

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

Minutes are from the January 16, 2015 meeting held at 12 noon at the Broken Arrow Steakhouse.

Those present: Bob Toole, Therese Hunt, Linda Spaulding, Rocky Wozny, Julie Schroder, Marge Bloomquist and Dave Williams.

Also present: John Zurak, Jacque Lavelle and Sarah Bannon

Bob called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm

T made a motion to accept the minutes for November 2014 and December 2014 as presented, seconded by Rocky. Motion carried.

Bob had received a letter of resignation from Patty Cowan, effective immediately.

- Election of Officers – Linda Spaulding, Rocky Wozny and Julie Schroder were unanimously elected to the board by the Chamber Members for 2015 for 3 year terms.

President – T nominated Bob Toole, seconded by Rocky. No further nominations. All board members voted yes, motion carried, Bob Toole continues as President of the Chamber

Vice-President – Marge nominated Therese Hunt, seconded by Rocky. No further nominations. All board members voted yes, motion carried, Therese Hunt continues as Vice-President of the Chamber

Secretary – Marge nominated Linda Spaulding, seconded by T. No further nominations. All board members voted yes, motion carried. Linda Spaulding continues in the position of Secretary of the Chamber.

Treasurer – Linda nominated Julie Schroder, seconded by T. No further nominations. All board members voted yes, motion carried, Julie Schroder is the new Treasurer of the Chamber.

- By Laws – Bob has been researching Roberts Rules, and recommends amendment to the Chamber By-Laws. A written proposal was handed to board members, with the Board of Directors being reduced from nine to seven members. This will be easier for a quorum (4) to be met for each meeting. Discussion followed, and a decision will be voted on next month.

- Secretary's Report – Dave reported membership for 2015 stands at 40, in line with this date last year. Inquiries were down 10 to 28, 11 phone calls, 10 emails and 7 office visits. No mail outs. Website statistics were down at 930,216 hits (-139,490), 894,045 page views (-144,565) and 19,816 unique visitors (+452). 253 pdfs were downloaded (-467). Over 146,000 unique visitors to the website for 2014. Most visitors came from the US, then China, Ukraine, France and Canada.

High School Scholarships are due March 1st, discussion followed and it was decided that the Chamber would not take part this year. Membership to the Powell County Museum & Arts Foundation is due at \$50 per annum. Rocky proposed a motion to join for 2015, Linda seconded. Motion passed.

The Governor's Conference on Tourism is in Helena from March 22nd till 24th. \$140 registration fee before March 1st plus accommodation and extra hours.. Overall cost will be between \$400 and \$550. Bob asked Dave if the Museums will be willing to help cover the cost of sending Dave to the Conference as they had offered to last year. Dave will report back to the board next month.

Paul Babb of NorthWestern Energy confirmed that they will sponsor the Demo Derby and Parade of Lights for 2015 for \$500 each event. He will get a check to us shortly. NWE have community sponsorships in place for all non-profits to request funding.

- Main Street Flowers – Cost \$2000 last year, from Eastside Greenhouse. Some funding is donated to the Chamber from members and Rotary, covering approx. half the cost. Bob asked Ron Scharf whether he would be able to arrange watering for us this year, and he said he would. T was asked to approach Lynette King and Ed Hebbe for quotes, and Julie agreed to assist if required.

- Territorial Days – Rocky said he will have something to report next month. The Tina Schowerngerdt Memorial Barrel Race will be the same weekend. Mike Grey has said he will talk to Scotty

at Scotty's Bar about the bike rally setting off after the parade this year. Try to coordinate all events to work together, invite other organizations to our meeting.

–**Christmas Stroll and Parade** – Rocky covered the cost of the trophies by donations from himself and the banks. Rocky spoke about trying to get the youth board, school groups and music involved this year in the parade. Also suggested starting the stroll later and park the parade floats along Main Street and have the public vote on the winners.

–**Other Business** – ‘First Dollar’ given by the Chamber to new businesses starting up. Linda will look into the cost.

- **Grant-Kohrs Ranch** – Jacque said the Holiday Open House was extremely successful, over 300 people, highest turn-out in the past 5 years. Visitors for 2014 were over 20,000, up 9%. Glacier and Yellowstone were up 30%. New rest rooms and a new exhibit area in the old Forest Service building.

- **Old Prison Museums** – Old Prison and Car Museums open daily from 10 am till 4 pm

- **Job Service** – John said that there will be a Job Fair in March in Butte. 40 companies expected, veterans allowed in an hour before everyone else.

–**Other Business** – Rocky suggested that maybe at our first meeting of the year we invite other organizations that have events, so everyone works together and there are no conflicts. Michael Blakely was suggested as a contact since he is involved in a lot of events.

T moved for the Meeting to be adjourned, Marge seconded. Motion passed and meeting adjourned at 1:17 pm