

**Condon Chamber of Commerce
Membership Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2017**

Members Present:

Holly LaRue, President; Delaney Watkins, Vice President; Melanie Wise, Treasurer; K'Lynn Lane, Executive Director, Rita Rattray, Max Klare, Jonna Rattray, Julius Courtney, Rod McGuire, Canda Rattray, Eva Lou Greiner, Lisa Greene, Peter Mitchell.

- I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 am by President Holly LaRue.
- II. Welcome & Introductions**
- III. Approve August Meeting Minutes**
 - a. Melanie made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as sent out by email, Rita seconded. All in favor none opposed.
- IV. Treasurers Report**
 - a. A Profit & Loss Statement was presented from January through December. There were no questions or comments.
- V. Staff Report**
 - a. Phone Calls: 75
 - b. Email: 122
 - c. **Visitors: 415** Visitors (347 during the eclipse weekend)
 - d. Assists: 30
 - e. Member Referrals: In August and over the elcipse that is all we did was refer people to your businesses and encouraged them to come back to our wonderful communities.
 - f. Facebook: Likes: 938
 - g. **Website Visitors (please check out the new and improved Chamber of Commerce Website)**
 - **July 9,110 *our busiest month to date!**
 - **August 9,319**
 - **September 3,717 (in just 14 days)**
 - **Average monthly visits 6,356**
 - h. **New Members:**
 - Groundworx-Lawn & Landscaping
 - i. **Thank You:** K'Lynn thanked volunteers who worked in the office over the busy Solar Eclipse weekend: Lori Anderson, Delaney Watkins, Barb Tennant, Steve & Rhonda Shaffer, Mary Dyer. Also thanking the following people for helping with the move to the new office: Delaney Watkins, Gilliam County Historical Society, Eva Lou Greiner, Dewey & Rena Kennedy, Holly LaRue, Canda Rattray, David & Al, and Jay LaRue.
- VI. Business**
 - a. **Solar Eclipse**
 - The overall consensus of the members who were present at the meeting felt that the Solar Eclipse went really well. The concert in the park was a huge success as was the camping at the Golf Course. We visited with just under 350 people over the eclipse weekend and many mentioned they would be back.
 - b. **Office Updates**
 - We are officially moved into the office and open for visitors, ^{please} stop in and see your new Chamber location at 105 S. Main Street (former LaRue Insurance Office). Office hours are Monday-Thursday 8:15-12 pm. We are also currently working on signage for the space as well as a conference table.

c. November Meeting

- The November Chamber of Commerce meeting will be held on November 16th at 8:30 am at the Chamber of Commerce office. We will be hosting a Guest Speaker Mielissa Forziat who will talk about specific marketing strategies for your business. Melissa will also hold a Q&A session for any additional questions members may have.

d. Fall Festival

- The Annual Fall Festival will be held on November 18th 2017 from 10-2 pm. The Festival will be held in the Memorial Hall and the upstairs of the Condon Elks Lodge. Vendor fee is \$15. We currently have 42 Vendors signed up for the event. Please be sure to save the date and show your support. Local Businesses will also be open for business.

e. Scarecrow Contest

- Please have your scarecrow in place by the first of October. Ballot cans, will be placed around town. Voting deadline will be October 28th. Residential entries are eligible for local gift certificates in the amount of \$25 for 1st place \$15 for 2nd and \$10 for 3rd. Business participants will receive a free year's membership to the Condon Chamber of Commerce for 1st place and 2nd and 3rd place will receive \$25 off a year's membership.

f. Woolery Request

- A letter was submitted requesting funds to assist the Woolery's Oktoberfest event. Upon discussion it was decided that the Chamber would put together a basket to be auctioned off. The Chamber also agreed to help market and promote the event to the best of our abilities and assist in any way possible. Canda made a motion to purchase a basket in support of the event, Lisa seconded. All in favor none opposed.
- For an update on the project or to make a donation you are encouraged to contact Rod McGuire. No donation is too small!

VII. Correspondence

- CAPECO-HOME 4-HOPE
 1. Help Wanted pleas volunteer to be a surveyor or local team leader. We are hoping to help CAPECO in efforts to reach locals who are Homeless or at risk of being homeless. Please if you are interested in volunteering contact Sean Ruud at 541-278-5683.
- Happiness Month (newspaper suggestion from Loraine Noble)
 1. Lisa Greene with OSU Extension office felt this might be a fun and great project to do for the 4-H Make & Share day.

VIII. Member Announcements

- a. My-Time Towing & Recovery is now expanding operations and will have two tow trucks and a roll-bed. Don has also built a specialized trailer to use for smaller jobs. They will also have this trailer available for rent.
- b. The Port of Arlington invites you to view their new website at www.portofarlington.com. There is a video on both the Port's Facebook and website that showcases the A-Town Throw Down Event that took place in June. The video promotes Gilliam County and does a great job showcasing the park and marina options. Peter shared that Hydrofoil Kite boarding has taken off on the Columbia River and the launch site in Arlington is perfect for great wave surfing. The Stand Up Paddle Boarding from Blaylock Canyon to Arlington on a windy day can't be beat. So plan ahead for June 2018 for the second annual A-Town Throw Down. More information to come!

- c. Housing Solutions update-Julius Courtney spoke about the updates on the housing solutions committee and all the positive progress the group has made to meet the individual needs of both Condon and Arlington. This is a great opportunity for our County and he encourages those who are interested to get involved. The next housing meeting will be in Condon on either October 11 or 12th from 10-1 pm.

IX. Upcoming Events

- a. October SCARECROW Contest
 - October 31st Trick or Treat Main Street 3 pm
- b. November 18th-Fall Festival
- c. Battle of the Bulbs Residential & Commercial Light Contest
- d. December 2nd Condon Light Festival & Parade
 - Sponsor Columbia Basin Electric

Adjournment:

The formal business meeting was adjourned at 9:25 am

The next meeting will be on October 12, 2017 – 8:30 AM at the Condon Chamber of Commerce

K'Lynn Lane, Appointed Secretary

Date: 09/19/2017