

CASTLE ROCK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Minutes of Regular Meeting
September 8, 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; Janet Bredfield, Bredfield's True Value; Nancy Chennault, The Plant Station; Cheri Cooper, Blossoms and Sweets; Dave Vorse, City of Castle Rock; Georgia Cox and Myron Nelson, Senior Center; Jon Cox, Cowlitz PUD; Keith Forsyth, To Every Season Antiques; Andrea Gebhardt, Heritage Bank; RW, Focus Art and Frame; Karen Johnson, Castle Rock Exhibit Hall; Jennifer Keene, COG; Carolyn Kennington, Cowlitz River Dental; Melody Kranz, Storytelling Photography; Joan LeMieux, iRamble; Carey Mackey and Kathy Miller, Red Canoe Credit Union; Ellen Rose, Mt St Helens Motel; Mike Shannon, Exhibit Hall; Danielle St. Germain, Castle Rock High School; Mike Vorse, Minuteman Press/Chamber President; Tom Wilson, Cascade Natural Gas; Carrie Yeager, Fibre Federal Credit Union.

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! Blossoms & Sweets

Join us for the ribbon cutting at several new businesses on September 30

11:00 at To Every Season Antiques

11:30 at StoryTelling Photography

12:00 at Blossoms and Sweets

GUEST SPEAKER:

Nancy Chennault has been selected as the Strategic Planning Director for Castle Rock. This is the culmination of years of effort beginning in 2002 with Castle Rock's Community Action Plan. In 2005 the plan was more defined as a Strategic Marketing Plan. Nancy brings great enthusiasm and energy to this project and implementation should improve opportunities for the Castle Rock community. To assist with these plans, please take a moment and complete the Castle Rock Business Team Skills and Resources Questionnaire. This can be left at the Visitor's Center when completed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

A motion was made by Tom Wilson, second by Karen Johnson to accept the minutes of the September meeting. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

A motion was made by Karen Johnson, second by Pat Bartley to accept the treasurer's report dated August 2011. Andrea reported an increase of 21 members

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. **Pump Track**-Dave Vorse reported work on the pump track continues to progress with anticipated wrap-up at the end of September. Volunteers are welcome a week from Saturday.
3. Dave Vorse provided an update on the **downtown construction**. Front Street is open today. Work will begin on the intersection of Huntington Avenue and Cowlitz as well as the 100 block of 1st Street. Landscaping and lights will be starting soon.

4. **Riverfront Trail Celebration**-A reminder of the event scheduled for Thursday, September 15 at 5:30 p.m. Thank you to Pat Bartley for organizing this event.
5. **Chamber After Hours** was noted as a “*perfect event*” held in very gorgeous gardens and we hope it will be the first of many afterhours events highlighting our local business community. Thanks go to Nancy Chennault for opening the gardens and hosting the evening. Let Mike or Carolyn know if you are interested in hosting the next afterhours event.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. After discussion supporting the cost of a **high speed internet** connection for the Visitor’s Center, a motion was made by Pat Bartley, second by _____ to provide \$100.00 per month to cost of the internet connection. Motion passed.
2. **Website Update** will require some attention to make it functional for Chamber members as well as any potential users of the site. Sections to be addressed should include Public Relations, Welcome and Update of Activities. While the Chamber has a current webmaster on a fee for service basis, the website requires someone to review and provide updates to the webmaster if we are going to continue to have a site.
3. **Open Nominations for Officers**
President, Mike Vorse; Vice-President, John Cox; Secretary, Susie Barker; Treasurer, Carey Mackey and Andrea Gebhardt. A new position of Public Relations was developed-nominated is Carolyn Kennington. Another new position of Lifestyle and Culture was added with the joint nomination of Carey Mackey and Pat Bartley.
4. Tom Wilson, Cascade Natural Gas reminded everyone to *Call Before You Dig-811* by supplying attendees with a great pair of work gloves.

ADJOURN:

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

REMINDERS:

- Last motorcycle race will be September 17th.
- Eagle Scout project needed-contact Melody Kranz.
- Next meeting: **October 13, 2011, 8:30 a.m.** at the **VISITORS CENTER**
- 2012 Calendar fundraiser
- Garage Sale

PROJECTS:

- Exit 49 sign
- Lion’s Pride light box

COMMITTEES”

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