POWELL COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Minutes are from the November 8th, 2012 meeting held at 12 noon at the Broken Arrow Steakhouse.

Those present: Bob Toole, Dave Williams, Julia Brewer, Jim Cameron, Therese Hunt, Tina

Schowengerdt, Darryl Barton

Also present: Travis Paulsen, Donna Galbraith and Sarah Bannon.

Bob called the meeting to order at 12:11 pm

A motion to accept the minutes for September and October as presented was made by T and seconded by Tina. Motion carried.

- Secretary's Report – Chamber membership stands at 81, with 3 new members signed up or intending to due to Christmas Cash (Today's Image, The Chicken House and Military Surplus Store). Inquiries were down 35 last month at 53 total, 22 Phone, 7 Email and 24 Office Visits. No Packs mailed out. Website hits were up overall, with 59,701 hits (+2,582), 19,450 page views (+1,538) and 6,026 unique visits (+1,126). PDF downloads were 721, down 14.

Received a notification from GoDaddy, our web host, that they will be stopping their analytics package from December 20th this year. Dave will investigate to see what alternatives are available, and report back.

- Chamber Banquet Bob said tickets are out, Valley Foods has them, Tuesday night 6pm for 7pm. Bob passed around posters. Bob and Jan have been calling around to let our businesses know and getting the posters out. Tickets are \$25 each. Mary Ann Frayley will be speaking about the State of the City. Jan will do the 50/50, and Dave will check people in and take tickets.
- Christmas Stroll Tina said she had gotten a hold of High School and they will participate in the parade, plus one or two others have confirmed. The HS choir said they will perform during the stroll. Discussion followed on the best time for the choir. 5:30 pm to 6 pm was suggested. Inside if it's cold (New To You?). Steeles said they would do a float, HS, Prison Museum, Girl Scouts, MRC. Discussions followed about the Chamber doing a float. Maybe a banner at the front of the Parade, to let the town know we put it on. Dave will look to see if we have a suitable banner or sign, and Tina will get one printed by her beverage suppliers if not. Tina talked about trophies or gift certificates. Dave said no one cashed in the certificates from last year. Tina made a motion to give out trophies instead of certificates, seconded by Julia. Motion carried. Tina will order the trophies. Tina asked Jim if the Cutler brothers could do a float and Jim said they would. Julia asked Travis about Grant-Kohrs Ranch taking part in the parade. Travis said there had been a problem in a previous year when a staff member was injured, when they had a horse pull the float. It was suggested not to use a horse, and Travis will look into it. Parade will form on Cottonwood, same as last year. This years Theme is 'Christmas Bling', anything that sparkles including lights. Starts at 6 pm, meet at 5:30 pm. Dave will print out the numbers and get them out to the businesses on Saturday before the start of the stroll. Dave showed an example of the button design. Discussion followed on the number of buttons to be made. Dave suggested 800, and more can be made if required, maximum 1000. Bob spoke about the high expenses last year, due to button problems, and light replacement. The Chamber spends \$1200 on advertising, plus \$300 from the banks. \$750 spent on the radio, \$750 with the paper. Dave said we will have enough button parts, so no extra expense this year. Julia said we should not cut back on the advertising, agreed by Jim. T handed out an example of the poster. Bob said the movie will be Friday at 7:30 pm and Saturday at 2 pm. Steve Owens is looking for something that is low cost. A new expense, cost \$200 in the past, but sponsors should cover the cost. Julia said Lem, Santa from last year, will do the Festival from 5 pm till 7 pm, and he will probably do the Stroll and Parade also. T said he did a great job for us last year, handing out candy bought by the Chamber. Dave said he received a \$25 Chamber Certificate. Tina will ask Lem, and put him on the Grant-Kohrs float at the end, or talk to the Fire Dept. Bob will take care of the road closing, and the lights and street banner will be done by JR from the City and Bob from NWE. T asked how many

posters, same price for large and small. Lickety Print donates half the cost. Start with 50, 25 of each. Chamber draw for certificates is at 3:30 pm at Greany's and after the lighting of the tree at 7 pm. Julia will take the lead on the Chamber float or banner.

- **Grant-Kohrs Ranch** Travis said that Pumpkin Sunday was a huge success, only one injury when a kid got bitten by a horse. 2200 people. Construction is coming along, things are being moved back into the buildings and the Ranch House will be ready for the Holiday Open House on December 2nd.
- Other Business Bob introduced Sarah Bannen from Gold West, now South West Montana tourist region. Sarah spoke about how the tourist region is financed by the bed tax, and the name change. In a future meeting Sarah will talk about the new finance help available next year, for Visitor Center and technology costs. Sarah will pass the info out once its available from the MT Office of Tourism. A new travel guide will be out in February, more being printed next year since they ran out of travel guides this year. Sarah spoke about Philipsburg having two page ads in the guide, asking for 2 more pages. The Old Prison has a full page ad, helping this area. The State has removed all advertising and listings in their guide, forcing everyone to go online.

Bob had received a letter from Headwaters asking for support for a grant for an engineering study for the Blue Ribbon Pavilion. Propose a catering kitchen, bathroom and shower facilities. This will increase use of the facilities and benefit businesses in Deer Lodge and Powell County. Deer Lodge has lost events in the past due to insufficient amenities at the fairgrounds. Julia made a motion to support the study. Jim seconded. Motion passed.

Tina mentioned the large number of second hand stores in Deer Lodge, and thought we should capitalize on it. To build on this, spend more time in Deer lodge. Something to think about.

Jim made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tina. The meeting was adjourned at 1:04 p.m.