

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

Minutes are from the January 19th, 2012 meeting held at 12 noon at the Broken Arrow Steakhouse.

Those present: Bob Toole, Dave Williams, Patty Cowan, Julia Brewer, Therese Hunt, Jim Cameron, Cass Cahill, Darryl Barton.

Also present: Laura Rotegard

Bob called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m. and welcomed new Board Member Darryl Barton, speaking about Darryl's involvement in the community.

- **Adoption of Minutes** – A motion to adopt the minutes as presented was made by Therese, seconded by Patty. The motion was passed.

- **Secretary's Report** – Chamber Membership stands at 34 renewals for 2012. Inquiries down by 18 at 30 total, 18 phone, 7 email and 5 office visits. Two relocation packs mailed out in December. Website statistics were 46,608 hits (up 2,902), 15,984 page views (up 2,864), 5,114 unique visitors (up 707) and 370 pdf/doc downloads (up 56). A sheet of the complete numbers for 2011 was made available. Dave asked the board if they wished to go over the Powell County High School scholarship request for 2012. Discussion followed on whether or not the Chamber would participate this year. Cass made a motion that the Chamber repeats the scholarship for \$100, seconded by Julia. Motion passed.

An application has been submitted to Gold West for co-operative funding for brochure distribution. Certified Folders quote for 2012 was \$2436.42, a slight increase on 2011. The co-op funding covers 50% of this cost, plus 50% of shipping the brochures from the office to Visitor centers, etc. Applying for \$1345.71 from Gold West with the Chamber matching this amount.

New shelving units are required for the Chamber storage room at the back of the Gold West office. The existing plastic shelves have broken due to the weight of the brochures, maps, etc. Dave had quotes from ACE for \$255 for three metal units. Julia said that the Museum might have some shelving available in storage. Dave will get together with Julia to see if they have units available for use.

Dave said he would like to do a re-design of the Chamber website to make it more accessible via mobile devices, and refresh the look of the site as a whole. Asked for involvement from the Board, and Patty said she would be able to help, after the 1st week of next month. Dave would also like to register another domain name for the website, for instance deerlodgmt.info, a cost of \$10 per year.

On Saturday, Bob pushed the Chamber at the Livestock Seminar, hoping to sign up ranchers, Deer Lodge Conservation District, etc.

Information had been received on the GetLostMT.com ad campaign that the Chamber had participated in last year. The numbers of hits and click-throughs were high, the number of links to our website was only 32. Not necessarily the whole story, most clicks went to the getlost website where people could read about Deer Lodge and our stores, restaurants, etc. A similar scheme will run this summer, details will be bought to the Board when available.

- **Board of Directors Election** – Bob is the current president, T is the current Vice –President, Donna was Secretary and Patty is the current Treasurer.

Nominations open for the position of Chamber President. Julia nominated Bob Toole as President, seconded by T. Bob accepted the nomination. With no further suggestions, Patty closed the nominations. Voting was carried out, and Bob was re-elected Chamber President.

Nominations open for the position of Vice-President. Cass nominated Therese Hunt as Vice President, seconded by Julia. T accepted the nomination. With no further runners voting was carried out, and T was re-elected Chamber Vice-President.

Nominations open for the open position of Chamber Secretary. Julia nominated Darryl as Secretary, but Darryl declined at this time. Patty nominated Julia Brewer for Secretary, seconded by T. Julia accepted the nomination. With no further suggestions, voting was carried out, and Julia was elected Chamber

Secretary. Julia will need to be added to the Chamber Bank Account as a signatory.

Nominations open for the position of Chamber Treasurer. Julia nominated Patty Cowan for Treasurer, seconded by Cass. Patty accepted the nomination. With no further suggestions, voting was carried out, and Patty was elected Chamber Treasurer.

- **Other Business** – Bob spoke about the Chamber continuing to support and help work together with the Old Montana Prison and Grant-Kohrs Ranch. To create new events, etc. Work needs to be done on finding out why businesses are not members, and get more to join. Discussion followed, including mention of the Cowboy Hall of Fame. Deer Lodge cannot apply until if and when it is opened up for new applications. Laura said many singing cowboys want to perform here, maybe at the Rialto Theater.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was proposed by T, seconded by Julia. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.