

**PLEASE READ AND PASS ON**

**MINUTES**  
**FORTUNA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
May 20, 2019

The May 20, 2019, meeting of the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce was called to order by Chair Melissa Collins with 36 persons present. Denise Marshall from McLean Foundation introduced Scott Walsh, their new administrative employee.

Correspondence included announcements from Fortuna Kiwanis Club; City of Fortuna *Newburg Park Community Meeting*; Ridgetop Café & Coffee Barn dinner menu; CR's free Sign Language Class; Fortuna Fireworks Festival; Citywide Yard Sale; Ferndale *Pet Parade*; Wild Souls Ranch *Sip of Summer*; Fortuna Police Department's *Travel Safe* seminar; Eel River Brewing Company's *Shuck Yeah!*; Fortuna Rotary's *Art & Wine in the Park*; North Coast Growers' Association Farmers' Markets; North Coast Journal's "*An Otter Idea*;" FBID Board Meeting; Fortuna AutoXpo Calendar; Chili Cookoff Application; Various *Times-Standard* articles.

Melissa Collins thanked Ridgetop Café for lunch. She announced Chili Cookoff Applications were available online and would be mailed out this week. She also announced that Rodeo Parade Applications were available at the Chamber office.

Dianna Rios announced Art & Wine in the Park would be on June 9 at Rohner Park. Tickets are now on sale at fortunarotary.org. Tasting glasses will be \$25.00. They will have an additional feature this year where you can create your own art. Sweet Evergreen, The Roost Creations, and others will be offering painting instruction, succulent arrangements, and home décor projects. The art class will cost \$25.00. You can choose to do one event (wine tasting or class) or both.

Merritt Perry announced the City Council meeting. He also announced the Newburg Park Community Meeting on May 28 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at River Lodge.

Chris Sutter from Left in Stitches announced North Coast Open Studios would feature 4 Fortuna artists this year. The event runs the first two weekends in June (6/1 & 6/2 and 6/8 & 6/9). She has copies of the 2019 Visitor's Guide available for anyone who wants one.

Ray Lovell announced the Kiwanis Club's July Pancake Breakfast. The Club is looking for sponsors to help offset the cost of supplies. Any supporting merchant will be recognized at the breakfasts. Please contact Ray at 725-3951 if you are able to sponsor.

Sean Swanson reported they had a successful cleanup on Friday and Saturday, removing over 3,000 lbs. of trash. River Life Foundation has now cleaned up over 353,000 lbs. of trash and helped 136 people get reunited with family, into rehab, or on to a job. River Life will have a booth at the Citywide Yard Sale on June 1 in front of Green's Pharmacy.

Becky Giacomini announced the June Mixer will be on June 19<sup>th</sup> at Wild Souls Ranch. More information will be shared as we get closer to the date.

Val Vosburg, Fortuna Senior Center, thanked Chris Broadstock from Tri Counties Bank for inviting her to her first mixer on May 15<sup>th</sup>. She had a great time and looks forward to the next mixer.

Renee Lindsay announced the Ferndale Chamber Mixer at Dakota Daetwiler's gallery in Ferndale on May 20 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. She also announced a *Travel Safe* seminar, put on by the Fortuna Police Crime Prevention Unit, would be held on May 23 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Fortuna Fire Hall. She reminded everyone that this weekend was the Kinetic Sculpture Race and there would be a Memorial Day parade in Ferndale on Monday starting at 10:00 a.m.

Guest Speaker: **Melissa Sanderson, HOPS in Humboldt**

HOPS in Humboldt began with a \$1,000 grant from FBID and sponsored by Fortuna Rotary and ESA. They started with a Bluegrass theme and 10 breweries. In 2010 they filed their nonprofit paperwork and in 2011 won Nonprofit of the Year from the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce. HOPS in Humboldt now features 45 breweries and a variety of vendors and bands. They partner with the Redwood Transit System to ensure safe travel for attendees and with JAH Med for medical services. Each event has several hundred volunteers who work 4-hour shifts. All of the beer is donated. They've generated over \$1,000,000 in revenue with 100% of the proceeds going back into the community. To date, they have given out over \$425,000 in grants. The Grant application process opens up the day after the event and closes at the end of November. They are looking to give out at least one \$10,000 grant that falls within one of five categories: schools, youth activities, senior programs, municipal programs (police, parks & rec), or drug/alcohol prevention. For more information, please contact [info@hopsinhumboldt.com](mailto:info@hopsinhumboldt.com).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Lindsay  
Recording Secretary