

**PLEASE READ AND PASS ON**

**MINUTES**  
**FORTUNA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
January 13, 2020

The January 13, 2020, meeting of the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce was called to order by Chair Seth McGrath with 31 persons present. Lisa Whitchurch, Whitchurch Engineering, introduced Chris Duncan. Heather Kelley, Reaching for Independence, introduced herself. Kelly Isaacson, Umpqua Bank, introduced her fiancé Marty Walsh.

Correspondence included the following announcements: Fortuna Senior Scene; 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; US Dept. of Homeland Security Bulletin; FCC Consumer Connection; and Fortuna Chamber Candidate Forum.

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. The January Chamber Mixer would be at Humboldt Equity on January 15 at 5:30 pm.

Renee Lindsay announced the informal walk-through tour at the GLC on Friday, January 24 at 10:00 a.m. Anyone interested could RSVP to Denise at 725-1722. The GLC's grand opening celebration will be on February 29 from 2-5 pm. Seats were still available for the HR Workshop on January 16. Cost is \$15.00 at the door for Chamber members; \$25.00 for everyone else. A Candidate Forum for 2<sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor will be on Monday, February 24 at the Monday Club in lieu of the regular lunch. The Forum will feature all five Supervisor candidates and will take place from noon to 1:30 p.m. A \$15.00 optional lunch will be available. Please RSVP a seat, especially if you want a lunch. Chamber Award nominations were still open. Please take some postcards to hand out to your customers and encourage them to vote. The Chamber office would be closed on January 20 in observance of MLK Jr. Day.

Merritt Perry announced several Commission vacancies – Planning (1), Historical (2), Parks & Rec (3), Measure E (3-4) – and one open position for the FBID Board of Directors. On Friday, January 17, there would be an event for Chief Dobberstein at the Monday Club from noon to 2:30 p.m. Please stop by and wish him well on his retirement.

Sean Swanson announced that he attended the Board of Supervisor's meeting regarding NCRA. He is working on extending the trail to Fernbridge. The next clean up would be on Saturday, January 25 at 8:45 a.m. behind McDonald's. To date, River Life has cleaned up 376,000 lbs of trash and helped 154 people and 14 dogs.

**Guest Speaker: Bryna Lipper, Chief Executive Officer, Humboldt Area Foundation**

Bryna spoke about her previous experience in the non-profit world and gave a short biography. She has been in her current role with HAF for 20 weeks now. This is the first Chamber in the region that she has spoken to! She spoke about the great civic pride and community spirit that she has encountered since moving to Humboldt County. She commented on the tremendous support for small businesses and the local economy. Some areas that she is hoping to address are: Making sure that people of diversity are included so that everyone can thrive; Helping make sure resources work for communities instead of sitting in a bank account; and expanding collaboration & cooperation on big projects such as Terra-Gen, housing, and health care. It's important for her to listen to voices that may have previously gone unheard – speaking to school children, native people, and farmers & ranchers. HAF will be working on gathering

ideas and opinions from a variety of sources. A large portion of their funds (around 90%), totaling more than \$118 million, are donor-directed funds. These are monies donated by individuals for a specific cause or field of interest (environmental, animal welfare, scholarships, etc.). A small portion is designated as Opportunity Funds. These monies are used locally for community needs like program work, initiatives, and responsive grants. It provides loans at a reduced rate that are repaid allowing that money to be loaned out again. It also keeps the funds invested locally rather than all on Wall Street. More information on their grant programs can be accessed online at [hafoundation.org/haf/grants](http://hafoundation.org/haf/grants).

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Lindsay  
Recording Secretary