

CASTLE ROCK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Minutes of Regular Meeting
March 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, Castle Rock Senior Center; Susan Barker, Castle Rock School District; Carrie Yeager, Fibre Federal Credit Union; Karen Johnson, Castle Rock Visitor's Center and Exhibit Hall; Jennifer Keene, Council of Governments; 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; Janet Bredfield, Bredfields True Value; Kim Colluci, Town Crier news; Teresa Bergman, Cowlitz River Dahlias; Dana Marcil, Mountain Mania; Ben Harrison, Swanson Bark and Fuel; Steve Barker, Mt. St. Helens Motorcycle Club; Melody Kranz, Storytelling Photography; Neil Williamson, Castle Rock School District; Jim Worl, I Topped The Rock; Mike Shannon, Castle Rock Exhibit Hall; Mike Randall, Cowlitz County Regional Conference Center; Mike Moss, Cowlitz County Event Center; Autumn Marks, Cascade Natural Gas Conservation; Jon & Christine Randall, Relylocal; Ryana Covington, City of Castle Rock; James Misner, Cowlitz County Commissioner; Stephanie Misner, guest; Joan Lemieux, iRamble.

Welcome to new member Melody Kranz, Storytelling Photograph.

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Vorse at 8:32 a.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Minutes for the February meeting were provided.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

No treasurer's report was provided.

GUEST SPEAKER: County Commissioner Misner presented his "Big Idea" proposal to the Chamber attendees. A goal of the proposal would permit cities and the county to consolidate resources and move to a regional tourism vision. Establishing a Tourism Board of Directors and drafting a Tourism Action Plan will assist in defining the "big idea" funding base as well as disbursement with increased tourism as the ultimate goal. A copy of Commissioner Misner's proposal is attached to these minutes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dave Vorse-Cowlitz Street project should go to bid next week with potential start up in May.
Jim Worl-plans are developing for I Topped The Rock which is scheduled for June 4th. Proceeds will go to the community garden project. The middle school will host the event again this year.
Mike Moss-The Cowlitz County Event Center is the location for an upcoming Search and Rescue conference in May bringing many participants to our area for 5-7 days. Also scheduled at the center are a Blacksmith Festival and Square Dance conference.
Karen Johnson-There will be a Mt. St. Helens and vicinity meeting April 13th at 9:30 a.m. at the Silver Lake Visitor's Center.

Jon and Christine Randall-Rely Local is an online business directory with coverage of Cowlitz County, Clatskanie, Rainer and Cathlamet. In addition, there is a fundraising feature on the site as well as a free event page.

Autumn Marks- Incentives and rebates are available for replacement of gas water heaters and hvac systems with new, high efficiency systems. Further information is available from Autumn (conserve@cngc.com) .

Joan LeMieux-Requested the Chamber vet the document provided related to tourism.

Kim Colluci-Publishes Travelers Companion, a guide to Southwest Washington and Northern Oregon.

This guide will be placed at the docks for Washington State ferries, significantly increasing distribution.

Contact Kim if you have interest in placing an ad.

Pat Bartley-Available for secretarial support based on individual need.

Dana Marcil-Mountain Mania will be July 23 with the potential location being the middle school.

Steve Barker-National Motorcycle Races will be held in Castle Rock August 4, 5, and 6.

Melody Kranz-The new location next to the Quilt Nest is preparing for opening.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Membership was asked to vote on the recommendations of the Leadership Committee. Each of the following were approved:
 - Dual signatures required on all Chamber of Commerce checks.
 - Membership fee for non-business members set at \$20.00 per year.
 - One Chamber of Commerce scholarship will be available this year.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Red Canoe Credit Union Grand Opening is today. Everyone should go directly there and sign the banner!
- Cowlitz River Dental will hold a grand opening and ribbon cutting March 24th at 6:00 p.m.

REMINDERS:

- Next meeting: **April 14, 2011, 8:30 a.m.** at the **VISITORS CENTER**
- 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

ADJOURN:

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned.