

CASTLE ROCK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
December 9, 2010

MEMBERS AND GUESTS:

Mike Vorse, President Chamber of Commerce; Carolyn Kennington, Vice-President; Jacqueline Hergert Castle Rock High School FBLA Advisor; Danielle St. Germain Castle Rock High School FBLA Student Representative; Myron Nelson and Georgia Cox, Castle Rock Senior Center; Mark Plotkin, Cowlitz County Tourism; Teresa Bergman, Cowlitz River Dahlias; Sue Pulse, Flower Pot; Paul Helenberg, Mayor; Dave Vorse, City of Castle Rock; Steve Lafady and Rob Salberg, Cowlitz PUD; Susan Barker, Castle Rock School District; Carrie Yeager, Fibre Federal Credit Union; Karen Johnson, Castle Rock Visitor's Center and Exhibit Hall; Mike Shannon, Visitor's Center volunteer; Ned Piper and Bert Jepson, Cowlitz River Reader.

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

A motion was made by Teresa Bergman, second by Georgia Cox to accept the minutes of the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting as presented. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Membership currently stands at 35 compared to 88 last year.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Rod Salberg, Cowlitz PUD discussed the current commercial lighting program focused on energy conservation. Positive results have been experienced by users to date. Contact the PUD who will conduct an energy audit. The goal is to reduce wattage use by 25%. Rebates are available at completion of project. Additionally, as of October 1, BPA raised the incentive to install new fluorescent lighting. The incentive will end in 2012. Sample bulbs and nightlights were provided to those in attendance. A variety of energy saving programs are available and complete information can be obtained from the PUD.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Community Garage Sale

Wayne Lunday communicated the fundraiser issue has been concluded.

- Boulevard Banners

New banners are installed.

- Newsletter

Ned Piper and Bert Jepson of the *Columbia River Reader* presented their ideas about incorporating the Chamber newsletter into this publication

- Exhibit Hall Business Card Holder

Holder has yet to arrive. Members are requested to prepare standard size business cards and bring to the next meeting.

- Budget Committee Report

The committee will meet and prepare a report and recommendations for consideration at the January 13, 2011 chamber meeting.

- Economic Development

No word has been received from the County Commissioners regarding the hiring of a consultant.

- Exhibit Hall Request For Chamber To Assist With Hi-Speed Internet Costs

Cascade Networks could provide Hi-Speed Internet services for approximately \$49/month. The cost for ComCast would be approximately \$69/month. Mark Plotkin suggested the chamber include this cost as an operating expense and include WiFi capabilities. He suggested the chamber could sell advertisement on WiFi to help defray the service cost. The Exhibit Hall serves as the information center for visitors, persons relocating to the area and business information. Plotkin feels the internet upgrade and WiFi capabilities are essential to being able to promote the community.

- Advertising In The AWESOME Brochure

Mark Plotkin reported that the city will be participating in the AWESOME brochure, at a reduced contribution rate. He acknowledged that chamber revenues are down and local projects such as Internet for the Exhibit Hall are of high priority. He is requesting consideration of a reduced contribution of \$250 for the upcoming brochure. A motion was made and seconded to contribute \$250 to the AWESOME brochure. Motion passed.

- Upcoming Business Exposition Opportunity

Sponsorship packages and vendor options are still available for the *Cruise To Success* Business Exposition, February 25, 2011 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Cowlitz Regional Exposition Center, with an after-hours event scheduled from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. This is a multi-partner event between tourism, businesses, schools, ports, municipalities and local Chambers. More information is available at: [www.cowlitzcountybizexpo.com](http://www.cowlitzcountybizexpo.com) Reservations for vendor participants will be taken until the end of January.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Myron Nelson reported sales of the Castle Rock High School annual CD developed by Jerry Kelly have been brisk. The CD includes annuals from 1900 to 2009 and may be purchased for \$10 at the Senior Citizen Center.
- Myron also reported the date for scholarship applications will be set and announced at the next meeting.

#### INFORMATION:

#### REMINDERS:

- Next meeting: **JANUARY 13, 2011, 8:30 a.m.** at the Exhibit Hall.
- Health Fair
- Annual community clean-up day
- Consideration of *Festival of Lights* as a Chamber of Commerce project
- Exit 49 sign (by Park and Ride)

#### ADJOURN:

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned.