

PLEASE READ AND PASS ON

MINUTES
FORTUNA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
December 2, 2019

The December 2, 2019, meeting of the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce was called to order by Chair Seth McGrath with 21 persons present.

Correspondence included the following announcements: Fortuna Senior Scene; Leadership Fortuna application; Gene Lucas Community Center; North Coast Otter Art Project; Big Brothers & Big Sisters of the North Coast; US Census Bureau; Loleta Craft Fair; LACO Associates; Fortuna Redwood Village Merchants Association; Strongs Creek Plaza; Eel River Brewing Co.; Eureka Symphony; River Life Foundation; Ferndale Repertory Theater; Fortuna Garden Club; Ferndale Jewelers; Fortuna PD; Fortuna Volunteer Fire Department; FBID; Results Fit Camp; and HSU Music Department.

Seth McGrath thanked Jeanne Dorris for lunch.

Bob Judevine announced the Redwood Capital Mixer on December 5th at Redwood Capital Bank. Bring a blanket for Santa's Sleigh and receive a \$5.00 gift certificate from Bob's Footlongs as a thank you.

Cathy Whitchurch reminded guests that stocking stuffing for the CCC party will happen immediately following the meeting.

Renee Lindsay announced two upcoming ribbon cuttings. Thursday, December 12 at Nest (1625 Main St) at noon. Friday, December 13 at Fortuna Fabrics (1006 Main St) at noon. Renee also announced the Fortuna Garden Club Home Tour & Tea on Wednesday, December 11 from 1-9 pm. Tickets were available at Green's or the Monday Club.

Dianna Rios announced that merchants reported Small Business Saturday was a success. Dianna also announced the Downtown Open House and Electric Lighted Parade on December 13. Spots were still available for anyone who wanted to enter the Parade. The Free Movie for kids would be shown on December 7 & 14 at 9:45 am. Tickets were being delivered to businesses to hand out. The Fortuna Christmas Music Festival is on Sunday, December 8. Volunteers were needed to help usher and man the doors. Contact Dianna if you're able to help.

Rick Center announced Fortuna Sunrise Rotary would have See's Candies for sale (at Redwood Village). They'll be open 10-6pm daily.

Mike Johnson announced that Monday's City Council meeting was canceled. The next meeting would be on Monday, December 16.

Sean Swanson reported that they gave out about 400 meals over Thanksgiving. River Life Foundation will host a Christmas Dinner at the Veterans Building from 1-3 pm on Christmas Day. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Sean if you're able to help.

Guest Speaker: Emma Breacain, Executive Director, Humboldt Literacy Project

The Humboldt Literacy Project is the county's one source for free, confidential, one-on-one English language tutoring for adult native English speakers. Fifteen percent of U.S. adults are functionally

illiterate, affecting not just the individual but their family, community, and workplace. Nearly 14,000 Humboldt County residents are struggling with illiteracy. When literacy rates are low, communities experience more crime, more unplanned pregnancies, a higher burden on taxpayer services, and a less capable workforce. Adults with illiteracy are also easy targets for predators and fraud. HLP works one on one with native speakers, creating a tailored curriculum that includes flash cards, books, and videos. HLP's clients include native and non-native speakers, parolees, low income residents, and rehab patients that have suffered a brain injury. In addition to one on one training, HLP also offers vocational classes for workers, ESL classes, and will soon have a referral system set up with the Department of Health & Human Services. There will be a volunteer orientation in January. If you are interested in helping, you can contact Emma Breacain at literacyhelpers@gmail.com.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Lindsay
Recording Secretary