

**PLEASE READ AND PASS ON**

**MINUTES**  
**FORTUNA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
January 6, 2020

The January 6, 2020, meeting of the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce was called to order by Chair Seth McGrath with 28 persons present. Renee Lindsay introduced new members Cady Gambrell and Molly Simmons.

Correspondence included the following announcements: Fortuna Senior Scene; Leadership Fortuna application; Gene Lucas Community Center; Bear River Casino; Big Brothers & Big Sisters of the North Coast; US Census Bureau; Open Door Community Health Center; River Lodge Conference Center; Fortuna Sunrise Rotary; Fortuna Concert Series; and various articles from the Times-Standard.

Seth McGrath thanked C. C. Catering for lunch.

Laura Morris announced there would be an Ambassador lunch at Bear River Casino on January 14 at 11:45 a.m. and the upcoming January Chamber Mixer at Humboldt Equity would be on January 15 at 5:30 pm.

Renee Lindsay announced that tickets for the State of the City Breakfast on January 30 at the River Lodge were on sale now. Tickets were also available for the Fortuna Chamber Annual Awards Dinner & Auction on February 27 at the River Lodge. Paper invites would be in the mail soon. Chamber Award Nominations were still being sought from the public. Paper copies of the nomination form were available.

Seth McGrath announced that Table Top Decoration Sponsorships were available.

Denise Marshall, McLean Foundation, announced that the GLC would have a Grand Opening & McLean Foundation 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party on February 29 from 2-5 p.m. There would be an informal walk-through tour open to Chamber members on Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. If interested, please RSVP to Denise at (707) 725-1722.

Sean Swanson announced that River Life had served over 150 meals on Christmas Day at the Veteran's building. Sean announced his next clean up would be on Tuesday, January 17. He will be moving his regular monthly cleanups to the fourth Saturday of the month at 8:45 a.m. behind McDonald's. To date, River Life has cleaned up 375,000 lbs of trash and helped 154 people and 14 dogs.

**Guest Speaker: Florence Parks, Executive Director, Big Brothers Big Sisters**

Big Brothers Big Sisters has been in Humboldt County for 51 years. They serve all of Humboldt County. Their mentoring programs are site-based or community-based. Site-based mentoring happens at the child's school. Mentors are asked to commit to one hour each week during the school year. Community-based mentoring is a two-hour a week commitment for one year. Community-based mentoring relationships involve one-on-one outings and activities, doing things the Big and Little enjoy together, like taking a walk in the park, sports, going to a museum, listening to music, or just hanging out and talking. Their Youth Initiative Program is youth-led and runs for 10 weeks. Eighty percent of their volunteers are female. There is an urgent need for male mentors in the ERV. BBBS currently has three youths in Fortuna looking for a male mentor. Mentors undergo four hours of training and receive ongoing training over the course of the year. March 6 & 7 is their annual Bowl for Kids fundraiser. In order to remain an active agency in the area, BBBS must raise \$200,000 annually, help 100 kids, and employ three staff members. In 2019, they served 72 kids. This year, they have 52 Littles who have been matched with a

Big, but have 47 unmatched Littles still waiting for a mentor. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please contact the Northern California Big Brother Big Sisters at (707) 445-4871.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Lindsay  
Recording Secretary