

Veneta Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce
Board Meeting
Minutes of January 10, 2023

Attendance: Gina Haley Morrell, Robbie McCoy, Candy Christiance, John Tribolet, James Palmer, Sarah Naegeli.

Guest: Matt Michel, Cole Haselip, Allie, City management intern

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 3:02 by President Gina Haley-Morrell
2. Public Speaking: N/A
3. Welcome to Sarah Naegeli as the newest VFRCC Board Member.
4. Secretary Report: Presented, filed for audit.
5. Treasurer Report: Presented, filed for audit.
6. Committee Reports:
 - Membership: Robbie noted she is getting ready to start invoicing.
 - Meet & Greet: After hours will be January 17th 5-7pm at West Lane Tech, please try to attend.
7. Luncheon: We are still searching for a venue to hold the luncheon. Robbie asking Vicki to call ODB, there is a small corner that they are willing to close down for our luncheon, more to come. Gina is in support of this.
8. March Speakers: Robbie mentioned that Deneen at SBDC - Looking at March 8th.
 - Tour of Lights: 7 entries, two chose not to be judged. Next year, looking at allowing folks to participate and opt out of being judged to encourage more to join.
 - a. Gina asked Board if we wanted to combine sponsorship for Tour of Lights and Light Parade, so we aren't hitting folks up multiple times for sponsorships. Board agreed to this.
9. Unfinished Business: No new updates, still using the cordless phone for now.
10. New Business: There are issues in the Chamber office with the HVAC office. John Hammer is aware and awaiting parts for the unit at his cost. Sara mentioned for us to check our lease to see if we are obligated to have regular maintenance on the HVAC. If so, John Hammer should be responsible should something go wrong, if not, Chamber is. Rent is going up to \$650 per month this year, Robbie to include in budget for approvals next month. The Board voted unanimously to have Vicki stay on for another year us.
11. Website – it has been mentioned by Vicki to have an easier website that is user friendly. Gina noted that it does take a lot of clicks to get to where one needs to get to. Vicki mentioned that she has a list of issues with our current site. Robbie will train both James and Vicki. James will take a look at the platform and determine if we are able to make it work or start looking elsewhere.
12. City Updates: Matt noted there was a City council meeting last night. Robbie was named council president. Alexa Benson was also sworn in as the newest counselor. Robbie was selected to be the City's liaison with the Lane Counsel of Governments as well. The council adopted a water rate increase of 3% and sewer rate increase of 2%. Bulk water rates will also increase. The City is in talks with the Department of Forestry to look at land next to Bolton Hill that will compliment that project as well as storm water management. Cole noted there was a commercial development incentive program adopted. New businesses can apply for up to 50% of the transportation SDC to be waived by City council if the SDC is the reason they might not develop in this area. City staff recommendation to discontinue shopfernridge.com. There is not enough traffic to justify the system and the city is losing money on this endeavor. Attic property negotiations have failed and been terminated last week. City will work with their business assistance committee if they want to respond to the other proposal on the RFP or look at using that for something different. City is using some of the \$50k grant for food business assistance for trainings for local food business and the city is currently talking to consultants for program development in this area. More details are to come. Allie is working on the business retention and expansion report. This should be completed shortly. Paths and trails RFP and masterplan are in the works. The RFP is live for contractors, closes next month. New RV and boat storage business talking with city – looking at land next to Bi-Mart.
13. Good of the Order: N/A
14. Next meeting Tuesday, February 14, 2023
15. Meeting adjourned at 3:59pm