POWELL COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Minutes are from the April 10, 2015 meeting held at 12 noon at Muriah's Restaurant.

Those present: Therese Hunt, Linda Spaulding, Julie Schroder, Heidi Rome, Shelli Boggess and Dave Williams.
Also present: Sarah Bannon, Jacque Lavelle and Pat Hansen

Therese called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm

Heidi moved to accept the minutes for March 2015 as presented, seconded by Linda. Motion carried.

- Secretary's Report – Dave reported membership stands at 67, in line with 2014. Inquiries were up 12 to 49, 24 phone calls, 15 emails and 10 office visits. One Visitor and one brochure pack mailed out. Website statistics were up at 1,413,830 hits (+223,969), 1,380,747 page views (+223,417) and 27,280 unique visitors (-3,546). 372 pdfs were downloaded (-211).

Dave attended the Governor's Conference on Tourism & Recreation last month in Helena.

Very informative and useful, learnt about the importance of having a website that is responsive, formats pages according to display screen size, for tablets and phones. Also, ADA compliance regarding the tagging of images so that visually impaired visitors to the website can head audio descriptions of images and icons, etc.

Dave had received an email from Kelly Cutler of Cutler Bros., asking about the possibility of placing their events on our website calendar page. Normally we only list events run by non-profits. Discussion followed on the merits or otherwise of listing events for profit companies, even those that could be considered tourist events that draw visitors to Deer Lodge and other businesses here. Shelli proposed a motion to allow all for profit members to list up to three events per year on our calendar, non-profits remain unlimited. Julie seconded. Motion was carried.

- Main Street Flowers – T said there was no further update, but she will call Ed to see how the baskets are progressing. T said that Bob had to date been unable to talk to Steve Stryker about treatment for infestation to the Christmas Tree.

- Territorial Days – T said Bob had spoken to Heather Lingal and had hired her and her band for $600. She may also be performing during the Country Showdown. Bob had signed the contract for the Showdown and Patty Cowan had agreed to help with the Judging. Linda will start the parade, and Brud will lead the cars off and turn them around at Pizza Hut. 8 tables and 48 chairs will be required, to be loaded at the Pen on Friday afternoon. Jacque and Julie volunteered to help. Jan Bender had agreed to get the Weiner Wagon stocked with food. Chamber Gift Certificates for the first 3 in the parade, $15, $20 and $25 to be spent at any Chamber member business. Peoples Choice will be a gift certificate?

A person is required to lead the cars out from the Prison Yard and hold them before joining the parade. The Top 20 Award prizes are fleece blankets.

Julie agreed to find volunteers to work the Weiner Wagon. Dash Plaques have been produced. Dave will contact the boot camp for clean up on Friday and Sunday. Dave will ask the Silver State Post for a 3x5 ad for $200. Bob will get the street closure arranged, and the stage and stairs from Sherm. T will get a letter to the Mayor about locating the garbage cans. Julie will find pooper scoopers to clean up after the horses in the parade, contacting Community Services.

The Parade Grand Marshall was discussed. Donna McCarthy, Kirk & Cheryl Sandquist and Punky Downard were all suggested. Shelli proposed Punky as GM, Heidi seconded. Motion carried, Punky Downard is the 2015 Grand Marshall. T will order the GM plaque.

50/50 ticket sellers required. Heidi agreed and Shelli will if she is in town that day. Heidi will talk to Darren at Pizza Hut and ask for permission to turn the cars around in their parking lot.

- Grant-Kohrs Ranch – Jacque said they had 384 visitors in March, up 105% on last year. Good weather and school groups. Youth Conservation Corps application available for 15-18 year olds. 8 summer employees to be hired. Junior Ranger Day on April 18 from 10 till 2. Teacher Workshops coming up, they come from all over the States to get educational credits.

- Old Montana Prison – Spacious Skies art exhibit at the Pen Art Gallery on April 30th

- Job Service – Julie said John will be presenting a repeat of his Powerpoint presentation about Philipsburg, at 7 pm on April 22nd at the Powell County Senior Center.

- SouthWest Montana – Sarah handed out copies of the new SWMT Birding Brochure and 2015 Travel Planner.

- Other Business – Greany's old store has been bought by David and Breda Rowell, setting up a sporting goods store and MT Massage. 'Wally's' bar will become offices and an Art Gallery. Denise Ray is the manager of the Mexican Restaurant. The Arena Bar is for sale. The brewery in 'The Shack' is approx. one year from opening.

Next month's meeting will be on Friday May 1st at the Hospital at noon, lunch ordered off the menu.

Heidi moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Shelli. The meeting was adjourned at 1:06 pm