

**PLEASE READ AND PASS ON**

**MINUTES**  
**FORTUNA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
April 1, 2019

The April 1, 2019, meeting of the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce was called to order by Chair Melissa Collins with 35 persons present.

Correspondence included announcements from the Chamber regarding upcoming speakers, Fortuna Library events, Ridgetop Café & Coffee Barn, Fortuna Concert Series, CPR/AED Training by the Fortuna Volunteer Fire Department, Dakota Daetwiler Grand Opening, CR's free Sign Language Class, River Life Foundation/Dennis Wendt Trail Grand Opening, *Wings for a Cure* Fundraiser, The MGC's April Calendar of Events, *Get Ready Humboldt*, *Fortuna Senior Scene* Newsletter, *The Whistle Punk* Newsletter, *Sr. News* clipping about breaking ground for the new Humboldt Senior Resource Center on Newburg, Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association Newsletter, HSU Music Department April Calendar, Cal-Ore Life Flight, and Sequoia Park Zoo's *Party for the Planet*.

Melissa Collins thanked Moonlight Catering for lunch. She also announced that the Board of Directors had made a few changes to the Chamber By-laws. The proposed changes would be emailed to members on Tuesday, April 2. A hard copy would be available at the Chamber office and at the next regular Monday meeting.

Seth McGrath announced the Tourism & Marketing Committee would be launching a new Visitor's Guide and Map. It would be a 16-page brochure with a map and appear in the next issue of the North Coast Journal. The Guide will be seen in 40,000 copies and the Chamber office will have an overrun of 5,000 copies to give to members and tourists.

Jennifer Ourique announced that South Fortuna Elementary would be holding a Spring Carnival on Friday, April 5 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Wristbands for \$20 would be available.

Renee Lindsay announced: the ribbon cutting at the Chamber office that day at 1:15 p.m. The ribbon cutting would be to celebrate the dragonfly creation by Byran McWaters of Mad Metals as part of the Art & Culture Committee's Public Art project, Dakota Daetwiler's studio grand opening on April 6, and the High Heels for Healing Fundraiser on April 3 at 5:30 p.m. at the Adorni Center.

Rick Center announced that Fortuna Sunrise Rotary had drilled 37 new holes for the flag poles along Main Street.

Merritt Perry announced the City Council meeting agenda for that evening. A workshop would precede the regular meeting at 4:30 p.m. He announced that they had received 3 planning commission applications. Sue Long had spoken with all of them and they would be confirmed at the meeting.

Dianna Rios thanked everyone who participated in the business and cannabis surveys. She received over 70 responses for the business survey and over 200 for the cannabis survey. The results would be submitted to the City for review.

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Sean Swanson from River Life Foundation thanked Seth McGrath and Fortuna Grocery Outlet for sponsoring a run of shirts. Tony Lenardo had donated five large boulders at the front of the trail and Redi Rents had helped move them into place. One boulder will be the home of a future dedication plaque. He reminded everyone that the Grand Opening will be April 20<sup>th</sup>, rain or shine, starting at 12:00 p.m. The Ribbon Cutting ceremony would be at 1:00 p.m. If it's raining, the celebration will take place at 357 Main Street. Mercer-Fraser will be donating their Caterpillar BBQ for the event with hot dogs donated by Bob's Footlongs and burgers donated by Humboldt Grassfed Beef.

**Guest Speaker: Patrick Cleary, Humboldt Area Foundation**

The mission of the Humboldt Area Foundation is to promote and encourage generosity, leadership, and inclusion to strengthen our communities through legacy giving. Humboldt Area Foundation was established in 1972 by Vera Vietor with a donation of \$2.4 million and her 14-acre home in Bayside. Her fund has grown to \$4 million. HAF helps residents in Humboldt, Del Norte, Trinity and Curry counties and Tribal lands. They gave out 160 scholarships totaling \$900,000 (they received 4,000 applications). HAF manages the Native Cultures Fund which helps preserve the language and culture of native peoples. While most of the donations by donors are earmarked for long-term interests like scholarships, arts, animal welfare, healthcare or designated for a specific beneficiary organization, the Opportunity Fund is a way to support other interests that often come up unexpectedly. It allows HAF more flexibility to address current community issues. HAF currently has 39 employees. To contact Patrick directly, you can reach him at 707-267-9902 or [PatrickC@hafoundation.org](mailto:PatrickC@hafoundation.org).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Lindsay  
Recording Secretary