

CASTLE ROCK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Minutes of Regular Meeting

September 9, 2010

MEMBERS AND GUESTS:

Mike Vorse, President Chamber of Commerce; Myron Nelson and Georgia Cox, Senior Citizen Center; Susan Barker, Castle Rock School District; Ryanna Covington, City of Castle Rock; Jennifer Keene, Council of Governments; Carolyn Kennington; Mark Plotkin, Tourism; Teresa Bergman, Cowlitz River Dahlias; Karen Johnson, Castle Rock Exhibit Hall; Carrie Yeager, Fibre Federal Credit Union; Steve Lafady, Cowlitz PUD; Joel Thompson, guest.

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Vorse at 8:36 a.m. Once again there was no coffee!

INTRODUCTIONS:

In lieu of introductions, each attendee presented a brief overview of their agency/business as follows:

- Susie Barker-Castle Rock School District: School resumed on September 7 with what appears to be a slight decline in enrollment; the Drug Free Communities grant was successful and the financial award will permit the project to continue for an additional 5 years.
- Myron Nelson-Senior Citizen Center: Center continues to be very active; September is Senior Citizen Month; flu shots scheduled for October 18 and 19; Christmas in October on the 23rd; 55 Alive driving class October 25 and 26. Entering the 5th year of "Our Kids" lunch program
- Mark Plotkin-Tourism: Conclusion of the Mt. St. Helen's at 30 campaign. Passport project deemed fairly successful; draft of Castle Rock/Silver Lake dining guide scheduled to go to print next week; a Regional Business Exposition is planned for February with more details to follow
- Steve Lafady-Cowlitz PUD: Automatic meter reading project close to completion for residential customer, industrial customers are next. Upgrade to computer software is planned
- Teresa Bergman-Cowlitz River Dahlias: Operation of a commercial specialty nursery utilizing the website as well as Farmer's Market for sales (dahlias4u.com. Poor weather has impacted sales.
- Ryana Covington-City of Castle Rock: Annexation of 250+ acres on the west side is continuing with tentative completion at the 1st of the year; boat launch is seeking additional funding for completion of project; DOT approval is complete for the Cowlitz St W project; upgrade to computer software is planned.
- Karen Johnson-Exhibit Hall: Building is in need of some repairs; artifact preservation is ongoing; invitations to visit have been extended to several Senior Citizen groups in neighboring counties; next Chamber of Commerce meeting will be held at the Exhibit Hall.
- Jennifer Keene-Council of Governments: Business Disaster Resiliency project is complete; Lower Columbia CAP has launched a micro-lending program for businesses; HUD sustainability plan is in progress; transportation and community development experiencing a high level of activity.
- Carolyn Kennington: new dental office is being constructed with a potential finish at the end of December. Congratulations on a wonderful, new addition to our city!
- Mike Vorse-Minute Man Press: in addition to other services offered, now able to print t-shirts for a reasonable cost.
- Joel Thompson-guest: a graduate of Portland State with an interest in economic development in the local area.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

A motion was made by Steve Lafady, second by Ryana Covington to accept the minutes of the August 12th meeting as presented.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

A Treasurer's Report dated September 8, 2010 was prepared by Andrea Gebhardt. The report indicated a balance of \$1,916.26. Several checks and deposits were indicated. No new members are noted in report.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Community Garage Sale

There were 35 registered participants in the event. Carolyn Kennington reports Barb Mask is still collecting the funds to be turned over to the Chamber when complete. It is recommended to repeat the project next year but to hold it on a different day than Mountain Mania.

- Fundraising (Cookbook Project)

To date 137 additional recipes are needed to complete the project. No additional cookie/candy/dessert recipes needed; could use appetizers, main course, soup, etc. Target date is Mother's Day 2011.

- Boulevard Banners

New banners have been purchased or requested by Fibre Federal Credit Union, Heritage Bank and Red Canoe Credit Union.

- Economic Development

Funding for director position requires a "scope of work" prior to approval.

- Lion's Park

Karen Johnson has filled the light box with updated information, would welcome comments should you have the opportunity to visit. Light box is not waterproof so future additions will need lamination. TJ Keirnan is planning to generate a more comprehensive map later this year to be included in the display.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Andrea Gebhardt will represent the Chamber at the Exhibit Hall meetings every 3rd Thursday.
- Karen Johnson gave a brief review of the advertising opportunity in *Country Pleasures*. Lead time of six weeks is needed if advertisement is to focus on February Quilt Show. Karen will report back at October meeting.
- Nominations of Officers are as follows:
 - President: Mike Vorse
 - Vice President: Carolyn Kennington
 - Secretary: Carrie Yeager
 - Treasurer: Andrea Gebhardt
- *Business Connection*, a local newsletter could function as the Chamber's newsletter. A mock-up with rates will be presented at the next meeting.

REMINDERS:

- Next Meeting October 14 at the Exhibit Hall
- Election of Officers at October meeting
- Rock and Gem Show September 16 and 17
- North County Auction September 25-tickets now available

ADJOURN:

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:38.