

PLEASE READ AND PASS ON

***MINUTES
FORTUNA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
March 18, 2019***

The March 18, 2019, meeting of the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce was called to order by Chair Melissa Collins with 33 persons present.

Correspondence included announcements from North Coast Otter Art Project, Ridgetop Café & Coffee Barn, Redwood Coast Village, Hydesville Community Church's DivorceCare and GriefCare, Fortuna Concert Series, CR's free Sign Language Class, The MGC's Intro to Conversational Spanish class, HealthSport Chamber Mixer, *Get Ready Humboldt*, *Fortuna Senior Scene* Newsletter, 44th Annual Daffodil Show, *Humboldt County Road Show*, *Times-Standard* clippings about the Skate Park donation from St. Joseph Health; the new ladder truck for the Fortuna Volunteer Fire Department; and the planting of two Redwood Trees in Rio Dell's Veterans Memorial Park (*22 Trees Project*), and Sequoia Park Zoo's *Party for the Planet*.

Melissa Collins announced the Ferndale Chamber Mixer on March 18 at Chapman's Bookery in Ferndale at 5:30 p.m.

Becky Giacomini announced the March Chamber Mixer at HealthSPORT on March 20 at 5:30 p.m. and the Bob's Footlongs Ribbon Cutting on Saturday, March 23 at 1:45 p.m.

Lisa Hummel announced the Noon Rotary Fundraiser would be on May 2, 2019.

Renee Lindsay announced the following events: the Humboldt County Roadshow with Estelle Fennell would be held at the Benbow KOA on March 20 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Humboldt Botanical Garden will have Free Admission on the third Thursday of the month until May from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Ferndale Downs Night at the Races would be on Friday, March 22 at the Ferndale Fairgrounds from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The 44th Annual Daffodil Show will be March 23rd from 1-5pm and on the 24th from 11am-4pm at the River Lodge.

Merritt Perry announced the City Council Meeting on March 18 would include the monthly reports & fees as well as a discussion on the Needle Exchange Ordinance.

Liz Shorey announced the vacancies on the Planning Commission, Parks & Rec Commission, and Measure E Advisory Committee. Anyone interested in serving on one of these Committees could fill out an application. An urgent need for members was needed on the Planning Commission. They currently have just 4 members serving with 2 vacancies plus one alternate. Liz stated that those interested needed to be registered to vote in Fortuna, and live in, or own a business in, Fortuna.

Sean Swanson from River Life Foundation mentioned that t-shirts designed by Lotus Mountain for the Dennis Wendt Memorial Trail were available for purchase (\$20). Parking at 357 Main Street was available for the Grand Opening of the trail on Saturday, April 20th. Mercer-Fraser will be donating their Caterpillar BBQ for the event and Sean hoped to have a bounce house available. River Life recently collected 2,500 lbs of trash at Walgreen's and along the trail, bringing the total to 342,000 lbs of trash cleaned up.

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Guest Speaker: **Professor Jeff Black, HSU Department of Wildlife/** North Coast Otter Art
The North Coast Otter Art Project is a collaboration of art and science. The public arts initiative will provide an opportunity to explore our connection with nature through engagement with wild River Otters. The project will commission 100 unique pieces of Otter Art (made out of fiberglass and resin) to be displayed at shops, galleries, schools, and other North Coast locations. Participating artists will receive a stipend of \$150 to decorate three-foot-tall otter sculptures for a summer 2020 educational art trail throughout Humboldt, Del Norte, and neighboring counties. Each otter sculpture will have its own wooden pedestal and sign listing the sponsors, artist, and description of the design. The Otter Art will then be auctioned to raise funds to support our region's grassroots watershed projects and HSU student internship opportunities. Since 1999, HSU students have been collecting otter records from citizen volunteers as a means of tracking the quality of North Coast habitats. River Otters can be seen at all times of day and have recently been spotted over by the new Gene Lucas Center. There are currently over 40 individual otters in our area. Anyone interested in sponsoring or hosting an otter can contact Jeff at OtterArt@humboldt.edu.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Lindsay
Recording Secretary