

**POWELL COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Minutes are from the August 4th, 2011 meeting held at 12 noon at the Broken Arrow Steakhouse.

Those present: Bob Toole, Dave Williams, Patty Cowan, Donna Galbraith, Julia Brewer, Cass Cahill, Therese Hunt, Tina Schowengerdt and Jim Cameron.

Also present: Laura Rotegard and Betty Hadley.

Bob called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

- **Adoption of Minutes** – A motion to adopt the minutes as presented was made by Patty, 2nd by Julia. The motion was passed.

- **Secretary's Report** – Chamber Membership stands at 78. Inquiries up by 28 at 156 total, 39 phone, 6 email and 111 office visits. No visitor or relocation packs mailed out in July. Website statistics were 55,113 hits (down 12,747), 15,250 page views (down 526), 4,279 unique visitors (up 142) and 553 pdf/doc downloads (down 205).

PayPal account was debited \$4.75 for mailing brochures to visitor centers, and the USPS Click N Ship account was debited \$10.05 for brochure mailings to visitor centers and mailing a trophy to a driver in Anaconda. Renewal for membership to the Yellowstone Trail Association is due, Dave asked the board for permission to renew at \$50. Julia spoke about the upcoming 100th anniversary in 2012, the Auto Museum is a member and sees a greater benefit in the coming years with more promotion and publicity. Patty suggested Dave goes to the meetings when they start. Donna made a motion to agree to renew our membership for \$50, seconded by Patty. Motion passed.

Dave reported on the Get Lost in Montana website campaign that the chamber had signed up to. He had spoken to Chris at Browsing Bison books who said they had at least 2 couples who came into their store because they read the article on the website, which was written by Matt Johnson, who worked for Browsing Bison.

Patty brought up the expenses for electricity for the sign to the north of Deer Lodge. The lights have not been working for some time. It can still be read at night, and Patty asked that we disconnect the electricity. Discussion followed on the ownership of the sign, access and whose land it was on. Bob will ask Cindy Frazer and report back.

- **Flower Baskets** –Cass said the baskets were looking great, and everyone agreed. Dave will write a Thank You letter to Lanette.

- **Billboard Project update** – T said the artwork was with Mike, all ready for printing. There was an issue with gaining access to the billboard, due to waterlogged ground. Bruce Anderson is to check the conditions and let Mike know. The 50% has been paid, and a billboard should be appearing very soon.

- **Demolition Derby** – Patty said there have been several committee meetings so far. Bob had extra posters for those who needed them, and several were taken to be distributed around Deer Lodge and other cities. Volunteers are slow coming in, but Patty feels that it's going to be a good show, rain or shine. Julia said she would be available to help and Patty said help was required on the Registration table. Bob thanked Jim for his willingness to help, and Mark Anderson has also agreed to be involved. Patty asked Jim to qualify cars, and then act as a judge. Jim was asked to bring a watch with a second hand, and binoculars. Patty is looking for another qualifier, may ask Mark. Bob will get Mark to call Patty. Flaggers are in place. Patty to look for red flags in the Gold West storeroom with Dave's help. Patty to make flags if they cannot be found, Dave to get the dowls. Bob spoke about how the 2 flags, black and red, will help get the attention of the drivers. Discussion followed on using tennis balls, water balloons or water guns to get the drivers attention. Next Demo Derby Committee meeting will be next Thursday, Dave to check with Jan first, if not convenient then it will be held on Tuesday or Wednesday. Jim wants to be involved, so Dave will call him before the day. Dave said Marty had said the trophies will be ready on Friday the 12th, Patty offered to pick them up in Butte. Dave to check next week with

Marty to confirm.

- **Grant-Kohrs Ranch Report** – Bob had received an email offering funding assistance with advertising the Pumpkin Sunday event, but since the Chamber is not a Non-Profit 501c we do not qualify, nor does the Ranch. Bob suggested to Betty that the Draft Horse Expo apply, they will be able to make good use of advertising outside the 100 mile area.

- Laura said visitors were down by 9%, the mosquitoes are horrible which may be putting people off. 126 family descendants were at the Ranch, a very successful visit. Many expressed a wish to return. Sales were up 100%, totally unexpected, due to changes in their product line, including T-shirts, beef jerky, coffee, etc. The last of the youth programs is coming up this month, a horsemanship class. The G-K Ranch will be in the Fair Parade, then hosting some of the MT Academy of Living History classes and the campfire event. Con Warren will be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

- **Old Montana Prisons** – Julia said although visitor numbers for mid July were up a little bit, retail sales were down. The 4th July event had around 300 people, very successful. For the August events, the yard sale has been put off till September. Museum Appreciation Day will be Friday 19th August, with the drawing for the rifle raffle the same day. The Museum is planning to do something on the weekend of the Draft Horse Expo. Julia is very pleased with the way this year has gone so far. Montana Shakespeare in the Park last Monday night was very well received, about 70 people, with the majority from out of town.

- **Draft Horse Expo** – Betty said the sponsor's banner, similar to the one that the Chamber had for Territorial Days, was going ahead with Linda's help from Lickety Print. Instead of trophies, prizes will be more cash based to offset the high costs of exhibitors traveling to the event. Judges and steward are in place, their next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th. Six 6-horse hitches lined up.

- **Other Business** – Laura mentioned a number of accidents that have taken place outside the entrance to the ranch. She asked for the Chambers support for her campaign to get the speed limit decreased, from 45mph to 25 or 30mph. Tina made a motion to support the request for a decrease in the speed limit, seconded by Cass. Motion passed.

- Cass said bookings at the KOA were down this year, Tina said at the MRC that visits were up, but sales were down.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by T, seconded by Julia. Meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.