The Committee met on February 13, 2013, at 3:30 p.m. at City Hall. Committee Members present: Chair Jerry Childs and Councilmembers Jim Colebank, Cindy Lucarelli, and staff City Clerk Brandy Rinearson.

Guests present: Sharron King, Fathoms O Fun; Kathy Michael, Cedar Cove Inn; Brian Sauer, Port of Bremerton; Terry Bontrager and Ron Weekes, Saints Car Club.

Community Planning:
Chair Childs reported the Waterfront Park portion of the Bay Street Pedestrian Pathway is moving along with completion projected for May. He also reported that Engineer Dorsey says there may be some additional funding through grants coming available for other phases of the project. The DeKalb Street Pier improvement project has gone to bid with completion scheduled for no later than June 1st. The Bay Street Market project has been on hold pending an allocation of additional funds from the financier---the latest word is the project could begin by mid-March. Finally, the Myhre’s remodel is mired in an insurance investigation that may end the project.

City Clerk Rinearson asked the Committee if they are interested in writing a letter of support and/or funding for the National Water Trails Designation Project and Map. After discussion, the Committee concluded that although they have no problem with the map and having our boat ramp included, there are concerns. Chair Childs indicated that Port Orchard has only one map inclusion, that being the Water Street Boat Ramp. Other county entities have numerous entries. The committee’s concern: why should the City write a letter of support and possibly pay for a project in which we have so little involvement?

Tourism & Promotion:
Mr. Weekes of the Saints Car Club, shared that his organization cooked and gave out approximately 75 pounds of roasted chestnuts during the Festival of Chimes and Lights. Weekes and the other volunteers thoroughly enjoyed providing the young children their first experience with roasted chestnuts, and promised to participate once again in 2013.

Ms. Sharon King representing Fathoms, reported over 322 kids sat on Santa’s lap and got their pictures taken during the Festival of Chimes and Lights photo-op at Waterfront Park. The Committee also discussed ways to improve the queuing-up process for the hay rides, which were once again very popular with festival goers.

Mr. Brian Sauer from the Port announced the soft opening of the Water Street Boat Launch would be Friday, February 15th with the ribbon cutting scheduled for February 27th. On a sad note, Mr. Sauer reported that his job had been eliminated in the latest Port budget cuts. The committee thanked Brian for his service to the community and wished him well.

City Clerk Rinearson shared the zip codes collected by the Sinclair Inlet Yacht Club during the festival. The Club each year tracks the codes when visitors fill out their ballot to vote for their
favorite decorated boat. The report showed 1,164 people came to the dock to participate, with 785 of the attendees coming from Port Orchard’s 98366, and 98367 zip codes. The second highest visitor total was from 98359 which is out near Olalla. Chair Childs pointed out that nearly 40% of the people voting were from outside Port Orchard and that to apply this percentage to the overall festival attendance of 6000 indicates Chimes and Lights attracted approximately 2400 out of town guests.

The City Clerk asked if the Committee was interested in purchasing a Chimes and Lights Banner to hang across Bay Street to promote the 2013 event. While the issue of costs was discussed, the Committee agreed it would be worth looking into. Clerk Rinearson agreed to get an estimate. Also discussed was the cost of the sound system provided by Gordon Sound and whether money could be saved by shopping around.

City Clerk Rinearson announced that Chimes and Lights has once again received a $2,000 grant from Kitsap Bank as part of their Community Partner Program. A condition of the grant the City must provide a recap of the event, including pictures. Chair Childs shared with the committee a list of in-kind donations that Kitsap Bank Provides for the Jingle Bell Run and Chimes and Lights: website exposure; newspaper advertisements; targeted printing; 55,000 inserts going out in their bank statements; popcorn, cider, and glow necklaces during the event; use of all their parking lots; insurance that covers the participants using their property; Christmas decorations throughout their two block area—all at no charge. The Committee thanks Kitsap Bank and all our sponsors.

Mr. Weekes stated the Saints Car Club offers scholarships to local students looking to enhance their mechanic skills, if committee members know of anyone interested, please let him know.

Councilmember Lucarelli shared that she has been working with North Woods Productions in the production of a Chimes and Lights video. She hopes to have something to share with the Council soon. In response to Chair Childs, Clerk Rinearson reported the 2013 Economic Development and Tourism Committee Lodging Tax allotment is $1,550; to fund the city’s share of Foot Ferry services, the amount is $6,600; and for the Festival of Chimes and Lights the amount is $5,000; The committee discussed the reductions, including the $10,000 reduction in general fund monies for Chimes and Lights.

Clerk Rinearson asked the Committee what they had in mind for the lodging tax funds dedicated to Foot Ferry service. Did the committee want to include all Sundays from Memorial Day to Labor Day, as was the case in 2012, or do they want to do only Festival Holidays and Festival Sundays? Chair Childs, expressed his concern with a lack of non-festival Sunday ridership. Further stating that with an obvious lack of funds, the City really had no choice but to return to the Festival Holidays and Festival Sundays service. After a brief discussion, the Committee felt it best to bring this item to the full Council at their February 19, 2013, Work Study Session.

Miscellaneous:
Chair Childs reported the Triangle landscaping next to city hall is over grown and dated. The landscaper, Marcia Hestead of Out of Garden Landscaping has visited the site and gave a rough estimate for a redo including the addition of new plants. She estimated the amount at
approximately $200-$300 wholesale. The committee voted to authorize the funds out of the $1050 in the 2013 ED/T budget. Chair Childs will confirm with her the committee’s desire to go ahead with the project to be accomplished by the end of March and before the summer tourism season kicks in.

Chair Childs indicated a desire to see the meeting minutes emailed to everyone on the committee list with a hard copy placed in the Mayor/Council/Department Directors/City Attorney in-house mail boxes.

There being no further business, Chair Childs adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

**Next Meeting Date:** March 13, 2013, at 3:30 p.m.

Copies to: Council/Mayor/Department Directors/City Attorney
POBSA
Fathoms O’ Fun
Cedar Cove Association
Jingle Bell Run Committee
Chamber of Commerce
Port Orchard Library
Port of Bremerton