

Minutes Castle Rock Chamber of Commerce

September 13, 2007

Members Present: John Kramer, Mike Vorse, Henry Karnofski, Ryana Covington, Dick Miller, Sandie McGraw, Pat McGraw, Roger Boone, Dorothy Boone, Beverley Gravett, Coni Bush, Carolyn Kennington, Linda Bauska, Sharon Traub.

Secretary's Report – Approved as printed

Treasurer's Report – Approved as read

- July ending balance - \$8,504.42
- August ending balance - \$8,631.80

Shooting Range Discussion

Cowlitz Game & Anglers representative Dick Miller spoke in favor of the shooting range

- 30,000 gun owners in Cowlitz County with no place to shoot.
- The site proposal is off Toutle Park Rd. on dredge spoils owned by Cowlitz County and designated for recreational purposes.
- Concealed weapons permits will help pay for the project.
- Noise would not exceed 20 decibel levels for adjacent residential houses and would be below the County maximum of 90 decibels.
- There would be no adverse environmental effects.
- Initially they are trying to build a shooting range for 12 rifles, 12 pistols, and trap shooting with further expansion planned.
- They are asking for financial support for their project.

Neighbors against the shooting range representative Ryana Covington spoke

- A private consulting firm hired by Cowlitz County conducted a noise study on the project which indicated the noise level for certain adjacent properties would exceed the county's 90 decibel limits, including over a portion of I-5. The study also showed that noise probably would be 15-20 decibels below Cowlitz County maximum 90 decibel level at adjacent residential properties; however a video with sound demonstrated the high level of constant noise associated with a similar shooting range located in Monroe, WA.
- The range is proposed to be open 12 hours per day, 7 days per week for club members only.
- 2 out of every 3 residents in Cowlitz County do not own a gun.
- Property values drop 15 -20% around gun ranges.
- The location is residential and property has been purchased with that intent.
- Several ranges in the area are underutilized and are looking for new members.
- The public would only be allowed to use the range for 12 hours per week.
- The lead from the shooting range may contaminate the aquifer located under the proposed area, where residents draw their drinking water.
- Pat McGraw, a local land owner, said there is very minimal shooting out there now and the major concern was the noise

Election of Officers

Linda Bauska made a motion to elect officers as follows: President – Coni Bush, Vice President – Ryana Covington, Secretary – Myron Nelson, Treasurer – Sharon Traub. The motion was seconded by Mike Vorse and passed.

Events

- STP net profit - \$691.85
- Loggers Dinner - \$1596.65
- Rock Dollars – Ryana read parts of Myron’s report; 27 businesses participated with some suggestions for improvements and some compliments. The consensus was to continue the event twice a year, in the spring and fall and to reimburse Myron for gas used arranging the event.

City Promotional Rack Card – More good pictures depicting Castle Rock as a good place to live, work and play are needed. Henry Karnofski volunteered to look at the school. Ryana suggested checking with Mark Plotkin of Kelso Tourism Center.

City Directory – A committee was formed to work on this project: Linda Bauska, John Kramer, Evelyn Wooster and Mike Vorse. They are scheduled to meet September 20th at the Exhibition Hall.

Announcements

- A Stage Coach, replicate of the one that used to travel between Vancouver and Olympia will be at the Fair Grounds on September 21st. It is sponsored by the Tacoma Historical Society.
- Rock & Gem show September 15th & 16th from 10am – 4 pm.
- The Quilt Nest was #1 out of 62 quilt shops being judged because of their friendly and helpful staff.
- Coni Bush attended the new Lexington bridge ribbon cutting on behalf of the Chamber.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Scheduled Meeting October 11th at 8:30 am.