

MINUTES
September 9, 2009
Chowchilla District Chamber of Commerce
Civic Center Public Meeting Room
12:00 Noon

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Scroggins at 12:14pm.
Present: Vice President Moss, Treasurer Fall, and Directors Banks, Flanagan, Harrell, Jones, and Pistoresi. Absent: Directors Chavez and Ginsburg.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Section 2

Marty Piepenbrok, City Liaison to the Chamber, requested a meeting with the Welcome Center Ad Hoc committee on Friday, 9/11, at 9 a.m. with Interim City Administrator Jay Varney. Directors Flanagan and Pistoresi confirmed the date was OK, meeting in the Main Conference Room at Civic Center.

Parks & Recreation are planning a new design for the tentatively names Halloween Spooktacular using the downtown area businesses 6th to 2nd Street both sides of street (safest area). Working with owners of vacant lots so businesses outside this area could participate if they choose. Parks & Recreation and P.A.L. are putting it together and he is here to ask the Chamber if they wish to participate as a sponsor both assistance to get the word out and some small financial support to help cover some of the costs. Tentative name is Chowchilla’s Halloween Treat Street. Marty explained the program plan as a business involvement project to improve the business rapport and make residents aware of businesses that are downtown. It is also hoped it would encourage businesses to stay open late as people come downtown. The date is October 29th. Marty is looking for the chamber name listed on the brochure; secondly to help pay for the balloons; and if anyone wants to help keep the group in line or hand out goodies with the Chamber name. Action was moved to an agenda item for the October 14th item on financial support.

CONSENT CALENDAR – Section 3

Action: Ratify Minutes and Attendance of the August 12, 2009 Board of Directors Meeting.
Motion made by Vice President Moss to accept the August 12, 2009 consent calendar was seconded by Director Flanagan. No discussion, motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – Section 4

- 4.1 Ashley Pettit Swine Project Support Letter; Manager sent letter re supporting Sober Grad.
- 4.2 McCombs letter regarding \$75,000.00 Donation to Interim City Administrator.
- 4.3 US Census Bureau letter regarding approval of Partnership Program resource materials.

REPORTS – Section 5

5.1 Administrative Reports

Treasurers Report –

Treasurer Fall reviewed the reports noting that the Balance Sheet was up \$2,000.00 over the previous month. The Profit & Loss sheet was reviewed. The Check Register now shows the “split” deposits to indicate where deposits originate. The Aging Report shows those members who have not yet renewed; no action was taken in order to give businesses the opportunity to renew. Treasurer Fall advised that he

has not had the opportunity to prepare the reports for the Audit Committee.

Manager Report –

Manager Flanagan reported that two new members have joined since last meeting; Volkmar Construction and State Farm Insurance. Ribbon Cuttings will be planned. No renewals since last meeting with 11 businesses having not renewed.

Manager Flanagan is currently working with the BBB to finalize the Shred It & Forget It day in October. The BBB is seeking sponsors for the program.

The Small Business Administration Workshop “How to Survive in a Slow Economy” will be in Chowchilla on 9/22 at the Public Meeting Room. There are 12 persons signed up including persons from Madera and Dos Palos. The SBA is also bringing information on the Stimulus Package for businesses. Registration is 8am with workshop being held from 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

5.2 Committee Reports

Working:

Maps –

Manager Flanagan reported that about 20 businesses are signed up for ads. We will put an ad in the newspaper for other businesses. Manager Flanagan will follow up with the businesses to send in payment and provide their ads.

General Meetings –

Manager Flanagan reported for Director Chavez that the October 14th Fall General Meeting will take place at Farnesi’s Steakhouse at 12:00 Noon. Treasurer Fall confirmed that Kole Upton will be the guest speaker on water. The Flyer will be e-blasted in the next week or so. Treasurer Fall will also send the flyer in Aanonson’s bills to the local farmers. Treasurer Fall asked Director Flanagan to introduce the speaker, Kole Upton.

Car Show –

Director Flanagan reported the car show is this Saturday, 9/12, at Veterans Park. Director Flanagan passed out a sign up sheet for volunteers for the show. Most work happens during the morning 8-10:30 am hours. This year there is a Community Choice Award for the community to choose the car they like the most. Also the trophy sponsors are asked to come choose their winning car and many have agreed to be there.

Golf Tournament –

Director Pistoresi learned that don’t have the car show, golf tournament & move office around the same time. Tournament has sponsors for all tees with gold and silver sponsors, lots of prizes are coming in and lots of guys are going to golf but only one check received for teams. The concern is getting the teams who say they will play to show up. Director Pistoresi urged directors to let plays know to sign up before the day of the tournament. Director Pistoresi distributed a list of volunteers to sign up for the event. The busiest time will be between 11:30 to 1 p.m. then again busy when dinner, awards and raffle begin.

Nominating Committee –

Directors Flanagan reported that the committee will meet on 9/24 with Brent Rose, Carol Belton and seeking the 3rd member at large. The suggested names of candidates to fill vacancy and expiring terms will be brought to the Board at the 10/14 Board Meeting. After that date, the slate of nominees will be mailed to the Membership for voting or submitting a nominee.

Ad Hoc:

Christmas Decorations Refurbishing –

President Scroggins reported that Rotary agreed at their last meeting to donate \$250.00 to the refurbishing project. Vice President Moss reported that he is receiving positive response on the grant

application.

Office Move –

Manager Flanagan reported that the office move went smoothly. Thank you to Dan, Larry, Janet, Velma, and two men that Director Flanagan hired. Manager Flanagan said she worked Monday, 9/7 to put the office back together and was open as of 9/8. A concern of the move is that there is no mail slot and the deliveries are early morning (before the office is open). The options are to leave the mail at the city mail room, get a PO Box @ \$44.00/year, or determine if the city will allow a mail slot cut in the door.

Motion was made by Vice President Moss, seconded by Treasurer Fall, to petition the city to allow the chamber to place a mail slot in the side glass panel to the right of the office door. Discussion followed. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS – Section 6

6.1 Action: Welcome Center Ad Hoc Committee –

Director Pistoresi expressed concerned regarding what the direction the Board wants to take regarding the Welcome Center. A lively discussion ensued regarding the McCombs letter and deadline; the park preparation and donated costs; the brick sales; and the future plan for the property and if the Chamber has any future involvement in the Front & Robertson land. A meeting with City Representatives was set for Friday, 9/11, at 9:30 a.m. to discuss the Welcome Center and the funds being held by the City for the Welcome Center. Manager Flanagan was to locate all files regarding the initial plans for the Welcome Center.

Action was deferred until the Ad Hoc Committee reports to the Board following the meeting with the city.

6.2 Action: Sierra Geo Tourism Endorsement Letter –

Manager Flanagan explained the project and that the packet contained information.

No Action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS – Section 7

7.1 Action: Resignation Letter of Waseem Ahmed, Past President

Motion was made by Vice President Moss, seconded by Director Pistoresi, to accept the resignation of Past President Waseem Ahmed. No discussion, motion passed.

7.2 Action: Special Meeting with the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians Tribal Council

Manager Flanagan explained the purpose of the request for the meeting was to get to know the Chamber since they are a new member. Discussion followed speculating the other reasons for a meeting.

Motion was made by Vice President Moss, seconded by Director Jones, to host a Meet & Greet with the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians Tribal Council on Friday, October 9th, 9:00 am. Following discussion, motion passed.

7.4 Action: Cal Chamber Alert re Joining Alliance for a 21st Century Water System

Deferred to October Meeting.

7.3 Action: Authorization for Chamber Manager to arrange free workshops as available.

Motion made by Vice President Moss, seconded by Director Pistoresi, authorizing Manager Flanagan to schedule free workshops in Chowchilla as available. No discussion, motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Section 8

8.1 SBA FREE Workshop, September 22, 8:00am Registration; 8:30-10:00am workshop, Public Meeting Room, Civic Center

8.2 Classic Car Show, 9/12, Veterans Park

8.3 Chamber Golf Tournament, 9/18, Pheasant Run Golf Course

8.4 Manager Days Off – September 30 through October 6th

ADJOURNMENT – Section 9

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Scroggins at 1:35 p.m.