

CASTLE ROCK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Minutes of Regular Meeting

April 14, 2011

MEMBERS AND GUESTS:

Mike Vorse, President Chamber of Commerce; Carolyn Kennington, Vice-President; Myron Nelson, Castle Rock Senior Center; Susan Barker, Castle Rock School District; Jacqueline Hergert, Castle Rock School District; Andrea Gebhardt, Heritage Bank; Carrie Yeager and Shannon Cahoon, Fibre Federal Credit Union; Karen Johnson, Castle Rock Visitor's Center and Exhibit Hall; Pat Bartley, Another Right Hand; Paul Helenberg, Mayor Castle Rock; Joan LeMieux, iRambl; Janet Bredfield, Bredfields True Value; Kim Colluci, Town Crier news; Teresa Bergman, Cowlitz River Dahlias; Steve Barker, Mt. St. Helens Motorcycle Club; Melody Kranz, Storytelling Photography; Mike Shannon, Castle Rock Exhibit Hall; Ryana Covington, City of Castle Rock; Nancy Chennault, The Plant Station; Cheri Cooper, Blossoms & Sweets; Roy Henson, Determination; Gina Kolhage, Flannery Publications; Mark Plotkin, Tourism Bureau; Sue Pulse & Dean Gray, The Flower Pot; Tom Wilson, Cascade Natural Gas; Tom Mulder and Kristi Cochrane, Mt St Helen's NVM Forest Service; Bert Jepson, Columbia River Reader; Ken Sandusky, GP Public Affairs

Welcome to New Member-Mike Shannon

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Vorse at 8:39 a.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

A motion was made by Carolyn Kennington, second by Myron Nelson to accept the minutes of the March meeting as presented. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Current balance: \$3,820.74 as reported by Andrea Gebhardt.

GUEST SPEAKER: Tom Mulder, USFS Monument Manger shared upcoming events at Mt St Helen's NVM. Efforts have focused on reinvesting in Johnson Ridge Observatory with a grand opening slated for May 15. Summer work is scheduled on the "eruption trail" and plans include development of an amphitheater capable of hosting small events. The future envisions a closer connection with education, research and scientific opportunities. The Mt St Helen's Institute factors heavily in the operation of the area by providing volunteers to assist with the venues. Kristi Cochrane is the on-site visitor director.

- May 14 Johnson Ridge volunteer event
- May 15 Johnson Ridge official opening
- May 18 Free day

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

A motion was made by Carolyn Kennington, second by Myron Nelson to accept the minutes of the March meeting. Motion passed

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Current balance \$3,820.74 as reported by Andrea Gebhardt.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Myron Nelson was recently honored by Governor Gregoire at an event highlighting the overwhelming commitment of local volunteers. Myron has volunteered over 8100 hours. Amazing!

Andrea Gebhardt is developing a more current member list.

Mike Vorse-The application has been announced for hiring the project director/manager for tasks related to the Strategic Marketing Plan. The position is set to close April 29.

Myron Nelson reported the team has been selected to review the scholarship applications.

Carolyn Kennington provided a handout highlighting the 8th Annual Castle Rock Clean Up Day scheduled for April 30.

The Health Fair is set for April 16th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at our Senior Citizen Center. An informational flyer was provided.

Paul Helenberg announced the award of the contract for Cowlitz Street W project to Nutter. Construction start date is anticipated to be May 1 with completion targeted for October. Don Curtis is the project coordinator for the city and Paul anticipates making Friday tours of progress.

Mt. Mania is tentatively planned at the Middle School this summer. Approval will be requested at the April 26 School Board meeting.

Tom Wilson from Cascade Natural Gas announced their work on the Cowlitz Street W project is set to begin on April 18. He also discussed opportunities for commercial service conversions with potential financial assistance.

Kathy Miller discussed the March 10th and 11th of Red Canoe Credit Union and the subsequent donation of \$3,000 to the Castle Rock School District.

Cowlitz River Dental held their open house on March 22nd and 24th.

Melody Kranz hosted her open house for Storytelling Photography on April 12th.

The library remodel is complete and a May open house is planned.

Karen Johnson-An art event for State Route 504 is planned for the spring.

I Topped The Rock posters are out and flyers are ready for distribution.

Mark Plotkin is assessing the potential of the new visitor's center located at Three Rivers Mall. An artist's sketch of the proposed facility was available.

Kristi Cochrane discussed an upcoming training for volunteers at Mt St Helen's NVM scheduled for April 25th-29th.

Gina Kolhage discussed the Traveler's Companion brochure with advertising opportunities available for promoting Castle Rock and vicinity.

Teresa Bergman is anxiously awaiting brighter, warmer weather. In other words "Pray for Sun."

Cheri Cooper attended representing Blossoms & Sweets. Cheri was impressed with the Chamber's level of involvement and participation and anticipates becoming a member soon.

Jacqueline Hergert announced a Castle Rock High School student took 1st place in the state FBLA conference and will be participating at a national level next.

CONGRATULATIONS! to Sue Pulse and Dean Gray on the 40th anniversary of The Flower Pot. May 1st is an open house from 1:00 to 4:00. Roses will be sold at 1971 prices-an amazing \$14.95 a dozen.....

Karen Johnson announced extended operational hours for the visitor's center beginning May 2 (Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

The Business Connection could become a venue for the Chamber's newsletter and information. We are still in need of an author. Anyone, anyone?

REMINDERS:

- Next meeting: **May 12, 2011, 8:30 a.m.** at the **VISITORS CENTER**
- 2012 Calendar fundraiser report
- Garage Sale committee to be formed
- Membership applications/invoice discussion for April agenda
- Exit 49 sign project
- Lions Park light box

ADJOURN:

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned.