

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

Minutes are from the January 17th, 2014 meeting held at 12 noon at the Broken Arrow Steakhouse.

Those present: Bob Toole, Jim Cameron, Dave Williams, Linda Spaulding, Therese Hunt, Marge Bloomquist, Rocky Wozny.

Also present: Jacque Lavelle, Sarah Bannon and Shirley Cortright.

Bob called the meeting to order at 12:12 pm

Shirley said that in reference to the Job Fair in Butte on May 14th, Veterans are being given preference, but it is open to all.

A motion to accept the minutes as presented for November 2013 was proposed by Marge and seconded by Linda. Motion carried.

A motion to accept the minutes as presented for December 2013 was proposed by Linda and seconded by Jim. Motion carried.

**- Election of Officers for 2014**

**President** – T nominated Bob Toole, seconded by Linda. No further nominations. All board members voted yes, motion carried, Bob Toole continues as president of the Chamber

**Vice-President** – Marge nominated Therese Hunt, seconded by Rocky. No further nominations. All board members voted yes, motion carried, Therese Hunt continues as vice-president of the Chamber

**Secretary** – Marge nominated Linda Spaulding, seconded by T. No further nominations. All board members voted yes, motion carried, Linda Spaulding takes the position of Secretary of the Chamber.

**Treasurer** – Bob had spoken with Patty and she was happy to stand for the position of Treasurer. Jim nominated Patty Cowan, seconded by Linda. No further nominations. All board members voted yes, motion carried, Patty Cowan continues as Treasurer of the Chamber.

Bob had spoken with Patty and they both thought it a good idea for her to carry out some auditing in the office over the next month or so. A motion for Patty Cowan to audit the books was made by Rocky, seconded by Jim. Motion carried.

**- Secretary's Report** – Dave reported that Chamber Membership stands at 53, with 7 new businesses signed up for 2014. Current dues are in line with last year's sign up rate. New members are Anaconda Chamber, Tina's House, Love & Logic Antiques, Olde Crow Primitives, Riverfront RV Park, Scrub Tub, and The Dinnerbell.

Inquiries were down 18 at 38 total. 21 phone calls, 10 emails and 7 office visits.

Mailed out 2 relocation packs and 1 visitor pack in December.

Website statistics: 51,593 hits (-2,487), 23,934 page views (-1,326), 4,089 unique visitors (+224) and 1014 pdfs downloaded (+873).

Total Web Stats for 2013: 667,991 Hits, 279,411 Page Views, 50,285 Unique Visitors and 4,468 pdfs downloaded. Actual figures would be higher due to changing web host in February, therefore incorrect figures for Jan and Feb for 2013

Coop funding application for the Deer Lodge Brochure in to SWMT. Lowest bid for Brochure Printing was from Lickety Print. Needs to be approved by the SWMT board and TAC (Tourism Advisory Council). Decision should be in by the end of February. Minor changes to the brochure will be covered 50% by SWMT to a limit of \$100 (quoted for 20 hours). Advertizing will stay at 25%, with matching funds and ad revenue, the printing cost for the Chamber will be a few hundred dollars, covering approx. 3 years of distribution.

DLDG were planning to host a MTOT workshop on Feb 20<sup>th</sup> in Deer Lodge, but this may be put off until later in the spring.

Require another Board Member to be on the Banks Signature list. Linda suggested T and she agreed

to be added to the signature list.

Dave will be out of the office at the end of the month for two days. The SWMT meeting in Butte is on Jan 30<sup>th</sup>, and Dave will be attending a retail trade fair in Billings on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> Jan for the Old Prison Gift Shop.

Kelly Rubink is bringing her Girl Scout troop to the Chamber on Tues. Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:15pm for a visit.

Sherrill Kraakmo from the DLDG is asking the Chamber to become members at \$100 per year. They have been a member of the Chamber since last year. Discussion followed and it was decided to table a decision for next month. Dave to ask Sherrill if we can maybe do a direct swop of memberships.

- **Old Montana Prison** – Dave reported that John O’Donnell is actively interviewing for the positions at the Museum, Director and Curator. A major restock of the Gift Shop is planned for this year, more Made in Montana and MCE products, local artisans and items.

- **Committees** – T said she would follow through on the Main Street Flowers. For Territorial Days, T said she and Heidi would chair the Committee this year. Rocky said he would help on Territorial Days and also head the Christmas Parade. Rocky spoke about working on getting a Logging event into Deer Lodge. He is focusing on attending the events in Darby. Any Deer Lodge event needs to be backed by the Lumber Mill.

Diana Solle has booked the Fairgrounds for the Territorial Days weekend for the Tina Schowengerdt Memorial Barrel Race event. Jim said the Cutler Brothers have a play on during that weekend, ‘Of Mice & Men’. Dave had been told by Sherrill from the DLDG that they are planning on holding the Nerf Wars in the Prison Yard again on Territorial Day. Jim spoke about the car part sales, maybe move the bouncy castle down by Darryl’s property opposite MRC.

Bob asked the Board to think on what they want the Chamber to do different this year, any changes, etc.

- **Grant-Kohrs Ranch** – Jacque said December was a rough month at the Ranch, cold weather affected visitation, down 39%. Numbers for the year were up 10% at 18,848 over 17,095 for 2012. Each of the Summer months were up on previous years. Planning a Barn Dance at the Ranch during the MT Academy of Living History and Draft Horse Expo. Good Sams club is involved, tractors bringing people over from the fairgrounds to the Barn in the lower yard. Free hotdogs and hamburgers.

- **Draft Horse Expo** – Bob reported that there will be an Expo meeting on Feb the 8<sup>th</sup>

-

- **Youth Board** – Sarah said that the Youth Board needs new board members

-

- **SouthWest Montana** – Sarah said the coop marketing will be discussed at their next meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup> in Butte. Ennis is running a pilot program for a Community Tourism Assessment Plan. Meets once a month, receive funding to run the program.

T made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Linda. Meeting was adjourned at 1:06 pm