

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

Minutes are from the April 7th, 2011 meeting held at 12 noon at the Broken Arrow Steakhouse.

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

Also present: Julie Croglia and Mark Anderson.

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

Patty made a motion to accept the minutes for March, seconded by Donna. Motion passed.

- **Secretary's Report** – Chamber Membership stands at 75. Inquiries up by 23 at 56 total, 35 phone, 5 email and 16 office visits. Mailed out 4 Visitor packs. Website statistics were 49,885 hits, 12,355 page views, 4,091 unique visitors and 448 pdf/doc downloads.

Paypal account, one mailing this month. Territorial Day mailings have been sent out, 60 Jaywalkers Jamboree vendor forms, and 95 Rod Run forms. One vendor already signed up. Printer supplies need to be ordered, quotes from Staples, Copier Dr. and John Snell. John is lowest at \$435. It was suggested that Dave get quotes for refilled cartridges. Julie motioned that we go ahead and order refilled cartridges. Patty seconded, motion carried.

Approval has been received for the 50/50 funds from Gold West for the printing, distribution and mailing of the Deer Lodge Brochure. Certified Folder quotes at \$1194.53 for our half. Patty made a motion to approve payment of the co-op funds to include distribution and printing. Jim seconded. Motion carried.

MT office of Tourism are running an advertising campaign for their 'Get Lost in Montana' website. Smaller communities have been given the opportunity to promote their towns on the website. For \$200 Deer Lodge will receive 66,000 banner ads to link to stories about what to eat, do and see in Deer Lodge. Bob and Patty spoke about this being a great deal for Deer Lodge. Jim made a motion to pay the \$200 for this campaign, Donna seconded. Motion carried.

The Silver State Post will be publishing a new phone book covering Powell County, ads on the front page are \$150, \$75 inside pages for a 2" x 2" ad. Discussion followed where it was decided not to advertise.

Howard Skjervem from NorthWestern Energy had visited the office and offered to help sponsor with the Chamber. Suggestion that, depending on the amount on offer, Territorial Day Trophy, Demo Derby Trophy or Arrowstone Sign. Bob asked to attend, with other board members, at next meeting with Howard.

SuperHost training is being offered to Deer Lodge, free of any charge. Discussion followed on the merits and drawbacks of the training. Patty suggested Dave contact Becky, the trainer, and get dates and a packet together to present to the local restaurants, motels, etc. Jim suggested we offer a free lunch, and Julia agreed. Cass suggested giving out 'Ask Me' buttons for the attendees.

Bill Holt from Carson Barnes circus called earlier today, he is looking for sponsors for the circus which will be in Deer Lodge on 11th July. Discussion followed, and it was agreed to pass on the offer to sponsor.

- **Tourism Conference Report** – Patty reported that it was great conference, good information available. Patty spoke about the Website talk being the most interesting. Mountain biking and hiking are the number one interest. Not enough info about the trails around Deer Lodge. Dave spoke about being approached to build a website for the City, and they want to put info on their website about the Deer Lodge trails.

- **Chamber billboard project** –Therese had spoken with Mike from Tillo Graphics in Butte, and he wants some ideas, including photos. T suggested one photo, with 'Welcome to Deer Lodge' and the website along the bottom. Donna suggested we whitewash the sign until the banner is available. T said it shouldn't be too long before the banner is available.

- **2011 Territorial Day** – T offered to chair the committee, a meeting will be needed soon. Donna, Julie, Marge and Cass on the committee. Jim was asked to fill in the form for Boot Camp to clean up afterwards, and he agreed. Bob is looking at locating a band. Texaco is sponsoring the Country Showdown. Patty offered to be a judge.

- **County Property Taxes** – Discussion followed on the Chambers obligation for the property taxes. Julia explained that the Museum Foundation has been in a long running discussion with the County to exempt the building that the Chamber office is located in from taxes.

- **Grant-Kohrs Ranch Report** - Julie said the ranch is ready for summer season. Julie will inform the Chamber of the numbers of pumpkins needed for Pumpkin Sunday, and cost for this year.

- **Old Prison Museums Report** – Julia said the museums will be open 7 days a week from May 16th, 8am till 6pm.

Motion to end meeting proposed by Julia, seconded by Marge.

Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.