

Castle Rock Chamber of Commerce
April 12, 2007

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

Members present were: Carolyn Kennington, Mark Plotkin, John Kramer, Jeanette Foster, Sharon Traub, Mayor Barbara Larsen, Ann Wikman, Coni Bush, Linda Bauska and Henry Karnofski

Secretary's report—approved as printed

Treasurer's report—approved as printed

Barbara read most of the report of the Health and Safety Fair written by Myron Nelson. See attached letter. Kudos to Myron!

Linda reported on the Culpepper Merriweather Circus coming to Castle Rock on May 30, sponsored by the Chamber. The Castle Rock Fair Board approved the request to hold the circus on the upper part of the fairgrounds. Everything is going along. Linda reported that there will be a clown visiting the schools on the Monday before the show, but it was brought up that Monday would be a holiday so Linda said she would check with the circus folks. It was decided to have a Peanut counting contest. John Kramer will take a large jar to Linda and it will be filled with peanuts and placed in Bredfield's building. Barbara volunteered to take tickets. We need 4 people to work taking tickets.

Bob Heuer was not present, but it was noted that we still need pictures and the information sheet.

Coni talked about the sign at exit 49. The Chamber wants the city to take the sign down and take it to the City Shop. Coni asked about repainting it and do something with a painting of a town with the freeway in the middle. It might say something like "Welcome to Castle Rock Where East Meets West", with arrows pointing both ways. A discussion pursued about a more unifying concept and have more information about the kinds of businesses there are if you follow the "West" arrow. (Since you can actually see most of what there is to the East). Coni will do a couple of sketches and bring them to the next meeting.

It was voted and approved for the Chamber to sponsor the Mt. Mania Dinner on July 27. We will plan to do: chicken, baked beans, corn bread (Linda will take care of that part), Sharon will contact the Rose Tree to ask for potato salad, Jeanette (from the C R Bakery) said yes to brownies and Coni will ask Chris at Crazy Chris's Deli to donate cole slaw. We will serve strawberry lemonade and

water to drink. We will plan for 250. Linda will ask Foster Farms to donate chicken again.

STP will be July 14th. The Chamber will do the breakfast. Scott Ward is the contact person at the High School. He will call Linda to affirm that no one else is doing the breakfast.

Pride Day—Carolyn reported that all is going well; she has plants donated by the Flower Cellar and the CR Nursery. Cascade Select and the CR United Methodist Church donated bottles of water. Mike Street donated hand sanitizer and garbage bags. Johnny King from the Cowlitz Valley Christian Center is in charge of signage. Linda will cook and serve the spaghetti lunch in “The Courtyard” (Hattie’s backroom).

Ted Bredfield gave the flags that the previous Chamber had bought, to Coni. She asked for money and permission to try to dye the faded ones. Everyone was in favor of her trying.

Coni brought up the subjects of tour buses coming to Castle Rock. Mark said we need a “One Sheet” and that he would include it in his tourism information. The question of parking was asked and Carolyn said that she and her husband have purchased the “Tri-Tex” property. Eventually they will be building a dental clinic there but in the meantime it would be a good place to park buses. Mark told us about a community calendar that is good information and that businesses can be on. It is WWW.Cowlitztoday. Also we might want to visit Mt.St.Helens.com web site. Mark also reported the *Awesome Brochure* has gone from 16 pages to 32 pages. He also said the tourism department has ads in *Sunset* and the *Alaska Airline magazine*.

A letter from the Sheriff was read as a request for sponsorship for the “Every 15 Minutes” campaign. It was discussed and decided to donate \$100.

John asked about the map of the city and was told it was still being worked on.

Carolyn asked about parade information and was told to contact Yvonne Knuth.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40.

Submitted by:
Linda Bauska, Acting Secretary

Attachment

Health and Safety Fair

We had 150 attend, does not include the children. We had 30 vendors, 13 of them had a Castle Rock address.

The EMT's issued more than 50 bike helmets. They were busy all day. The C R Lion's Club donated \$300. to purchase the helmets.

DNR furnished Smokey the Bear to the delight of the children.

DNR also showed a video and also had a wildfire fire truck on display. In addition we had an ambulance and a police car on display.

In side we had blood pressure checks, blood/sugar tests, free massages, strength tests, and acupuncture demos.

Vendors gave out samples of products: water bottles, bottles of water, pedometers, hand sanitizers, caps, umbrellas, candy bars, tooth paste and tooth brushes, note pads, pens, pencils plus some drawings for plants and plant stands.

Even in the rain the PUD brought in their trailer and put on demos for the people. It was very impressive. They have been booked for Night Out in Aug.

Mark suggestion of a coupon for the bike helmet was a good idea. 90% of the kids came with a coupon plus they brought their parents. We put all the coupons in a can and had a drawing at the end of the day for a Jimmy Johnson NASCAR driver, teddy bear.

The H & S Fair also served as "kick off day" for our sweatshirt sales. As of Tues. the 10 of April we have sold 14 sweatshirts and we have orders for 12 sweatshirts, T-shirts, polo shirts, caps, etc. I have been pleased with the sales.

Canned Food Drive

I was very pleased with the amount of food turned in at the Sr. Center. We also collected a good amount of food from the banks. In addition Cowlitz Bank turned in \$70. in cash donations, the Senior Center had a \$20. cash donation and the Exhibit Hall had a \$20. donation.

The drawing was held at 12 noon on April 2nd. Ryana, Coni and Myron represented the Chamber and did the drawing. Because we had no rules regarding the drawing three people won more than on ham. One of the three

donated her hams to the Food Bank. A total of 4 hams were donated to the Food Bank.

A big Thank you to Steve and Don and the PUD crew for picking up the cans and tickets each week. They also made sure everything was delivered to the food bank.

A request was made for people to bring canned food to the H & S Fair and the response was great. We had a ½ barrel filled and even had bags of food stacked around the barrel.

Suggestions—

If we do it again we need more publicity and we need to do a better job of explaining it to the businesses.

Spend some funds and have colorful signs printed.

Set a time and date for the drawing and have that posted on the signs.