

**Castle Rock Chamber of Commerce
Minutes, March 13, 2008**

President Coni Bush called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Members present: Sharon Traub (Treasurer), Ryana Covington (Vice-President), Henry Karnofski (Castle Rock School District), Anton Bossio (Adair Homes), Barbara Mask (CARE Coalition), Mike Vorse (Minuteman Press), Kathleen Evans (Hubbard Funeral Home), Rick Walton (Focus Art And Frame), Linda Bauska, Carolyn Kennington (Castle Rock Dental), Dan Piper (Hattie's Restaurant), David Vorse (City of Castle Rock), and Wayne Lunday (Quaife Insurance).

Secretary's report: Minutes to the February 14, 2008 meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's report: By consensus, members approved the report, as submitted. Balance is \$5,904.11.

Sharon Traub stated she has received four payments in response to advertising in the proposed city directory.

Audit results: Marguerite Ogden has completed the annual audit of the financial records and finds them to be in compliance. According to a written note from Myron Nelson, this will be the last year that Mrs. Ogden will be available to audit the financials. Mrs. Ogden will be fully retiring this year. C. Bush asked that a letter of appreciation be sent to Mrs. Ogden thanking her for this work.

Cowlitz Street West reconstruction project: David Vorse summarized the public comments received at the Town Hall meeting held on March 4th and displayed the engineer's drawing outlining the proposed changes. Vorse stated that comments preferred the angled parking to be unchanged. He also noted that consensus regarding changing the traffic direction flow for First Avenue SW was not possible and would be left for later discussion.

Currently the city has \$770,000 of committed grant funds for the project which must be used within the next 1 – 2 years, however the total engineer's estimate for the entire project is approximately \$2,000,000 million dollars. The city continues to seek additional funding sources, such as through Washington State Transportation Improvement Board (TIB), however this grant application has been unsuccessful because the street surface is not bad enough to score highly. The city is also pursuing another funding source to secure an additional \$200,000 - \$300,000, however these funds will not be available until 2009.

Vorse outlined three options to be considered using the committed funds:
1. shorten the project; 2. leave out certain amenities (such as bulbouts, stamped concrete, street trees, underground street lighting, street lights); 3. phase the project (such as do underground stormwater, then finish remainder when funds are available); or 4. do nothing and return the committed funds to the granting agencies.

Vorse noted that if the city phases the project by doing the engineering and stormwater improvements, businesses would be impacted because the street would be under construction for over two years. However, this might give the city another chance to apply for TIB funds.

In answer to questions posed by Chamber members regarding amending the project scope, Vorse provided the following cost estimates:
\$1.1 million dollars – would provide standard street surfacing and sidewalks and eliminate any stamped concrete work.
\$1.35 million dollars – for asphalt street and textured concrete sidewalks
\$750,000 for engineering, all of the stormwater work and completion of section from Huntington Avenue to Front Street.
\$355,000 - for project engineering and stormwater work for Cowlitz Street West (from 2nd Avenue to Huntington Avenue).

W. Lunday – said that colored concrete is \$7 - \$8/sq ft and can be slick in wet weather. Will need a different type of finish.

C. Bush – asked about matching the pattern when repairs are needed for maintenance.

R. Walton – did not think phone company would put wires underground – asked Vorse to verify.

D. Vorse – in answer to W. Lunday's question – elimination of poles will not provide enough lane width to allow for two-way travel lanes on Cowlitz Street. Vorse will also check with the engineer to see if it is possible to complete the sidewalk work prior to doing the road bed work.

D. Piper – voiced concern over loss of parking during the construction phases. Vorse stated the city would work with business owners and if necessary, traffic could be temporarily redirected to allow access to the business core.

Rick Walton (Motion), Wayne Lunday (2nd) to support phasing the project by doing the engineering work, putting in the stormwater system, install power for street lighting, and if possible – install new

sidewalks. In addition chamber members supported leaving parking on the north side of the street.

Vote on the motion: Piper (Nay) the remaining members (Aye).

Piper stated that he felt the project was needed, however his main concern is getting people to his business.

Vorse will report on these comments and the vote at the March 24th City Council meeting.

City Directories: members suggested that the city directories include both physical and mailing addresses for businesses. C. Bush suggested that a page listing regional zip codes also be included. Members felt this information is already readily available via Internet. B. Mask stated that the CARE Coalition is doing a community resource directory and will include zip code information. Those businesses interested in advertising in the directory need to contact Mike Vorse 360/577-3257 before April 15th.

Scholarships: applications are now available at the High School. Wayne (or Jana) Lunday, Coni Bush and Sharon Traub volunteered to serve as readers to review the applications.

Health And Safety Fair – (April 12th) It was reported that the Senior Center could print the fliers for approximately \$105, not including tax or paper. This would include 800 copies for distribution to Castle Rock students (Friday folder), 350 copies to Toutle Schools and 350 copies for distribution locally. M. Vorse was asked to provide an estimate for copying cost for comparison.

R. Walton (Motion) Traub (2nd) to approve payment of printing costs for the Health and Safety Fair, using either the Senior Center or Minuteman Press, whichever is most cost effective. Unanimous Aye.

Pride Day (Cleanup): Saturday, April 19th

Carolyn Kennington (chairperson) reported on following donors:

City of Castle Rock - \$500 for printing costs. Also liability insurance coverage and city staffing (as needed).

United Methodist Church – luncheon service for all volunteers. Luncheon will be at the UMC.

Waste Control – dumpsters and dumping fees donated.

Cowlitz County Commissioners – allow free dump day for city waste

Carolyn stated that she would like to get some topsoil donated for the planter boxes – W. Lunday said that he would ask Dick Moore if he would donate this.

Carolyn will be sending letters to past sponsors asking if they want to participate again this year.

Loggers Dinner: Linda Bauska agreed to assist Dan Piper's crew (at Hattie's) with coordination of the dinner preparation. In the past, the chamber gets the food and Hattie's Restaurant has assisted by preparing the food. D. Piper stated that last year his crew received complaints that there was not enough food – he did not want Hattie's to be held responsible if this happens again. He will meet with Bauska to see what all is required of his crew.

L. Bauska stated that M. Nelson will need to immediately send a letter to Foster Farms asking them to donate the chickens. Last year the chamber planned for 250 breasts and thighs. The letter needs to state that we need to pick up the chicken at least one week prior to the event. M. Vorse agreed to pick up the chickens and deliver them to Hattie's.

STP Breakfast: Fund Raiser -

Henry Karnofski stated that a cafeteria worker will be needed from the school in order for the chamber to use the kitchen facilities at the High School. The chamber will need to complete the school's facility form. The chamber also will be looking for volunteers to serve the breakfast.

Art Show: C. Bush asked that this be tabled until next year- especially with the possibility for Cowlitz Street construction.

Flags: C. Bush stated that she has the old flags that use to be hanging up on Cowlitz Street businesses. She will try to re-dye them and have them ready by Mountain Mania.

Adjourned: 10:15 a.m.

The next Castle Rock Chamber of Commerce meeting will be April 10, 2008 at 8:30 a.m.

Meetings are held at the Senior Center, 222 2nd Avenue SW.