

HCCC

HOTCHKISS COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

promoting business & quality of life

Membership Meeting. January 27, 2021. Memorial Hall Ballroom.

Roll Call. Board Members Present: Nathan Sponseller, Mitch Swanda, Kim Shay, Sue Whittlesey, Robbie Winne. Board Members Absent: Bill Long, Tracy Ihnot.

Call to Order. President Swanda called the meeting of the membership and Board to order at 8:00 am.

Approval of Minutes.

Recording Secretary, Ihnot, emailed the draft of the minutes to December 16 meeting and corrections were made. Whittlesey made a motion to accept the minutes and Winne seconded. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report.

Whittlesey provided the Treasurer's report to the meeting for board members to review. Whittlesey provided an explanation for both documents and areas for discussion. The current balance in operations is \$4,137,45 and special projects is \$16,513.22. Sponseller motioned to accept the report and Shay seconded. All were in favor.

Executive Director Report.

Sponseller reported that sixty three memberships have been received as of the date of the meeting. This is ahead of last year's end of January figure of 59. A reminder notice to those who had not rejoined after the initial membership mailing was emailed in mid January. Sponseller reported that the email reminder process was much less work intensive and has netted a good result. Sponseller reported that the Colorado Grand Classic Car tour is scheduled to return for a lunch stop in Hotchkiss this coming September, date to be announced later. The new Google email and cloud storage has been fully established and all contacts have been moved over to this platform. The old Go Daddy email will continue to function and forward messages to the new Gmail account. Sponseller will send a change of email announcement to all contacts shortly. All Chamber documents are now being backed up to the Google Cloud Storage platform as well as to an external hard drive. Sponseller updated the Board on the condition of the Visitor Center exterior signage, which has deteriorated to a significant degree. DMEA has it in their pipeline to replace this signage, according to Junior Aragon of DMEA. Winne, suggested that as newsletter duties shift to Sponseller that she would like to be responsible for a special segment highlighting member businesses. The board liked the idea and expressed their approval and gratitude.

President's Report:

Swanda thanked Sponseller and Whittlesey for their reports and reported that Bank of Colorado will be the new semi-official "drop off point" for anyone needing to deliver materials to the Chamber or any officer of the Chamber.

Presentations/Introductions:

No presentations/introductions

Old Business.

New Logo. Winne had talked with Patty Naft at the High Country Shopper and offered to hire her to adapt our logo to a line format without color or “fill”. Naft had expressed an interest and Winne will follow up with her.

Confirm Meeting Schedule. Swanda proposed formalizing the meeting schedule for the year. Whittlesey had already reserved and paid Memorial Hall for meeting space on the last Wednesdays of January, February, March, April and the middle Wednesdays of November and December. It was agreed that the remaining warmer months would be set for the fairgrounds park at noon rather than the normal 8am meeting time.

EV Charging Station. Shay reported that materials are being gathered by Atlasta Solar for the EV Charging Station slated for installation at the Hotchkiss Crawford Historical Society museum. Shay believes that an April installation is possible and is hoping for this to be completed before the Highway 50 closure east of the Blue Mesa Reservoir diverts traffic via Highway 92 later this spring. A 20% in-kind match for the project will come from site preparation and gravel donations.

2021 Projects/Plans Discussion. Swanda suggested the Chamber discuss upcoming projects and events. The Dog Trials are tentatively scheduled for Mother’s Day weekend again this year and the Chamber will provide traditional promotional support. The E-waste event was discussed. Whittlesey mentioned she has had a number of inquiries and suggested that instead of holding an event that we make some arrangements for people to drop off waste at Double J Disposal on a specified date for a reduced cost. Sponseller agreed to follow up on this with Rachel at Double J. It was also noted that the Colorado Grand will return in September and that the Chamber will host lunch as a fundraiser for the Chamber and for the Colorado Grand Scholarship funds.

New Business.

Signboard repair. Sponseller reported that the expanded signboard underneath the newly renovated Welcome sign – coming from the Crawford direction – has a number of notable defects, including the fact that letters cannot be easily mounted to the bottom row because not enough space was left between the rows, and the fact that the letter holder strips were screwed on instead of epoxied which has caused some troubles with keeping letters in place. Whittlesey noted that it cost the Chamber between \$300-400 to replace a similar sign board a few years ago. Sponseller suggested he could contact Colorado Sign Studio in Delta about making a replacement letter board. Whittlesey moved that the Chamber allocate up to \$500 for the project and that if the bid came in under that that Sponseller should just proceed with the project. Shay seconded and all were in agreement.

Committee Reports.

Hotchkiss Prosperity Plan update. Shay reported that she has been attending Hotchkiss Council meetings as a liaison for the Chamber and that the Council has welcomed her participation. The Council has agreed to buy in to the seven principals that the Hotchkiss Prosperity Plan recommended for consideration of the re-development of the old Town Shop building. Shay believes a lot of remediation may be necessary before a sale is possible, but is hoping that a sale to a suitable developer could happen in the 9-12 month timeframe. On an unrelated note, Shay announced that the Ambulance District is hoping to host a big COVID vaccination event in the future when sufficient vaccine is available and she suggested that the Chamber might play some role in this event. The Council appeared interested in participating.

Announcements/Non-Agenda Items.

Next Membership Meeting. Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Nathan Sponseller, Stand-in for Recording Secretary