

GOLD RIVER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

General Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 17, 2022

7pm at the JCC, room 116 as well as Zoom

Call to Order 7:04 pm

Attendance/Welcome: IN person Room 116: Linda Vandenberg, Cathy Nesbitt, Serena Ross, Candice Baker **Via Zoom:** Anita Lawrence, Georgie McKenzie, Veanna Johnston, Chris White

Approval of minutes from February 17, 2022; Moved to Accept: Veanna; Second: Anita

Additional items #10) Mary Ruth's presentation to Council

Officer and Director Reports

President/Membership– Linda Vandenberg: Presidents Letter (first of our quarterly newsletters) sent to membership via email. This will also be uploaded to the website.

Membership: is about ½ paid at this time; Linda will follow up with unpaid members with a reminder. An email was also sent to members with the login link/information on member benefits.

Treasurer/Social Media– Anita Lawrence: Treasurers Report attached. Moved to Accept: Cathy; Second: Veanna.

Presidents letter as well as the directors contact list up on the website soon. When the director info is posted, directors are asked to confirm that their info is correct with Anita. We will also have a website refresh coming, taking off some old/irrelevant information and adding new; so, we can expect a maintenance fee for that to be coming as well.

Secretary – Serena Ross – No report.

Director/EDC Liaison – Cathy EDC Grants update - working on the Covid 19 Recovery Grant and is at 29% completion: the focus of this grant is on Wayfinding, Branding and Website. The other two grants are completed and final reports are sent in. They are moving forward and looking at the **info/visitor's center** and training for the season. They are looking for the visitor's center to be open possible in May. Training plans for this year are hopeful to include a community tour/walk to have hosts more in touch with the community. May also get us involved with a local business tour, we will follow up with Anita as she and Rachel will be the ones setting this all up.

EDC is looking at a very busy June with the GR 200 booked the weekend of June 24-26 and the North Island 1000 booked the weekend of June 17-19. There has also been a group reaching out to talk about a possible White-Water Rafting group as well. These contacts have mostly been made through the website, which is awesome to hear!

There has been a Herber/Heber River miss-spell on the Kiosk, this is being handled and should be corrected shortly. EDC has had a "First Impressions Report" done and will be reviewing at their next meeting – Cathy will bring updates/news next month.

Director/Welcome New Business – Georgie – New business to reach out to:

Green Gold Cannabis Shop – plan to make a goodie/snack basket from local stores

Gas station – New manager Alie Crowther – Will reach out

Fields – New manager Suzanne Trevis – Will reach out

Sami-Jo Decap – Safe Zone Traffic Management - Will reach out

Businesses of the month – Linda – Shelf is set up with a beautiful new Chamber of Commerce sign along the bottom shelf. Top three shelves are each showcasing a local business. This month the businesses are Sea and Field, Clayworks and Creative Notions. Linda has a plan for next month as well, so far just with some of the chamber member businesses as they have been easier to reach out to, but Linda will be working along the long list that Anita provided to include non-chamber businesses as well.

Business Items

1) Summer events in town – GR 200, North Island 1000, and GR Days

-**GR 200** is a Trail Bike rally being held June 24-26. Chris was happy to report that the organizers plan on getting together in town to discuss plans/lay out trails Easter weekend.

-**North Island 1000** is an off-road group planning out some routes that showcase Gold River, Tahsis and Zeballos in our area. They are planning a meet and greet in town the weekend of Father's Day, June 17-19.

-**Gold River Days** are planned for August 26-28 this year. We have a new person organizing the event this year, Brad was going to give her Linda's contact info to reach out to us about running the parade and possible other events this year. The GO Carts are a NO GO again, and likely permanently, as the insurance for such an event is unattainable. We would like to hold some other sort of event/game, so please bring forward any ideas. One idea would be the crafters like last year.

2) Dates and formats for 2022 meetings – Linda - sent in the Presidents letter, and Anita will add to the website. Also, on a calendar up in the JCC room. Zoom will be renewed as well and left as an option for all meetings, for both our director only and general membership meeting – tends to lead to a better turnout. This will be a cost of \$250 annually that should be coming up again soon.

3) Quarterly Newsletter – first was sent out as the Presidents letter from Linda in February, would be considered the “winter” quarter, next would be “Spring” quarter in May. Quarterly letter will be sent to the membership via email, and we will look into the possibility of a bi-annual blurb on the ECD's mailout. **ACTION from Anita and Cathy:** will speak to the EDC about this at their next meeting, and see what our portion of the cost would be to do this.

4) New header for Chamber Welcome Sign at Info Center - Construction ongoing has delayed this yet. Linda will get it up as soon as she can. New signs will also be picked up/hung up for the Ridge, and the Uchuck. Will also be looking into organizing the signs into service groups, as was suggested in the ED First Impressions Report.

- 5) Shop Local Grant – Anita: the first of four videos is now completed, besides the intro that Anita is looking to re-do. The adverts and editorials are done and ready to be printed in a handful of places. There will be some more footage filmed soon for videos 2-4.

Linda noticed there was an additional cost overage for the Grant. **Anita put forward a motion** to approve the pre-approved \$1000 plus an additional \$28.40 overage cost for the BC Shop Local Grant. **Seconded** by Chris, and passed.

Videos will be posted to Facebook as well as links will be on the printed handouts so people can see them. Talked about also creating a YouTube channel that will be used to post these videos, as well as with permission from other businesses, videos/adverts they may like to share. There is no cost associated with a YouTube Channel. **Candice motioned for us to create a Chamber of Commerce YouTube page**, seconded by Chris and passed. **Anita** will be in charge of starting up and managing the channel.

- 6) Spring Workshop – not happening.
- 7) By-Laws - still in need of 2 more Votes, Linda will speak to a few members to gather them. **An Extra Ordinary Meeting has been called for April 21, 2022 at 6:50pm to adopt our new bylaws.** This will be a meeting open to all members, followed by the directors regular meeting at 7pm.
- 8) Any further discussions on a Social – Planning a **Spring Social for May 26th** in the evening. Budget earmarked for \$1000, or \$10/head, if necessary. **Candice will start looking around and into costs.** Hoping to do an appetizer evening on the deck of the Golf Course with Door Prizes/Gift cards up for grabs. Looking to have 1 person per business/member attend, possibly with a spouse, depending what our limits would be for capacity. We will discuss at the April meeting and hope to have invites out by the end of April.
- 9) Correspondence/discussions/Comments from the Gallery – Linda will speak to Dawn or Sharon about putting the Chamber Magazine in one of the coffee shops.
- 10) Mary Ruth's Presentation to Council on Campbell River Chamber Database – Linda will plan to attend the Council Meeting Monday March 21 if this is on the agenda – will report back to us next meeting.

Next Meeting – April 21, 2022 Extra Ordinary Meeting @6:50 followed by General Mtg@7pm – JCC room 116 and Zoom

Adjourn 8:35pm

Submitted by Serena Ross

Recording Secretary