

Harrington Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes  
June 3, 2020

SPECIAL UPDATES: The Chamber members were sent an email by Tim Tipton (as one of the members of the Cruizin' committee) asking what their thoughts were regarding cancelling Cruizin' Harrington. There were a few members who responded that they thought it should not be cancelled so soon. Since the majority elected to cancel (as per the committee's recommendation), Tim made the declaration via email.

Jill Barth decided to reschedule the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Studebaker Car Show on July 25<sup>th</sup> 2020. This is independent of Cruizin' Harrington and the Chamber. She will have vendors and a beer garden along with the cars, if Gov. Inslee and the City Council and Mayor permit it to occur.

Due to COVID-19, this meeting is the first since March. The Chamber was polled by President Timothy Tipton and since Cruizin' Harrington was cancelled, it was felt in April and in May that there was no urgency to hold a meeting. Please see the minutes below for further discussion of this topic.

This meeting was held online using the virtual meeting app called Zoom.

Attendees: Timothy Tipton, Paula Harrington, Heather Slack, Tyler James, Karen Robertson, Cherie MacClellan.

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m.

The minutes from the March meeting were approved as presented.

The Country Backroads Maps for 2020 was put on hold until early Spring of 2021. All of the map advertising customers agreed to either leave their money in the account or to be reimbursed.

Odessa's 50<sup>th</sup> Deutschesfest celebration, normally held in September, has been cancelled. A number of events scheduled for the Fall have been cancelled, as well. At a future time, the Chamber will discuss with the Lions Club and the City Council whether vendors should be invited to participate in Harrington's Fall Festival 2020. Concern is regarding resurgence in the Fall as well as inviting people from potentially higher risk areas into our city.

Cherie announced that the vendors were given the option to receive a refund for their Cruizin' Harrington 2020 booth fee or to apply it to Cruizin' 2021. A total of five vendors received refunds and 5 vendor fees were applied to 2021. Cherie also reported that one of the vendors asked to have her fee applied to the Car Show in July. She was informed that there is no vendor fee for the Car Show but that had there been, the fee could not be applied to another organization. Cherie was invited to let all vendors know that they are welcome at the Car Show. After discussing it with another Chamber member, she decided to give individuals requesting it Jill's contact information only if they ask for it.

This week, the Lincoln County Commissioners submitted the application for Phase 3 of the Safe Start Phased Reopening Plan. The success of the application will be announced as soon as it is declared, possibly within two weeks.

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Tim Tipton announced that the Town Square Project has received \$49,696 in donations. This will be combined with the \$30,000 Innovia grant for a total of \$79,696 as of this date. The donations are still coming in.

Tyler James offered, if the City approves the plan, to donate equipment for Wifi access and a security camera for the Town Square. The Chamber members agreed that both are possibly a good idea, especially the WiFi and thanked Tyler for the offer. It was suggested that the WiFi equipment could be located in the janitor's closet of the restroom or some other hidden spot. Tim will discuss this with the Town Square Committee and Mayor Luck or the City Council.

Heather Slack nominated Paula Harrington's house for June's Yard of the Month. Tyler seconded and the vote was unanimous. The group expressed appreciation of Paula's flower boxes and barrels.

Tim was asked for a list of people who are allowed to post on the Chamber's Facebook page, "Harrington WA". He has no issue with the current posts but it was suggested that only Chamber members should be allowed to place posts on the site. Karen Robertson will assist with the research for the list.

The Harrington School will not be providing lunches for children (aged birth to 18 years) from approximately mid-June through August. There is a group established to make the meals but Heather announced that they will likely need volunteers to deliver the meals. Paula has volunteered.

Heather also brought up the grocery deliveries that she has done as announced in the flyer mailed out by the Chamber. A few people participated and all deliveries stopped about a month ago. After some discussion, it was decided to leave the offer open through the Fall. The Facebook page will be updated and Karen will update the Chamber website with the information, as well.

Heather asked "What is the Chamber going to do to support small businesses through these very tough times?" She explained that very few people are coming into the Post and Office and that most of the soup of the day has had to be thrown out. She might have to stop serving it if business doesn't pick up soon. Paula seconded her concerns regarding getting people to come through her doors. Concern was shown by the group as to why business has slowed, is it all related to the COVID restrictions? Are people not feeling safe to venture out in their own community? A Chamber Mailer will be offered to the small businesses in town, specifically, but will be open to everyone who wants to contribute. The deadline for submissions to The Post and Office or to City Hall will be Monday, June 22nd. Heather volunteered to assemble them herself as our usual assembly team may not be a good idea this time. Cherie volunteered her services to design flyers. Tim and Paula offered to print flyers.

The Lincoln County Economic Development Council is reaching out to small businesses impacted by COVID-19, as well as people impacted by job loss. Heather expressed feeling like she's in "a vacuum" without more contact with people. She talked of the need to communicate the importance of people supporting each other and the businesses in town. Heather also spoke of how hard it has been not having Chamber meetings the last two months. We have missed

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opportunities to help our community and support each other. Cherie seconded the need for at least virtual meetings every month to just check in if nothing urgent is going on.

Tim reported that Jay Gossett's Marketplace is ready for business. He has asked Jay if he wanted any advertising on the Harrington website and social media promotion. Jay said he would let Tim know when he is ready with all the pertinent information.

The Harrington Golf and Country Club is hosting the Rickie Greenwood Memorial Tournament (with up to 13 two-person teams) on June 20<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9 a.m.

The Harrington School Senior Graduation will take place on June 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Two family members of each graduate will watch as the Senior receives their diploma in the school lobby. Other guests will be able to congratulate the graduates from their cars in the parking area.

The next meeting will be on July 1, 2020. Time and location to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

This draft of minutes to be approved at the July meeting.