

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

Minutes are from the April 5th, 2012 meeting held at 12 noon at the Broken Arrow Steakhouse.

Those present: Bob Toole, Dave Williams, Julia Brewer, Marge Bloomquist, Therese Hunt, Tina Schowengerdt.

Also present: Donna Galbraith, Julie Croglia, Shannon Nielsen (Clark Fork Vet) and Shirley Cortright.

The meeting was started at 12:15 p.m.

- **Adoption of Minutes** – Since a quorum of Directors was not present the Minutes will be brought to next months meeting for adoption.

- **Grant-Kohrs Ranch** – Julie reported that March figures were up 14%, up 11% on the year. Construction is ongoing, still open but the main Ranch House closed until mid summer. Other Summer programs as usual, and new programs planed. April 21<sup>st</sup> is Junior Ranger Day, 10 am till 2 pm, theme is ‘Picture Yourself in a National Park’ with a Treasure Hunt for kids. Project Money has been provided to incorporate audio into the bunkhouse exhibit. The Range Tech position has been filed, working with livestock. Wagon Tours at least during the weekends this summer.

- **Old Prison Museums** – Julia reported numbers were up for March by about 9%. In the Prison Yard on Saturday April 7<sup>th</sup> is the Easter Egg Hunt, run by the Elks, at 10 am sharp. New Exhibits set up in the Museums, and the Art Gallery exhibit this year is ‘Women In Rodeo’. On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, ‘Cold Hard Cash’ will be performing in the Prison Yard. Planning more events such as Ghost Tours. A new exhibits area will be opening at the Old Wardens House, Territorial Antiques, in the Sun Room. Summer Hours come into effect on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

- **Secretary’s Report** – The Governor’s Conference is next week, April 11<sup>th</sup> till 13<sup>th</sup> in Great Falls. Dave has reserved a room at the Motel 6 for 2 nights at a cost of approx. \$130. Thanks to Sarah Bannon at Gold West Country, the chamber registration fee has been waived, and there will be no transport costs to Great Falls. Dave requested some funds for 3 meals that are not covered at the Conference, plus 6 hours extra wages to cover the hours that Dave will miss working at the Old Prison Museums. Board members were in favor of Dave going to the Conference. Chamber Membership stands at 73. Inquiries up by 42 at 76 total, 30 phone, 10 email and 36 office visits. Three Visitor Packs mailed out in March. Website statistics were 64,851 hits (up 16,695), 19,180 page views (up 4,193), 5,445 unique visitors (up 501) and 783 pdf/doc downloads (up 366). Bob mentioned that Grant, loan officer at the bank, had mentioned visiting our website and being impressed with the information we had available to visitors. Dave had registered a new domain name, [www.deerlodgemt.info](http://www.deerlodgemt.info), for \$3.17 for the year. It points to our regular website at present.

- **Mural** – Ron Scharf introduced his Daughter in Law Ruth to talk about a proposal to paint a mural on the wall alongside the Corner Bar. Bob had spoken with the owner of the building, Bernard, and gotten his permission, and the City is also in favor of the project. Ruthellen Ruppel, a teacher at Butte High and working on her Masters Degree of Fine Arts at UM, presented artwork with her ideas for the mural. The cost would be about \$600 for paint and supplies and hire of a lift, with Ruth donating her time and artwork to the project. It would take about a week to finish. Ron had spoken with Cheryl Rosling at the Insurance company and been assured that a rider would be need on his or the Chambers policy, at no extra charge. Ron had suggested that there were other options if the Chamber was unwilling to cover the costs. Bob talked to the board members about whether or not the Chamber should fund the project. Ron and Ruth left the meeting and discussion followed on the Chamber’s possible role in supporting the Mural. It was suggested that the Chamber could cover a portion of the costs, with others paying the remaining portion. This would enable the Chamber to have an input on the look of the

Mural. Bob asked the board members present how they wanted to go forward, and they all agreed not to fund the mural. Bob will speak with Ron after the meeting.

- **Territorial Days** – T asked for a meeting, Tuesday 5 pm at the Chamber Office. Dave to call everyone who asked to be involved.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.