

CHAMBER EMPLOYEE REPORT

As of 5/18/2022

Phone calls are picking up. Lots of questions regarding camping and happenings around town. The Plumas County stickers have been received. The total cost including shipping came to \$830.33, which breaks down to \$1.66 each. The billing glitch continues with Chamber Nation. I was assured everything had been shut off last month but this month when I did billing I only had two members come up as paper bills. I discovered later that an additional 7 members were due for billing. I emailed Chamber Nation about the issue and they told me the problem was on my end because I “probably hadn’t used the correct billing date” (I bill for one full month at a time).

I attended the third Recreation Economy for Rural Communities meeting yesterday. I’m glad the Board approved my attendance at these meetings as this is a really big deal; there are several federal and state agencies involved including the Environmental Protection Agency, Forest Service (federal, state and local offices), USDA Rural Development, Economic Development Administration, FEMA, National Park Service and the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development.

The Local Steering Committee consists of Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, our Chamber, Karen Kleven representing the Feather River Tourism Association, Tracey Ferguson representing the Plumas County Planning Department, Kristy Hoffman representing the Plumas National Forest, Matthew Kitchens from The Toy Store, John Kolb representing Plumas Corporation, Kara Rockett-Arsenault representing Plumas Arts and Rob Gott representing Gott Powersports.

The RERC is a grant program Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship applied for back in 2019. Quincy was one of 10 destinations chosen in the United States to receive this grant in 2022. The program is “to help revitalize their Main Streets through outdoor recreation.” It is a “planning assistance program designed to foster environmentally friendly community development and Main Street revitalization through conservation and sustainable use of public or private forests or other natural resources.”

We have a workshop scheduled for June 8th and 9th. Many of the representatives from the federal and state agencies will be coming to Quincy for this workshop.

On June 8th there will be a community tour and meetings from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The tour and meetings will be between the Local Steering Committee and the out-of-town guests. From 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. there will be an Opening Community Meeting held at the West End Theatre. The purpose of this is to determine where we are now and where do we want to be? This will be our opportunity to introduce ourselves and provide brief presentations on ongoing outdoor recreation/downtown development efforts, strategies for leveraging outdoor recreation for Main Street revitalization and economic diversification and the out-of-town guests will be providing case studies of other communities who have gone through this process. There will also be small group exercises to gather ideas on values, visions for the future, community assets and challenges and desired improvements. Afterward there will be a group review and discussion of draft workshop goals along with a preview of Day 2.

On June 9th we will have an Opportunities and Strategies Work Session from 9:00 a.m. – noon at the Fairgrounds. The purpose of this will be to determine what we want to see happen, followed by lunch from 12:30-1:30 (also at the Fairgrounds). After lunch we will have an Action Planning Work

Session from 1:30-5:00 (also at the Fairgrounds). The purpose of this session will be to determine how we will make these things happen.

There is a virtual Action Planning Follow-Up tentatively scheduled for June 23rd. There will also be 2-3 phone calls with all the representatives from federal, state and local levels.

I believe this is an excellent opportunity for our Chamber to really shine. Three things I think we MUST do: 1) Be present and active in as much as possible with this program. All too often we've seen plans and ideas that have drifted away in the wind. This is our chance to show the community how important our Chamber is. 2) If the Board is in agreement, sponsor either dinner on the 8th or lunch on the 9th. I know this is asking a lot, but we do have an influx of money from the PG&E settlement (which, if we are required to use it for economic development and recovery purposes, I think this absolutely fits the bill), and we are one of the Local Steering Committee members. A rough estimate for cost would be \$1,500 for lunch catered by The Back Door Catering Co. for 70 people. I don't know how many people will be there but that was a high estimate from the EPR (which is the Planning Company that's coordinating all of this). 3) Come up with a very brief (just a few minutes long) presentation for June 8th. Sierra Buttes is giving an update on the trails they're working on, Feather River Tourism Association is presenting on the Quincy portion of the website they're building, and the Forest Service will be providing an update on Forest Service lands since the Dixie Fire. It would be great if we could give a brief intro on who we are and what we're doing locally, but I could really use some help with it.

I also ask that as many Board Members be present (at least on the 8th for the Opening Public Meeting) as possible. I think it's important to show how much we support this.