

CASTLE ROCK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Minutes of Regular Meeting
February 10, 2011

MEMBERS AND GUESTS:

Mike Vorse, President Chamber of Commerce; Carolyn Kennington, Vice-President; Danielle St. Germain Castle Rock High School FBLA Student Representative; Myron Nelson and Georgia Cox, Castle Rock Senior Center; Susan Barker, Castle Rock School District; Carrie Yeager, Fibre Federal Credit Union; Carey Mackey and Kathy Miller, Red Canoe Credit Union; Karen Johnson, Castle Rock Visitor's Center and Exhibit Hall; Andrea Gebhardt, Heritage Bank; Jennifer Keene, Council of Governments; Roy Henson, Determination; Nancy Chenault, The Plant Station; Tina Keele, The Quilt Nest; Pat Bartley, Another Right Hand; Paul Helenberg, Mayor Castle Rock; Dave Vorse, Castle Rock Public Works; Joan LeMieux, iRambl.net; Jon and Christina Randall, RelyLocal;

Welcome to our new members Joan LeMieux, iRamble.net and Pat Bartley, Another Right Hand.

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Vorse at 8:34 a.m.

Paul Helenberg updated members on the meeting with Department of Corrections held at The Rock Church. The Castle Rock site is one of 16 being reviewed prior to selection of the top 3 sites. If Castle Rock were to be successful the project would tentatively begin in 2013 and open in 2016 with the potential of 528 employees in the 400,000 square foot facility. School, fire and police will be reviewing a one-time impact fee if Castle Rock is selected.

Dave Vorse updated members on local projects. Cowlitz Street West could start the 1st week of April with a plan to work around critical dates for the affected businesses. Efforts will be directed toward a smooth transition with the realization there will be issues to overcome. Front Street is slated for improvements next.

The library is undergoing a remodel which will add a much needed media center. A grand opening is planned.

FEMA certified the levy and Castle Rock is the 2nd diking district in Region 10 to achieve this certification.

The trail extension work will start next week. When completed the project will include paving, lights and a fishing/viewing platform. Parking will be available at the site of the old gas station.

Fencing is being installed today around the pond behind the post office.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Minutes for the January meeting were provided.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance is \$3,450.43.

No motion was made to accept the minutes or the Treasurer's report from the January meeting.

GUEST SPEAKER: Joan LeMieux from iRamble.net attended the meeting encouraging the Chamber to focus on the Cowlitz River from a historical perspective as a marketing strategy for the area. Joan offered to assist in any way with efforts to increase tourism in our area using the internet and phone “apps” as a tool to advertise the area.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Newsletter:

As yet no one has volunteered to write newsletter articles for the *Columbia River Reader* (Business Connection).

- The Business Card holder is installed at the Visitors Center and ready to be filled. This is available to any Chamber of Commerce member.

- Economic Development

Delays continue for this position. Still to be defined is the scope of work and how to determine when the work has been completed. Community involvement is a must.

- Hi-Speed Internet Connection

Anticipate internet connection in one month.

- Upcoming Business Exposition Opportunity

The Chamber will have a table at the Business Exposition on February 25. A basket is being assembled as a “give away” with several members volunteering to man the table. Complete information is available at www.cowlitzcountybizexpo.com .

- Membership plaques were distributed to those in attendance.
- Community Clean-up will be held April 30.
- Health Fair will be held April 16 at the Senior Citizen center from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The fair is open to all ages with bike helmets given away. There will be a canned food drive, blood pressure checks and an emergency highway kit available for raffle.
- Budget Committee review and recommendations will be added to the March agenda. Their review will include the February agenda items *Fund Raisers and Scholarship Fund*.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A handout was provided outlining past Chamber of Commerce accomplishments.
- Red Canoe Credit Union will hold their Grand Opening on March 10 and 11 with ribbon cutting at 10:00 a.m. on the 10th. If you go, sign the banner supporting Castle Rock Schools and Red Canoe will donate \$5.00 to the school for each signature.
- Small Business Administration classes are being offered. A handout was provided.

- Susie Barker moved and Andrea Gebhardt seconded a motion for Nancy Chenault to represent the Chamber on the CEDC. The motion passed.

REMINDERS:

- Next meeting: **MARCH 10, 2011, 8:30 a.m.** at the **VISITORS CENTER**
- Jim Worl-I *Topped the Rock* plans for March agenda
- By-law review committee
- 2012 Calendar fundraiser report
- Garage Sale committee to be formed
- Membership applications/invoice discussion for March agenda
- Exit 49 sign project
- Lions Park light box
- The Visitors Center would welcome the donation of any old business signs related to the community. See Karen for complete details.

ADJOURN:

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned.