150 contribution for the new sign at the Exhibit Hall. Vote on the motion: Unanimous 'Aye'.

**Business Team Formed:** Wayne Lunday updated Chamber members on proposed steps for implementation of the Business Feasibility and Marketing Plan. A **business team** has been coordinated and a Business Fair is planned for September. The success of this program is dependant upon business leaders and owners to become involved. It was noted that email and letters are not getting business owners to attend and it was recommended that personal contact be made. The Business Fair will explain aspects of the Business Feasibility/Marketing Plan that was just completed by Chabin Concepts and to get feedback from business owners as to what types of business development we need to pursue. Lunday hopes to also have guest speakers to share training tips on various business related topics. For those interested, the next organizational meeting of the **Business Team** is scheduled for **July 12<sup>th</sup> at 6pm** in Hattie's Courtyard, with a follow-up meeting in August.

**Marketing Opportunity:** Association of Washington Cities (AWC) is sponsoring a 'Walk Across Washington' event to showcase city park and trail systems and to promote good health options. AWC is asking if the city would like to participate in this event, which is scheduled for October 9<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup>. Covington will research and possibly forward to Anwar Ayoub or to the 'Play Committee' representing the Community Action Plan.

**Mountain Mania Logger Dinner:** The Chamber of Commerce has agreed to help the Mountain Mania Committee by sponsoring the **Logger Dinner on July 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6pm to 8pm**. Discussion included menu items, dinner fees, location and entertainment. Bauska will donate and prepare logger beef stew, with cornbread or muffins, and some type of drink. Cost for the dinner will be \$6/person and \$4 for children 12 years old and under.

A motion was made and passed to allocate \$200 for entertainment costs for the logger

dinner. John Kramer, Exhibit Hall Director will arrange for the entertainment and setup.

It was also suggested that a street dance could be held on First Avenue. Bauska asked Covington will seek permission from the City Council to close First Avenue and Lunday will speak with Ken Davis (Castle Rock Pharmacy) to see if this will create any inconvenience for his business. Covington will also contact David Vorse to arrange for tables and chairs.

John Kramer agreed to be the Chamber of Commerce liaison at the Mountain Mania Committee meetings.

**Mount Saint Helens 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summary:** Over 260 participated in the sanctioned walk sponsored by the Volkssport Club of Olympia. However local participation at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events was disappointing. Kramer suggested that bad weather and not condensing the events into a smaller area contributed to the small local turnout. Other suggestions: development of a plan to assist concessionaires with grey water disposal and better electrical hookups would enable more vendor participation. Mark Plotkin, Cowlitz County Tourism Director, reported that the county received over \$700,000 in media coverage from Germany. He stated the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events at the Weyerhaeuser Learning Center is viewed as a kick-off to a year-long national promotion for the Mount Saint Helens monument area.

**Adjournment/Next Meeting:** Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next Chamber meeting is scheduled for **JULY 14<sup>TH</sup> at 8:00 am in Hattie's Courtyard.**