

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

Minutes are from the March 6, 2015 meeting held at 12 noon at the Broken Arrow Steakhouse.

Those present: Bob Toole, Therese Hunt, Linda Spaulding, Julie Schroder, Marge Bloomquist, Heidi Rome, Amanda Micu and Dave Williams.

Also present: Sandy Pettey and Jacque Lavelle

Bob called the meeting to order at 12:06 pm

Bob read from the By Laws, stating that we now had a full complement of 9 Board Members, with the introduction of Amanda Micu and the selection of Shelli Boggess by the president.

T moved to accept the minutes for January and February 2015 as presented, seconded by Linda. Motion carried.

- **Secretary's Report** – Dave reported membership stands at 55, slightly down from 2014. Renewal letters mailed out last week. Inquiries were up 3 to 37, 18 phone calls, 10 emails and 9 office visits. One Visitor and one relocation pack mailed out. Website statistics were up at 1,189,861 hits (+63,869), 1,157,330 page views (+64,709) and 30,826 unique visitors (+4,303). 583 pdfs were downloaded (+227).

SouthWest Montana cooperative funding for the distribution of our DL Rack Brochure was approved. Our cost will be \$1209.55 for Certified Folder.

Fair Book ad request received from Lickety Print. Demo Derby half page ad in color, rates remain the same as last year. 2,500 copies printed. Linda said they would discount our cost, ½ page color ad at the b/w price. Heidi moved to approve to run the ad at a cost of \$140 less 5%, Julie seconded. Motion carried.

Linda made a motion to add Treasurer Julie Schroder to the signature card for our accounts at First Security Bank and Peoples Bank. Seconded by Therese. Motion carried.

The Governor's Conference on Tourism is in Helena from March 22nd till 24th. \$140 registration fee before March 1st plus accommodation and extra hours.. Overall cost will be between \$400 and \$550. Bob asked Dave if the Museums will be willing to help cover the cost of sending Dave to the Conference as they had offered to last year. Dave will report back to the board next month.

- **Main Street Flowers** – Dave said letters have been sent to Lynette King and Ed Hebbe IV to announce that Circle H Growers had won the contract to provide flower baskets for Main Street. Linda spoke to Ed and he was ordering the plants. Julie asked if the City helps pay for the baskets, and Bob explained that the City does not help financially. Bob also spoke about the health of the Christmas Tree, and that without help it will die. Bob asked for the boards permission to talk to Steve Stryker to see what is required to save the tree, and report back to the board.

- **Territorial days** – T said it was crucial that we start to plan this year's event and have a meeting or two. T had put together some suggestions for Top 20 prizes and suggested a blanket. Paid for by \$30 sponsorships, usually we get 40+ sponsors. This also helps pay for the dash plaques and the banner sign on the stage which has the sponsors names on it. The event date is June 20th, not clashing with Mule Days in Drummond, Barrel Race or the Rock Creek car meet. A meeting will be held on Thursday March 12th, 5 pm at the Chamber Office. Dave will contact Heidi, T, Linda, Bob, Amanda and Julie.

- **Grant-Kohrs Ranch** – Jacque hand delivered copies of the 'Ranch Roundup' newsletter. The numbers were way up last month at 261, which is 273% more than last year due to the good weather. List of summer events is up on their website. Extra events planned next year for the Park Service Centennial. The renovation of the Visitor Center is now complete. More info on what the kids can do at the Ranch.

- **Old Montana Prison** – Sandy said the Museums had 396 visitors last month. A new Art Exhibit in April, Cindy Betka's Landscape paintings. On June 20th, an Archie Bray exhibition will be set up in the cell

house and Prison yard. Various exhibits from seven artists. May 15th is Law Enforcement Memorial Day. Gift shop has new Montana and Prison made items. Hours are 10 am to 4 pm daily, considering going to 8 am till 8 pm this summer. Ice Cream Shop will be open by May 15th hopefully, if it's not too cold. Ice Cream made by Wilcoxens and out at the Prison Dairy.

- **Job Service** – Julie said that there will be a Job Fair on March 25th in Butte. 71 jobs posted for Deer Lodge, Anaconda and Philipsburg area. On Job Training grants still available to put employees to work. Pays up to 90% for up to six months

- **Other Business** – Chamber Board meetings lunch to be moved around our businesses, which include Muriah's the hospital and McDonalds. Darren to be contacted to get Pizza Hut to sign up as a member. Julie offered to contact the locations. 12 noon was agreed to be the best time.

Dave will be going to the Governors Conference on Tourism in Helena on Sunday 22nd to Tuesday 24th March.

T moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Linda. The meeting was adjourned at 12:52 pm