

CASTLE ROCK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Minutes of Regular Meeting
August 14, 2011

MEMBERS AND GUESTS:

Paul Simonsen and Steve Barker, Mt St Helen's Motorcycle Club; Susie Barker, Castle Rock School District; Pat Bartley, Another Right Hand; Teresa Bergman, Cowlitz River Dahlias; Nancy Chennault, The Plant Station; Cheri Cooper, Blossoms and Sweets; Ryana Covington and Dave Vorse, City of Castle Rock; Georgia Cox and Myron Nelson, Senior Center; Jon Cox, Cowlitz PUD; Keith Forsyth, To Every Season Antiques; Karen Johnson, Castle Rock Exhibit Hall; Jennifer Keene, COG; Joan LeMieux, iRamble; Carey Mackey and Susan Hoosier, Red Canoe Credit Union; Mark Plotkin, Tourism Bureau; Mike Shannon, Exhibit Hall; Danielle St. Germain, Castle Rock High School; Mike Vorse, Minuteman Press/Chamber President; David Sisson, Century Link; Tom Wilson and Autumn Marks, Cascade Natural Gas; James Misner, Cowlitz County Commissioner; Ellen Rose, Mt St Helens Motel.

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Vorse at 8:30 a.m.

WELCOME BACK, MARK

Welcome to New Members: Gulf South Medical Supplies; Century Link Qwest; Blossom's and Sweets!

GUEST SPEAKER:

County Commissioner James Misner attended the meeting to share the potential next steps in the "Big Idea" plan. By pooling resources between city and county contributions, each community will have approximately \$68,000 once every six (6) years for developing sustainable tourism. A *Lodging Tax Advisory Council* will be established with each city providing three (3) members. Suggested members would include a representative from the city council, a hotelier and another local stakeholder. Applications will be sent to the city participants asking for members with a commitment to tourism. First tasks for the LTAC are to develop by-laws, establish an ad-hoc committee and propose the funding rotation cycle.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

A motion was made by Georgia Cox, second by Ryana Covington to accept the minutes of the August meeting as corrected. Motion passed.

Correction of address for August After-Hours event to 653 Sandy Bend Road.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

A motion was made by Pat Bartley, second by Keith Forsyth to accept the treasurer's report.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Economic Development** Progress Report:
Nancy Chennault has been hired as the Director. A report will be provided at the September 8 meeting.
2. **Mt. Mania** Update: Dana Marcil was unable to attend.
3. **Logger Dinner**-Attendance was minimal. The car show and associated events concluded at 2:30 and the dinner did not begin until 4:00. It was suggested for future consideration the Logger Dinner could become a food vendor available through-out the day.
4. **National Motorcycle Races**-Paul Simonsen and Steve Barker reported the event was well attended and in spite of some electrical glitches, reviews were excellent. A "hat's off" to Cowlitz PUD for their response. Local hotels report reservations have been made for next year and the event returning here is a positive step for the club and the community.

5. **Senior Center Pancake Feed**- Attendance at the annual pancake breakfast was down from last year. The pancakes were still great! On a side note, Myron Nelson reported last year's scholarship awardees both made the Dean's List at Eastern Washington University. Congratulations to Allison Warren and Tanner Paget. Also mentioned, paper tole art completed at the Center will be displayed at Cowlitz River Dental.
6. **Pump Track**-Dave Vorse reported work on the pump track is progressing. Jeep LeMonds and others have completed approximately 75% of the expert track. Landscaping and jump lines are currently being completed. Six weeks ago there were 35 volunteers working to provide approximately 350 labor hours. Donations of time, materials, etc. would be accepted.
7. **Calendar Committee**-Project is moved to next year.
8. Dave Vorse provided an update on the **downtown construction**. Phase 2 is well underway with the work being on schedule and on budget. The newly constructed roadway and sidewalks look fantastic.
9. **Riverfront Trail Celebration**-Pat Bartley has arranged the event for Thursday, September 15 at 5:00 in the afternoon. Stroll the trail, enjoy the weather, have a cool drink and get a firsthand look at another great addition to the Castle Rock experience.
10. Nancy Chennault reminded everyone of the **Chamber After Hours** event scheduled for August 18 at 6:00 p.m. The potluck welcomes Chamber members, families and children at 653 Sandy Bend.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Open Nominations for Officers**
President, Mike Vorse; Vice-President, John Cox; Secretary, Susie Barker; Treasurer, Carey Mackey.

ADJOURN:

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

REMINDERS:

- Next meeting: **September 8, 2011, 8:30 a.m.** at the **VISITORS CENTER**
- 2012 Calendar fundraiser
- Garage Sale

PROJECTS:

- Hi speed internet for Visitor's Center
- Exit 49 sign
- Lion's Pride light box

COMMITTEES"

- By-Laws review – Susie Barker, Mike Vorse
- Membership/Welcoming Committee – Carolyn Kennington, Pat Bartley