

HCCC

HOTCHKISS COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

promoting business & quality of life

Membership Meeting. April 28, 2021. Memorial Hall Ballroom.

Roll Call. Board Members Present: Nathan Sponseller, Mitch Swanda, Robbie Winne, Bill Long, Kim Shay, and Sue Whittlesey. Board Members Absent: Tracy Ihnot. Community Members Present: County Commissioner, Wendell Koontz.

Call to Order. President Swanda called the meeting of the membership and Board to order at 8:02 am.

Approval of Minutes.

Recording Secretary Ihnot emailed the draft of the March 31 minutes to Board members for review. Corrections were made via email. Whittlesey made a motion to accept the minutes and Shay seconded. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report.

Whittlesey provided the Treasurer's report and updated financial statement prior to the meeting for board members to review. The current balance in operations is \$4,137.45 and special projects is \$16,513.22. Sponseller motioned to accept the report and submitted Winne seconded. All were in favor.

Administrative Report.

Membership. 2021 HCCC membership is currently at 84 (no new members since last meeting). Visitor kiosk signage. Sponseller reported that the new Kiosk signage has been put in place and the results are very eye catching. E-Newsletter, etc. The Board discussed including upcoming meeting agendas in the e-newsletter on the Thursday before each meeting. This will necessitate pulling together the agenda a bit earlier than has traditionally been the case, though the Board felt this would be a good way to encourage attendance by members. Website. Updating HCCC's websites is the next big project. Thin Air co-owner, Alowetta Terrien, confirmed that the existing business directory could be migrated from HotchkissChamber.com to NorthForkValley.net at the time when the sites are combined. Colorado Grand. Sponseller reported that he has received official word from Eddie O'Brien with the Colorado Grand, that they plan to stop in Hotchkiss for lunch on Friday, September 17. This is a major fundraiser for the Chamber. Sponseller will make arrangements for reserving the Fairgrounds park for the occasion.

At the March meeting HCCC Board members had discussed creating a blanket communications policy for the e-newsletter, signboard, Facebook, and website. However, at the April meeting Sponseller opined that after reviewing each of the existing policies closely that he felt it would result in a blanket policy that was too cumbersome. He offered to work on updating all existing policies and will plan to present to the Board for review.

President's Report:

President Swanda reviewed the highlights of the work session attended by most of the Board since the March meeting. He also reported that as far as he has heard, Delta County Fair, Pioneer Days, and the Dog Trials were

all proceeding as normal without restrictions. Commissioner Koontz confirmed that the County no longer is imposing any restrictions of such events. Swanda mentioned that at 10am, immediately following the Board/Member meeting, there would be a ribbon cutting for the new EV charging station. All Board members present at the meeting planned to attend the occasion which would also be represented by members of the Hotchkiss Crawford Historical Society Museum, as well as Matt from Atlasta Solar Center.

Presentations/Introductions:

Commissioner, Wendell Koontz, gave a brief presentation to the group assembled. Koontz mentioned that he would attempt to attend HCCC Board/Member meetings at least quarterly. Koontz reported that the county is back to business as usual now that COVID restrictions have been lifted in Delta County. Koontz reported that a 'dobies clean up day would happen on May 22. He also reported that CDOT plans to make improvements on Highway 92 between Crawford and Hotchkiss in 2022.

Old Business.

President Swanda inquired if Winne or Sponseller had heard any results of the High Country Shopper's joint promotion with the Chamber. Sponseller reported that he has not heard any updates from Tina at the Shopper.

New Business.

Mural replacement at Third Bowl. Shay reported that the owner of Third Bowl Ice Cream had stated an openness to replacing the "Subway/Bulldog" mural on the side of his building on Bridge Street, but did not have the budget to pay for the project without some buy in from the community. One Board member noted that with the combining of the two Valley High Schools that there would be no more Bulldog mascot, and so replacing that as well as the two other Bulldog themed murals in town (on the car wash and on the old town shop) might be a good priority.

Committee Reports.

Hotchkiss Prosperity Plan update. Shay reported that the "brownfields" assessment of the old town shop site should be completed by September or thereabouts. The old gasoline tanks had been pulled in the 80's and, fortunately, the Town has found evidence of that fact, which will save in the exploration process. Shay reported that any required remediation should be at no cost to the Town as long as it is owned by the municipality, which is the reason it is being done now rather than by an eventual buyer.

Outreach Committee. Sponseller offered to contact all members who have expressed an interest in contributing to the New Neighbor Welcome Bag program, and will provide those members information on how to handle their donated items and information.

Announcements/Non-Agenda Items.

Next Membership Meeting. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 26th, at noon at the Fairgrounds Park.

Adjournment. Swanda adjourned the meeting at 9:40 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Nathan Sponseller, Executive Director, standing in for Tracy Ihnot, Recording Secretary