

City of Forks  
Council Meeting Minutes Special Session  
City Council Chambers  
500 East Division Street  
November 28, 2016  
5:30 P.M.

**ROLL CALL**

Council members present: Preston, Brager, Ayers, Hillcar, Weissenfels and Mayor Monohon. Staff present: Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer, Fleck, Attorney/Planner, Bart, Police Administrator and Hampton, Public Works Director.

**2017 Budget Workshop**

Mayor Monohon invited those present to speak about their applications for Lodging Tax funds and to answer any questions from Council.

Cary and Melene Bourm and Pete Wilder represented West End Thunder. They reviewed plans for their 2017 racing season. They have scheduled five weekends of racing (May through September) instead of four, to compensate for potential cancellations due to rain. They also plan to host the Hot August Nite event on August 26<sup>th</sup>. They acknowledged their need for better data collection to prove tourist attendance and have a plan in place. This year they had a complaint from one of the hotel owners after an event was cancelled due to the weather forecast. And they noted that restaurants are always full on race weekends. The lodging tax funds are used to pay for insurance, advertising, supplies, and ambulance standby fees.

Linda Offutt, Manager of the Forks Timber Museum reported that the West End Historical Society has combined with the Museum. Their meetings are now held jointly, the third Tuesday of every month at the Rainforest Arts Center. The Museum would like to expand in order to house recent donations. She also reported that she has taken a three-year position on the board of the Olympic Peninsula Visitor Bureau.

Sue Shane and Warren Brown reviewed the activities of the Rainforest Council for the Arts, which has been in existence for two years. They have hosted Rainfest, Chautauqua, family dances and various art events. They purchased two high quality sandwich boards in order to advertise events. They are requesting funds in order to hold a contra dance, which brings in attendees from around the Peninsula.

Marcia Yanish with the Piecemakers Quilt Club spoke about plans for the 2017 Fabric of the Forest Quilt Show and classes. They are looking at extensive advertising to boost attendance, including ads in quilting magazines. They are also exploring the possibility of bringing the National Park Centennial Quilt to Forks for display.

Dan Trickey, President of the Forks Merchants Coed Softball Club stated they will hold three tournaments in 2017. This year's tournaments were very well attended. He plans to use a form modeled after the Visitor Center form to collect data from attendees.

Lissy Andros, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director thanked the City for their support and for the good working relationship. She reported that Visitor Center numbers surpassed last year's statistics. They are working to increase advertising, including ads in the Coho magazine and utilizing social media to the fullest. Many improvements were made to the Visitor Center this past year and the NOAA kiosk was installed. She is concerned about the impact of road construction and the increase in the minimum wage for 2017.

The Chamber is exploring housing a Twilight museum in the retail space at the RAC. It would include Twilight movie props and things unique to Forks. They plan to apply for grant funding for operational costs including rent of the RAC.

The Chamber request for the Forever Twilight in Forks Festival was reviewed. A post-festival survey was cited which reflected positive feedback and 70% of respondents stating they are most definitely likely to return next year.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A recess was called at 7:31 p.m. and the Budget Workshop was adjourned to the Regular Council Meeting at 7:45 p.m.

  
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Bryon Monohon, Mayor

  
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Audrey Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer