

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

Minutes are from the December 8th, 2011 meeting held at 12 noon at the Broken Arrow Steakhouse.

Those present: Bob Toole, Dave Williams, Donna Galbraith, Julia Brewer, Marge Bloomquist, Therese Hunt, Jim Cameron, Tina Schowengerdt.
Also present: Laura Rotegard, Shirley Cortright.

Bob called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.

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

- **Secretary's Report** – Chamber Membership stands at 25 renewals for 2012, 4 being new businesses. Inquiries up by 1 at 48 total, 32 phone, 9 email and 7 office visits. Four relocation packs mailed out in November. Website statistics were 43,706 hits (down 8,051), 13,120 page views (down 1,342), 4,407 unique visitors (-) and 314 pdf/doc downloads (down 117).

PayPal account was debited \$19 for mailing Relocation packs.

The chamber had receive a letter from the Powell County High School notifying us of the 2012 scholarships, due by March 1st. Discussion followed on whether or not the Chamber will participate this year, and it was decided to table it and revisit in a future meeting.

Mark Anderson asked for the Chamber members to be advised that The Deer Lodge Medical Center has a Grand Opening next Wednesday at 3 to 6 pm, everyone invited to attend.

- **Chamber Awards Banquet Report** – Bob gave an overview, 114 tickets sold, 7 free, total of 121 out of 125 available. Income and expense report was handed around to the members. Laura apologized for not attending due to another 'must attend' event.

- **Christmas Stroll Report** – Bob announced figures, including 868 buttons sold to date, same as by the end of last year. Main cost was the button making machine, new button parts were required to operate on the Badge-A-Minit machine. The large C-9 bulbs are now difficult to obtain, more expensive. Nearly 200 were replaced. Rope lights on the posts were dead, new strings purchased to replace them. LED, so less expensive to operate. \$325 total cost for all of the lights, which comes out of the donation part of earmarked funds. A decision needs to be made in the future with a cost effective alternative for the lights. Patty is looking for a cheaper alternative for the buttons. The Income and Expense report was handed around.

Steve Owens reported to Bob that 148 people toured the Rialto, raising over \$400 in donations. Wild Iris had a fabulous day, Keystone was better than OK, Randy at Steele's had over 250 people. Other businesses reported good numbers. 51 people filled out a form about the Library at the river radio ranch. The Stroll was up against 3 big State ball games, basketball at 1 pm. Movie had low numbers, 6 on Friday night, and Jim Carey's 'The Christmas Carol' frightened everyone out on Saturday. Thanks given to the Prison for hosting, Gary Swant and John Snell for showing the movie, and Patty and her friends for chaperoning.

- **Old Montana Prisons Report** – Julie reported that Friday's numbers were down, 50 kids for Santa, down by 100 at the Festival. Really disappointed. Bob had heard that they were 50% down in Butte. Shirley said the Anaconda numbers were also down on last year. Marge said that too many people had events running on Friday night, taking away from each other. The businesses and merchants need to co-operate, the Elks, Shriners, etc. The economy also affected numbers.

- **Grant-Kohrs Ranch Report** – Laura reported that their Sunday numbers were double over last year, people came from all over the State. Sunday seems to work, but may be difficult for local merchants to open on Sunday. 75% of visitors asked were on their first time visit, they had 350 people. Changing from local, repeat visitors to new visitors from out of town. Weather was good, and no tournaments up against the event. Marge reported only 5 people visited Territorial Antiques, and she had

live music in the store from 2 till 7. The Prison did not have many visitors during the Stroll. On Friday, Julie said she saw a lot of local's that she hadn't seen there before.

- **Christmas Stroll Ideas** - More discussion followed about the stroll, with some ideas including a bingo card with their button, each business had a number. A full card would win a prize, one for a child and one for an adult, awarded at the Christmas Tree. Bon fire on Main Street, Live mannequins in stores, the Acapella singers (group of 16, can perform free for charity events) at an indoor venue (Rialto?) High School choir to attract their families to watch, Cheerleaders in the stores, singers, Church Choirs. For the Parade of Lights Julie was disappointed that the Boy Scouts and other organizations did not participate, and suggested the Chamber had a float leading the Parade. Next year the Museums to do several, smaller floats. T was also sad that the organizations didn't show up.

- **Board of Directors Election** – Julia, Tina were re-elected, and Daryl Barton was elected, Donna not re-elected but will continue to come to the meetings. Acknowledgement to Donna for her commitment to the Board.

- **Other Business** – Tina expressed that she hopes she'll be able to help the Parade next year. Discussion on maybe pushing the organizations to take part in the Parade when giving sponsorship and donations.

Donna said that a letter will be needed to add the new Treasurer to the Bank account signature card. New officers will be elected the first board meeting of 2012, Thursday 5th January.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was proposed by Tina, seconded by Marge. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.