

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

Minutes are from the January 13th, 2011 meeting held at 12 noon at the Broken Arrow Steakhouse.

Those present: Bob Toole, Dave Williams, Cass Cahill, Therese Hunt, Marge Bloomquist, Jim Cameron, Patty Cowan, Donna Galbraith and Julie Brewer,
Also present: Laura Rotegard, Shirley Cortright and Mark Anderson.

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

Therese made a motion to adopt the minutes for December, seconded by Marge. Motion passed.

-Secretary's Report – Betty Hadley wished to convey her thanks to the Chambers for their support for the Draft Horse Expo.

Christmas Stroll Income and Expense report was handed out to the board members.

Chamber membership renewals for 2011 stand at 50. Office inquiries totaled 20, 11 by phone, 8 email and 1 visit. 2 Visitor packs had been mailed out. Website visits up by 684 on November at 39,522. Patty asked if our website statistics allow us to track popular pages. Patty said the board voted some time ago to update the package from GoDaddy. Dave to check on this option.

Dave has been working on the Deer Lodge brochure design, and has quotes in for the printing and distribution costs. 4 responses for printing so far, from \$3,560 for 30,000 to just over \$5,000 for 50,000 copies. 50% matching fees for printing and distribution are available from Gold West. Certified Folder has sent a quote for distribution, including the Yellowstone area. Some changes have been made, Patty said extra charges will apply if the brochure has been changed greatly from last time. Bob suggested Patty work with Dave next week on the brochure. Laura also offered to assist with the wording about the Ranch, and to supply a different photo.

Dave read out a letter from the High School regarding scholarships. Historically, the Chamber has not sponsored the HS scholarships. Discussion followed, Jim made a motion for the Chamber to sponsor for \$100, Julie seconded. Motion passed.

A group, headed by the Helena Chamber, has set up the Strategic Alliance of Montana Chambers (SAMC), to try to lower Workers Compensation Rates for business members. Discussion followed on whether the Chamber wishes to join the alliance. It was decided to err on the side of caution, and not join.

In order to receive membership dues from Grant-Kohrs Ranch in the future, the Chamber needs to sign up with the Accounting Operations Center, since checks will no longer be issued. Permission was granted for Dave to complete the application process and pass on bank account details.

Dave requested permission to be added to the Bank Account signature card. Donna outlined the procedure for adding a new signature to the bank account. Donna, Bob, and Patty wished to remain on the account. Julie made a motion to add Dave to the Chamber's account, Marge 2nd. Motion passed

The office computer is showing signs of age, especially the CRT monitor. Dave requested permission to invest in a new system, and was asked to investigate the costs of upgrading or buying a new computer system.

-Board of Directors - Election of Officers

President: Bob nominated by Patty, 2nd by T.

Bob Toole elected as President.

Vice President: T nominated by Marge, 2nd by Julie.

Therese Hunt elected as Vice President.

Secretary: Patty nominated by Cass, 2nd by Marge.

Patty Cowan elected as Secretary.

Treasurer: Donna nominated by Julie, 2nd by T.

Donna Galbraith elected as Treasurer.

-Christmas Stroll Report – Since Tina was not present, it was agreed that the Stroll report be held off until next month's meeting.

- New Banners on Main Street – At a recent Women's Club meeting, Cass had been asked by the Mayor about the possibility of the Chamber donating some funds to help towards the cost of renewing the banners on Main Street. The Women's Club had already donated \$500. Discussion followed, and it was mentioned that the City does not contribute financially with the cost of Main Street beautification, the flowers, trees and Christmas Lights. Dave produced figures that showed the Chamber spent over \$4,300 on the flower baskets alone for the last two years. It was suggested that a grant may be available to help the City fund the cost, possibly from Gold West. It was agreed to hold off making any decision until next month.

-Grant-Kohrs Ranch Report – Laura reported numbers were up 86% in December, high numbers at the Holiday Open House, approx. 300. The ACappella singers were well received, and are expected to return. Budget is in congress, and cuts are expected. Over 22,000 visitors in 2010, advertising targeted in Yellowstone and Glacier. Laura thanked the Chamber for their support throughout the year

- Old Prison Museums Report - Julie reported a record turnout for the Christmas Festival. The Raffle car was won by a gentleman from Ohio, he will pick up his vehicle this Spring. Ticket bought at a car show in P'Burg. Museums closed to visitors on December 12th, re-opening on March 2nd. The Gift Shop is going to be re-done, plus more general maintenance. The Wardens House has a target opening date of April 1st when it will become available for rent or for special events. The PCMAF is going after some big grants this year in order to get more work done, including Haas Park. The PCMAF Annual Business Meeting is next Tuesday night, 18th January at the Pen, speaker is Milt Clark of the Milwaukee Road Historical Association. Julie spoke with optimism about the Museums prospects for 2011. Visitor numbers for 2010 were at 36,000, holding steady from the last few years. Retail is struggling, like everyone else.

-Other Business – Shirley from the Job Service had copies of the new Minimum Wage posters. The Job Service Employers Committee is an advisory body to help businesses in general. The Safety Writer Workshop is being run again this year, it aims to help businesses lower their Workers Comp rates by putting together a Safety Plan. JSEC wishes to know if the Chamber will help set-up the workshop in Deer Lodge, in conjunction with a general meeting to give businesses more info on how the Job Service can help them. WiFi will be required in the meeting room. Discussion followed and Julie offered to assist Shirley.

Motion to end meeting proposed by Therese, seconded by Patty.

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