

PLEASE READ AND PASS ON

MINUTES
FORTUNA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
May 6, 2019

The May 6, 2019, meeting of the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce was called to order by Chair Melissa Collins with 42 persons present. Ray Lovell introduced himself and his wife. Bob Judevine introduced Leadership Fortuna 8 participant Enrique Ulloa. Lon Winburn introduced Loleta Fire Capt. Andy Helzer, Administrator Carmen Glass, EMT Jamie Clark, and recent graduate Zack Main.

Correspondence included announcements from the Chamber regarding upcoming speakers; Fortuna Senior Center *Golf Ball Fundraiser*, Ridgetop Café & Coffee Barn dinner menu; Ridgetop Café & Coffee Barn *Mother's Day Menu*; Fortuna Concert Series; CR's free Sign Language Class; Fortuna Downtown Business Association Citywide Yard Sale Application; HSU Music Department May Calendar; Wild Souls Ranch *Sip of Summer*; Gathered Handmade's *Mother's Day Market*; Fortuna *Senior Scene* Newsletter; Redwood Coast Music Festival; Fortuna Police Department's *Travel Safe* seminar; Tri Counties Bank May Mixer flyer; Muse Fashion Boutique Ribbon Cutting; and *Rio-Dell Scotia Newsletter*.

Melissa Collins thanked Ridgetop Café for lunch.

Becky Giacomini announced an Ambassador Lunch would take place on Tuesday, May 7th at Hot Brew at 11:45 a.m. Anyone looking to become an ambassador was welcome to attend. She announced a Ribbon Cutting at 5 O'Clock Shadow Menswear & Muse Fashion Boutique immediately following lunch. She gave an update on the Community Pool Forum. The turnout was great – over 100 people showed up to give input and listen. They had several smaller focus groups during the day. They heard great stories from the public including several from swim clubs.

Dianna Rios announced the final Fortuna Concert Series concert on May 11, 2019 would feature Jorgey Mack, a country swing band. Sharon Holt was preparing appetizers for the evening Gala. She announced the piano fundraiser would be happening soon. The fundraiser will help restore the 1920s Steinway piano. A new piano would cost about \$120,000 whereas the restoration will cost about \$60,000. An anonymous donor has pledged \$12,000 and the Fortuna Concert Series organization will contribute \$15,000. The balance will be raised through fundraising. Dianna thanked everyone who attended the Rotary Fundraiser. She didn't have any final numbers but felt it went very well. She mentioned the money raised helps community projects, funds scholarships, and international projects. They recently awarded \$23,000 in scholarships.

Renee Lindsay announced that new member, How's it Hanging, has moved to 758 14th Street across from the Library. She also announced there would be a change to the May speaker program for May 20th as she received a jury summons and that was the date of her Chamber Update. She will announce the change once she books an alternate speaker.

Dwight Winnegar introduced himself and reported that the Rohner Grange charter had been turned over to the State Charter in January due to aging board members. He would like to create a new charter. He will need 15 members, age 14 and over.

Melissa Collins read the proposed changes to the By-laws. Bob Judevine made a motion to pass the amended By-laws. Kevin Bradley seconded the motion. Motion passed without negative vote.

Guest Speaker: Chief Lon Winburn, Fortuna Volunteer Fire Department

The Fortuna Volunteer Fire Department has seen a reduction in structure fires and major traffic collisions. They have seen an increase in “nuisance” calls (e.g., fire alarms going off) and medical calls. The Police Department used to handle these calls. Once the FVFD took over, the fire department’s call volume went from 400 to 1,300 calls. This allows the police department to focus on catching the “bad guys.” In 2016 they added a volunteer shift (\$50/shift). This accounts for about 20% of their workforce. Tends to be a younger demographic. The Resident Program allows the firefighters to live in the facility. The Intern Program also allows the (future) firefighters to live in the facility while they undergo 12 months of training to become State Certified Firefighters. They are close to running 24/7. They currently have 18 women on staff. The Campton Heights station will be relocating to Rohnerville Road. This year the Eel River Valley Academy had 34 graduates, 13 of which were from Fortuna.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Lindsay
Recording Secretary