

POWELL COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Minutes are from the November 3rd, 2011 meeting held at 12 noon at the Broken Arrow Steakhouse.

Those present: Bob Toole, Dave Williams, Donna Galbraith, Julia Brewer, Cass Cahill,
Marge Bloomquist, Therese Hunt, Jim Cameron, Tina Schowengerdt, Patty Cowan.
Also present: Laura Rotegard, Shirley Cortright.

Bob called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

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

- **Secretary's Report** – Chamber Membership stands at 78. Inquiries down by 48 at 22 total, 22 phone, 9 email and 16 office visits. One visitor pack mailed out in October. Website statistics were 51,757 hits (down 1404), 14,462 page views (up 139), 4,407 unique visitors (up 526) and 431 pdf/doc downloads (up 4).

PayPal account was debited \$4.75 for mailing Visitor pack.

Dave has put together a new edition of the Chamber Newsletter and membership renewal form to be sent out with the Chamber Election ballot paper.

Dave had received a call from the Vigilante Theater Company out of Bozeman, who are looking for Chamber partnerships for grant funding. Dave passed the information over to Julia with the Gunport Theater.

The DEQ had contacted the Chamber office about a tour of the Trestle Clean up area, scheduled for the 15th. Meet at noon at the Broken Arrow, running a shuttle bus to the site. Info is on our website's event page.

Patty had a comment on the finance report, about transferring some of the money into our savings account. Earmarked funds for the New Christmas Decorations goes into the New Christmas Decorations savings account, the earmarked funds for Main Street Beautification goes into the other savings account.

- **Chamber Member of the Year** – Bob asked for the decision to be made today, for the Chamber Banquet on 22nd. Bob read off a list of previous winners of the Chamber Member of the Year. The winner needs to be a Chamber Member, who has done a lot for the Chamber. Discussion followed on who could be nominated. Donna Galbraith and Julia Brewer were nominated. Dave passed out ballot papers, which were returned and sealed in an envelope for counting back at the office.

- **Board of Directors Election** – Bob had spoken with Donna about her decision to step down. Donna had changed her mind and decided to stand for re-election. Darryl Barton had expressed interest in standing for election, involved with the community, runs Mount Powell Environmental. Tina, Julia, Donna and Darryl to be added to the Ballot paper.

- **Christmas Stroll Committee** – T ran through the committee reports from previous weeks. Maggie Hunter had been approached and agreed she would spearhead the art class in decorating the windows on Main Street. She will run it by her students to see if they are interested. A Children's movie had been discussed, to be shown at the Gunport Theater at 6 pm on Friday and 3 pm on Saturday. T handed around a poster of the Christmas Events for corrections. The parade will be run by the group, trophies to be given as Chamber Gift Certificates, \$35 for 1st, \$25 for 2nd and \$15 for 3rd. Dave to print out Certificates for the winners as well. Happy Hour at the Pen starts at 6 pm on Friday, Santa will be in the Pen board room from 5 pm. Bob had spoken with John Snell about choosing the movie. Chaperones needed for the movie, Patty volunteered. Help is also needed to decorate the board room for the kids, on Wednesday 30th November, from 1pm. Tina and T volunteered to help. Dave to call Bob, Tina, Patty and T on the 29th. Chamber has decorations stored in the GoldWest office, these can be used for the Festival. Dave will print 2 stroll numbers for the Festival on Friday. Julia said there will be a community tree up for auction, with ornaments from the businesses. Accepting Christmas Cash at the Festival, except for the Raffle Tickets.

- **Chamber Cash** – Banks have it, and Businesses are signing up. Loans available since the 1st. Bob got all the posters and info out to all businesses accepting Christmas Cash. Loan application forms needed by Tina, Marge and Julia. Bob and Dave to get them out.

- **Chamber Banquet** – On the 22nd November, speaker is the new prison Warden. Tickets available at Valley Foods and Keystone Drug. 125 tickets available, \$25 each, Prime Rib Dinner.

- **Grant-Kohrs Ranch Report** – Laura presented the Chamber with a framed Certificate for Pumpkin Sunday. 2016 attended, up 20% on 2010 numbers. Laura thanked Cass and Julia for helping. 1040 lbs of food donated to the Food Bank, up 25% on last year. Over \$3000 spent on the event by the Ranch, needs to be scaled back for next year. 1455 pumpkins, with 20 left over. Next years event will be on the 21st October. Montana Stockgrowers have pictures of Pumpkin Sunday on their Facebook page. Christmas Open House, with the Hamilton Acapella singers on the 4th December. Working with Job Corps to see if they can make cookies from Augusta's original recipes. Visitor numbers were down 8% for the whole year, but event numbers were up. All park numbers were down for 2011 over 2010.

- **Old Montana Prisons** – Haunted House last weekend, numbers down slightly on last year, but still very successful. Close-up kids and Boy Scouts will receive a little money for the effort they put into it. People travelled from as far as Seattle. New event for next year, weekend before Halloween, after Pumpkin Sunday. Zombies vs Humans, huge wave across the States. A low cost event to help offset some of the Haunted House expenses. Top Secret, we want to be the first in the State. Visitor numbers down on last year.

- **Other Business** – Christmas Stroll meeting to be next Thursday at 5 pm. Dave to call members. Shirley handed out the Minimum Wage poster. Comes into effect January 1st. In December there will be a free Safety Fest program, in Missoula. Shirley will email Dave who will do an e-mail newsletter to members.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.