

PLEASE READ AND PASS ON

MINUTES
FORTUNA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
September 23, 2019

The September 23, 2019, meeting of the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce was called to order by Chair Seth McGrath with 27 persons present. Renee Lindsay introduced Travis Morgan as a guest.

Correspondence included the following announcements: North Coast Growers' Association Farmers' Markets; City of Fortuna Press Release; Fortuna Senior Scene; Leadership Fortuna application; Gene Lucas Community Center; North Coast Otter Art Project; FBID board vacancy; Apple Harvest Vendor Application; Fortuna Chamber Ribbon Cutting; Fortuna Sunrise Rotary Tree Planting; Humboldt Equity Grand Opening; Humboldt County Library Community Input Meeting; and various articles by the Times Standard.

Seth McGrath thanked C.C. Catering for lunch.

Renee Lindsay announced a ribbon cutting at EPT Physical Therapy on September 30 at 1:00 p.m. at their new Strongs Creek Plaza location. The Chamber Breakfast on September 30 at 7:00 a.m. will feature guest speaker Patrick Higgins from Eel River Recovery Project. A new dedication plaque will be unveiled at the Dennis Wendt Memorial Trail on Friday, October 11 at 10:00 a.m.

Dr. Alan French announced a Highway 36 Association Dinner would be on Friday, October 18 at 6:30 at the Monday Club.

Val Vosburg, Fortuna Senior Center, announced the Fortuna Senior Center's 7th Annual Oktoberfest set for Saturday, September 28. There will be vendors, a silent and Dutch auction, a kids' corner and other activities.

Seth McGrath reported there were spots open for tractor drivers during Apple Harvest. Volunteers were also needed for the work party on October 4. 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.

Sean Swanson announced that River Life Foundation cleaned up 2,000 pounds of garbage with the help of students from Fortuna High School. The students will continue to help clean up on the 3rd Saturday of the month. On October 26, River Life will be celebrating 11 years with a Fall Ball Dinner & Silent Auction at the Veteran's Hall. Please contact Sean at 362-9384 for information on donating an item for the auction.

Guest Speakers: Connie Lorenzo, Senior Program Manager; Julian Lennon, Work Crew Leader; Steve Brackenbury, Vocational Counselor – DHHS/Helping Humboldt

The Department of Health & Human Services' Employment Training Division (ETD) provides an array of employment services to DHHS clients to help them back to work and to self-sufficiency. The Employment Resource Center (ERC) serves clients referred from several programs including CalWORKs, General Relief, Transitional-Age Youth, Independent Living Skills, Street Outreach Services, and CalFresh Employment & Training Programs. The Humboldt 2nd Chance Program is designed to support ex-incarcerated individuals back to work post incarceration or supervision. This Program currently has a 62% placement rate. Helping Humboldt is another program under the DHHS

ETD. It provides day-labor opportunities for numerous DHHS clients. The Program has two vocational counselors, two work crew leaders, and a program coordinator. The Program helps individuals prepare for employment and get into jobs. They offer resume building, interview coaching, computer workshops, orientation expectations, and job search capabilities. In the mornings the clients work for 4 hours under the direction of a Work Crew Leader and then spend the afternoon in the ERC Center working on their job skills. Typical day labor work assignments include trash collection, graffiti removal, washing county cars, community event support, and light landscaping. Eligible non-profit organizations can participate in the program free of charge. Private employers may “hire” crews for their projects. Approximately 26% of their clients are homeless, 52 clients have entered employment, and \$52,004 of General Relief debt has been discharged through work. Since August 2018, 223 participants have served, helping clean up 175 hypodermic needles, 1,872 lbs. of trash and 12,440 lbs. of green waste. Some of the community events they have supported include: Woofstock, Redwood Coast Music Festival, Kinetic Sculpture Race, and Holiday Meals for Homeless. For more information, please contact Connie at clorenzo@co.humboldt.ca.us or Julian at jlennon@co.humboldt.ca.us.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Lindsay
Recording Secretary