

PLEASE READ AND PASS ON

***MINUTES
FORTUNA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
September 16, 2019***

The September 16, 2019, meeting of the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce was called to order by Chair Seth McGrath with 27 persons present.

Correspondence included the following announcements: English Express; North Coast Growers' Association Farmers' Markets; City of Fortuna Press Release; Fortuna Senior Scene; Humboldt Botanical Garden; Leadership Fortuna application; Gene Lucas Community Center; Fortuna Concert Series Press Release; North Coast Otter Art Project; FBID board vacancy; RCRPD Pool Meeting; Apple Harvest Vendor Application; NCJ Burger Week; Bear River Casino Show & Shine; Eel River Valley Chapter DAR Constitution Week; Fortuna Chamber Ribbon Cutting; and various articles by the Times Standard.

Seth McGrath thanked C.C. Catering for lunch.

Denise Marshall from McLean Foundation introduced Jennifer Sherman-Rupp from Plastics Uniquely Recycled as a guest.

Ambassador Chair Laura Morris announced the ribbon cutting and Chamber mixer on September 18 at The Humboldt Connection. The ribbon cutting will be held at 5:30 pm immediately before the mixer. A ribbon cutting at EPT Physical Therapy will be September 30 at 1:00 p.m. at their new Strongs Creek Plaza location.

Renee Lindsay announced Constitution Week is September 17-23. Movies in the Park showing Ferdinand will be September 20 at 8:00 p.m. The Chamber Breakfast on September 30 at 7:00 a.m. will feature guest speaker Patrick Higgins from Eel River Recovery Project.

Seth McGrath announced the Humboldt Equity Open House on September 27 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. He announced Renee Lindsay would be presenting to City Council that night.

Merritt Perry announced that night's City Council meeting agenda.

Rick Center announced the Redwood Memorial Hospital Scramble to fundraise for a portable x-ray machine. Tickets were \$20.00 each. Drawing to be held on October 4, 2019. Need not be present to win. Three cash prizes: \$1,000; \$500; and \$250. Volunteers were also needed for a half day or full day.

Marilyn Strehl announced the Apple Harvest Downtown Street Fair on October 5. Over 34 vendors had applied for a spot downtown. Apple pies will be on sale by FUHS music department. A local church will be selling apple crisps.

Bob Judevine announced the need for volunteers at this year's Apple Harvest. Volunteers were needed as drivers for the hayrides and for the work party. Those interested in volunteering may contact Bob directly. Banner advertisements displayed during Apple Harvest would be \$150. Those interested may contact Seth McGrath or Bob Judevine. You can drop your banner off at Fortuna Grocery Outlet or Redwood Capital Bank.

Denise Marshall updated the members on the Community Pool Meeting held at the Monday Club on September 10th. There was a good turnout. CR will not do a pool. The District Board will be hiring a consultant to look at available grants and financing options. A full report of the feasibility study will be available on the web site soon. The District Board meets the first Wednesday of every month at City Hall at 2:30 p.m. Denise also recommended everyone go out during NCJ Burger Week and try the burgers!

Dianna Rios announced that Eureka will not be doing a Tractor Parade this year due to KEKA backing out. Redwood Village would be sponsoring the Al Gray Electric Lighted Parade on December 13. She asked everyone to notify those who participated in Eureka to contact FBID for entry into the Fortuna Parade.

Fred Robinson announced ERV Little League is in need of board members. If interested, please contact Fred directly.

Sean Swanson announced that River Life Foundation is now offering Friday morning walks along the Dennis Wendt Trail at 10:00 a.m. They start behind Redi Rents and walk to Palmer.

Seth McGrath announced that Becky Giacomini has taken a vacant position on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Guest Speaker: **Maggie Gainer, Board of Directors Vice-President, Zero Waste Humboldt**
Zero Waste Humboldt was formed to bring zero waste practices to Humboldt County. Their 3 core services are: (1) Public education, (2) Advocacy & Policy development with local and state government, and (3) Training and technical assistance. ZWH is committed to reducing waste and solving problems. Through a grant they were able to donate 10 water bottle refill stations. An estimated 30,000 single-use plastic bottles have been saved. ZWH is launching a business certification course in 2020. National certification is very expensive and time consuming. Their program will be affordable for small businesses with classes in the 4 hour range. The Redwood Coast does not have a manufacturing infrastructure to support recycling. A few local companies are able to integrate recycled items into their products, but most of the recycling has to be shipped long distances and overseas. Maggie offered some simple tips: (1) Switch from plastic/Styrofoam to paper, (2) Use reusable items versus single use, and (3) Buy products made from recycled ingredients. For more information, you can contact Maggie at contact@zerowastehumboldt.org.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Lindsay
Recording Secretary