

**OROFINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 19, 2008
PONDEROSA BANQUET ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER

President Ryan Smathers called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. There were 19 members and two guests present. Staff included Burnham.

MINUTES

The minutes of the general membership meeting are now being emailed to the membership with the meeting reminders. The minutes of the general membership meeting were approved as presented.

GUESTS

Our guests were Tonya our program speakers, Greg Smith and Elaine Green with the Idaho Commission on the Arts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dee Crane announced the IOGA Spring Roundup on Saturday April 12. There are two different components to the Roundup this year with the addition of the State Championship Elk Calling Contest which will have four divisions. The Roundup begins at 1:00 p.m. and the contest will begin at 3:00 p.m.

The group has identified a different place for the proceeds from the event to go. ICare is a cancer assistance and recovery effort which benefits people in Clearwater County. The purpose of ICare is to provide financial aid for anyone in the Clearwater Valley area who is actively receiving treatment for or recovering from cancer or other major illnesses. Crane passed out leather "ribbon" pins to the membership to wear in support of the organization.

Laura Wolverton announced that there will be a "Bunny Hop" at King's on Saturday from noon to 4:00 p.m. They will be giving out a \$50 gift certificate every hour. The Easter Bunny will be there for photos with children.

Keith Hanson announced that the OHS Cheerleaders will perform their routine tonight at 7:00 p.m. at the High School. There is no charge to attend.

Steve Laws announced a movement in Clearwater County to make some major changes to the County zoning map. There was a meeting this morning to discuss feelings on the issue and how to give input to the County regarding these changes. Chuck Cuddy asked Laws to announce that businesses may be contacted for input. The zoning change would be from F1 to F3 making the minimum lot size 20 acres.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

We will have a Board of Directors meeting next Monday the 24th at noon at the Ponderosa.

Please note that the April 2, 2008 (next regularly scheduled) General Membership Meeting is cancelled due to Spring Break.

The office remodel is mostly finished. Please stop by and see the changes. It looks beautiful. Thanks to all who helped out.....Chris L., Ryan S., Jeff and Monica Jones, Keith Hanson, Sherry Schlader, Janet Burnham and, Dan Burnham.

In February, 4 relocation and 5 tourism packets went out. Several calls were fielded regarding upcoming events and lodging and recreation activities.

Community Clean Up Day is April 26th. We will be sprucing up Heritage Plaza. Please join us that morning at 9:00 a.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Affairs- A new ATV Bill just came up which would limit the use of ATVs on paved roads. The committee is dealing with that Bill right now. The legislature looks like it is going to go into April.

Promotional-No Report.

Auction- The auction committee has chosen the theme “Surf’s Up” and has begun solicitation for auction items. The auction will take place on May 2 at the Best Western Lodge at River’s Edge. Tickets will be available soon.

Welcome and Membership- No Report

Economic Development – The County was awarded a Rural Business Enterprise Grant \$25,000 from USDA to use as leverage for the wave attenuator project. We got word yesterday that our Waterways Improvement Fund grant application for the construction of the wave attenuator is being looked at very favorably by the grant screening committee. The next CCED meeting is tonight at the Ponderosa Banquet Room at 6:00 p.m. North Idaho Manufacturers Association will present results from their manufacturer survey.

GEM- The NW Passage Byway Advisory Team has secured grant funds to conduct a Viewshed evaluation – what does the traveler along the route (US 12 Lolo Pass - Lewiston) visually experience. In this grant project consultants will be developing a model to simulate growth and its impact on the byway viewshed. We need community input to share the values of the byway from a local perspective. The NWPSB committee and consultants have also worked with our GEM team and will provide a simulation of a portion of the project which would provide sidewalks on Hwy. 12 and include in their presentation on the 21st of April at 6 pm at the Ponderosa.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

No Report

PROGRAM

Programs- *April 2* – Meeting Cancelled
April 16 – Greener Clearwater County

Vice President Connie Robison introduced our program speakers Greg Smith and his wife Elaine Green with the Idaho Commission on the Arts North Central Idaho Region. Smith and Green live in Moscow where Green teaches art at the University of Idaho.

Smith began the presentation by explaining how a couple of years ago the couple went through the region to catalogue public art. He explained that public art can create a sense of place and identity. The couple showed the membership a prepared PowerPoint presentation with examples of public art, highlighting that public art gives artists the opportunity to turn something mundane into something extraordinary and touting the idea that if you are making something useful, why not make it beautiful. The first public art program began in Philadelphia in 1959. In Orofino, examples of public art include the logger statue at Heritage Plaza and the “Reason for Every Season” mural downtown, both Chamber projects, and Clearwater Crossing.

The Arts Commission is making the grant process friendlier for small communities. Smith and Green left a tool kit with the Chamber that would walk the community through the process of developing public art projects.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Ryan Smathers, President

ATTESTED:

Heather R. Burnham, Executive Director