

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

Minutes are from the December 6th, 2012 meeting held at 12 noon at the Broken Arrow Steakhouse.

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

Also present: Travis Paulsen and Donna Galbraith.

Bob called the meeting to order at 12:07 pm

A motion to accept the minutes for November as presented was made by T and seconded by Marge. Motion carried.

- **Secretary's Report** – Chamber membership renewal forms have been mailed out, to date we have 11 renewals for 2013, plus 5 new members signed up (Today's Image, The Chicken House, Montana Massage, Mountain View Towing and Cutler Brothers Productions). Inquiries were down 16 last month at 37 total, 20 Phone, 10 Email and 7 Office Visits. One Relocation Pack mailed out. Website hits were up overall, with 59,859 hits (+158), 21,605 page views (+2,155) and 5,311 unique visits (-715). PDF downloads were 809, up 88.

Our contract with GoDaddy, our web host, expires on 17th February 2013, so Dave recommended we look to change our website host next February. Dave will report back next month.

- **Chamber Banquet** – Came out with a small profit overall, 74 tickets sold, plus 5 free tickets. Lower numbers owing to sickness at Sun Mountain, but still a very good evening with a variety of award winners.

- **Christmas Stroll** – Early numbers show 910 buttons made, all sold out. Santa's visit on Friday had a few issues that were successfully solved. Kathleen McNally at City Hall will organize the run of the Fire Truck in future years. Julia spoke about Friday's Christmas Festival, a huge success, more people than previous several years. Gave away the car to someone from Junction City, Oregon. Raised money for the Museums through sales of table decorations, etc.

Bob spoke about the free movie, had received some comments on the low numbers of 150 kids present each showing. Out of the habit of being able to use the Rialto at Christmas. Santa used to be at City Hall on the Friday, but not for many years. Bob said 'The Chicken House' had run out of supplies both nights after the movie. Wild Iris had a terrific day, Dan Steele impressed with numbers. Not many at Territorial Antiques owing to their position away from the main drag. Biggest crowd in many years at Greany's at 3:30 pm. Bob wanted to make a note that Lem, as Santa, had performed a terrific job, echoed around the room. Parade was wonderful, a great turn out, thanks to Tina for organizing it. The mild weather helped the numbers, plus no ball games during the day. A few of the organizations that had said they would take part in the parade didn't follow through. (Cutler Brothers, the High School, Girl Scouts). No High School choir performed, but singing was heard outside the Rialto. Ran out of time for getting a Chamber Banner. Trophies are now available from MRC. Keystone Drug was 1st, Clark Fork 4-H was 2nd, and Lickety Print was 3rd. Honorable mention to the Grant-Kohrs Ranch and Old Prison Museums.

- **Christmas Cash** – Donna said that 1st Security's numbers were up, out of \$50 bills, had to order more this week. Tom will be talking to Kirk. Too many smaller bills. Donna said there should be an easier way of getting larger bills for large purchases. Possibly issue checks for specific amounts. The banks need to get together for next year.

- **Grant-Kohrs Ranch** – Travis spoke about the Victorian Open House. Construction was nearing completion, and thanks to the staff the open house was a great success, 310 people. Inclement weather did not put people off. Took part in the Parade on Saturday, the Chamber thanked the Ranch Staff for their participation. Taking a bit of a break after recent events, hoping numbers will increase after all of the construction this year. Someone will replace Travis in January, Travis can only be in the position for 120 days. Permanent position tied up with the Feds. Travis expressed an interest in taking up the

position permanently. Has enjoyed living and working in Deer Lodge with a great staff at the Ranch.

- Old Prison Museums – The Haunted House was a success, over 1200 people over 2 nights. Motel benefitted from people visiting and staying overnight. Closing for the Winter Season after December 9th, taking on a large project, the World's largest Raggedy Ann and Andy doll collection will be arriving at Yesterday's Playthings. Lots of modifications need to be made to the Museum to accommodate the collection. Re-opening March 9th 2013. The Raffle Car for 2013 is a D Code 1964 1/2 Mustang, with a 289. A metallic blue with roll bar. From a donor in Livingston, MT. Julia made a formal request that the Chamber support the Museum through dealing with the City on a SID (Special Improvement District, Lighting District) assessment. Asking for a different form of assessment due to the economic impact the Museum has on the City. Requesting the Chamber writes a letter to the City outlining the positive impact the Museums have on the economy of the City of Deer Lodge, and what this would mean if they had to close. 3.5 million visitors since 1984, 42,000 visitors in 2012. Employ's 15 personnel during the summer. Marge made a motion for the Chamber to write a letter supporting the Museums, and that it is crucial for the local economy. Seconded by T. Motion carried. Bob will construct a letter with Julia.

- Other Business – We heard that at least 60 people took part in the Holiday Home Tour organized by the Deer Lodge Development Group on Sunday. Kayo Fraser had been shooting a video of the Christmas Events.

Shirley from Job Service passed on a message via Bob that the minimum wage goes up in January. Poster are available direct from Shirley, call 563-3444. Do NOT pay for these posters, they are FREE. Unemployment costs are coming down. Seminar coming up in Anaconda.

Daryl mentioned the benefit for the Library tonight, starts at 7 pm at the Grade School, Chilli and Cinnamon Rolls. Put on by Rotary. \$8 for adults, \$5 for kids.

Tina spoke about an idea she had, she has emailed 'Family Dollar' to set up in Deer Lodge. Once J&J Variety and Greany's have gone, nowhere for locals to buy many smaller items in Deer Lodge. Tina will report back on any response.

Julia mentioned the Pop-Up stores setting up in Butte. The Butte Chamber letting businesses set up during the Summer. Some resistance by other businesses. To be discussed at a future meeting.

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