

PLEASE READ AND PASS ON

MINUTES
FORTUNA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
November 18, 2019

The November 18, 2019, meeting of the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce was called to order by Chair Seth McGrath with 30 persons present. Renee Lindsay introduced Jacqueline Rodriguez and Mira McDavitt from YEP who gave a brief presentation on YEP and their grant available for substance abuse/mental health. Renee Lindsay then introduced Jenny Coleman who spoke about St. Francis Episcopal Church's fundraiser for a new roof and 2 new furnaces to be held during the opening night of Ferndale Rep's *Matilda* (11/29).

Correspondence included the following announcements: Charlotte Gray Ribbon Cutting; River Lodge Conference Center Craft Faire; Fortuna Senior Scene; Leadership Fortuna application; FBID Mixer; Gene Lucas Community Center; North Coast Otter Art Project; Big Brothers & Big Sisters of the North Coast; US Census Bureau; Loleta Craft Fair; Ferndale Chamber; LACO Associates; Fortuna Redwood Village Merchants Association; Strongs Creek Plaza; River Life Foundation; HSU Music Department; and various articles by the Times Standard.

Seth McGrath thanked Moonlight Catering for lunch.

Laura Morris announced the FBID mixer and Charlotte Gray ribbon cutting.

Cathy Whitchurch announced the need for volunteers and donations for the CCC party on December 3. Mike Johnson temporarily "donated" his hat for a collection. Stocking stuffing would happen on December 2, immediately following the Monday meeting. Everyone was invited to help out.

Renee Lindsay announced the Bear River Family Entertainment Center's Chamber night on November 21 and the River Lodge Craft Faire on November 23 & 24.

Sean Swanson announced River Life has collected 375,000 pounds of trash and helped 150 people be reunited, relocated, or on to rehab. Their latest cleanup was at the Kenmar exit on the Northbound and Southbound ramps. River Life would be hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving from 1-3 p.m. at the Veterans Building. Everyone is welcome. They are expecting to give out 300 free meals this year. Free transportation by the City would be available for seniors and the disabled.

Merritt Perry announced the City Council planning meeting and regular Council meeting starting at 5:00 p.m. Key items to be discussed during the planning meeting would be rent control and planning division priorities.

Guest Speaker: Dianna Rios, Executive Director, FBID

Dianna announced the upcoming FBID annual meeting and Mixer. An FBID survey was being sent out to local businesses and was open for commenting. Dianna presented a number of upcoming events including Downtown Open House, Electric Lighted Parade, Free Holiday Movies for Kids, Christmas Music Festival, and the Fortuna Garden Club Home Tour. She spoke about the Shop Small and Shop Fortuna campaigns and the discontinuation of Fortuna Bucks. She then introduced Fire Chief, Lon Winburn, who spoke about the Santa's Sleigh program. Some items that can be donated at the fire hall are board games and blankets. He thanked Seth & Stef McGrath (Fortuna Grocery Outlet) and Kevin Johnson (Beverage Plus) for their support during the food drive. He announced that the Holiday

Cutouts would be put out on the Sunday after Thanksgiving (12/1). Dianna concluded her presentation by discussing the Headwaters grants that are available to help with economic development.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Lindsay
Recording Secretary