

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

Minutes are from the October 6th, 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 and Jim Cameron.

Also present: Laura Rotegard.

Bob called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

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

- **Secretary's Report** –

Chamber Membership stands at 78. Inquiries down by 48 at 95 total, 27 phone, 4 email and 64 office visits. One visitor pack and two relocation packs mailed out in September. Website statistics were 55,161 hits (down 402), 14,323 page views (up 462), 3,881 unique visitors (down 607) and 427 pdf/doc downloads (down 295).

PayPal account was debited \$14.25 for mailing Visitor and relocation packs.

A Thank You card was received from the mayor, Mary Ann Frayley, regarding the new billboard. Dave passed the card around the table.

A letter had been received from Dan Dulewski from the Powell County Search & Rescue team, asking for support in their fundraising efforts. Bob suggested we put out a blog/email request for donations. Dave will contact Dan for details.

Ziplocal, the local telephone directory, had offered the Chamber a free ½ page full color ad in the yellow pages section of next year's phone book, in exchange for a free membership to the Chamber. Discussion followed on the merits and disadvantages of the offer. T put forward a motion that the Chamber does not take up the offer, Jim seconded. Motion passed. Dave will contact Ziplocal and decline the offer, but request it be re-offered for next year.

Shirley Cortright was unable to attend, but wished to pass on the news that the Minimum Wage will be increasing by 30c to \$7.65 on January 1st 2012. New posters will be available soon. Also, the new Labor Union posters will need to be displayed from January 1st, Shirley will bring some along to our next meeting.

A new edition of the Chamber Newsletter and membership form/letter was handed out for opinions.

Dave requires a new office calculator with printout, the old one has a faulty display. Requesting to spend up to \$35. Cass proposed a motion that Dave be allowed to purchase a new calculator from a local store, Julia seconded. Motion carried.

2012 event dates are required by October 13th for inclusion in the Montana Travel Planner. Laura asked the Chambers preferred date for next years Pumpkin Sunday, the 14th or 21st October. It was suggested to choose a date that worked best for the Ranch, and the 14th would be best due to hunting season starting on the 21st.

- **Board of Directors Election** – Bob asked for volunteers to serve on the committee. Donna decided not to stand for re-election, Julia will stand and Tina had expressed her wish to stand for re-election. T, Bob, and Marge said they would be on the committee. Laura also offered to assist if required.

- **Christmas Stroll Committee** – Julia expressed a wish to be involved, as did Bob, Jim, Cass, T, Donna, Marge and Laura. Julia and Laura will co-chair the committee. First meeting will be next Thursday, the 13th October at 5pm at the Chamber office. Dave will call everyone on the committee in advance, to include Tina.

- **Chamber Banquet** – Bob is working on a speaker, and will have an answer soon. T handed out a few programs she is working on for the banquet. Dave will check on the list of projects, etc and get back to T. T also had some posters for the Christmas events.

- **Grant-Kohrs Ranch Report** – Laura said the Ranch visitor numbers were down 8% for the month, down 10% for the year. Glacier was down 21%, Yellowstone down 5%. Sales were still up. G-K Jerky will be having their final sales on Pumpkin Sunday. Yellowstone is now selling G-K Jerky. The Washington purchasing office had agreed to the Ranch exchanging excess hay for pumpkins, 700 additional pumpkins, plus another 130 bought from East Helena, a total of 1530 pumpkins available. Listed in ‘Lively Times’. Doubling number of volunteers, 3 wagons running all day long. Laura said that board members are welcome, badges will be provided showing the Chambers support of the event. Help needed to get the pumpkins on the ground from 9 am till noon. Apple trees are full, being picked for the apple juice.

- **Old Montana Prisons** – September numbers were down about 7%. OktoberFest this Saturday October 8th at the Auto Museum from 7 pm till 9 pm, tickets available from the Hospital for \$30. 28th till 30th October is the annual Haunted House, 7 pm till 10:30 pm, \$5 entry. Local business donations required for the Haunted House and Christmas Festival. Actors being hired for the Haunted House. Inquiries coming in from out of State. Volunteers required for the Halloween Festival across at the Pen. Cass said she would help, and provide cookies. 1800 visits last year, over 700 on Saturday.

- **Other Business** – Laura spoke about the MT Cowboy Hall of Fame. Deadline was missed in getting Deer Lodge registered as a possible location for the new museum. Bob, Laura and the Mayor had been arguing the case for our City, there is an outside chance that it may be re-opened if no decision is made.

Meeting adjourned at 12.59 p.m.