

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

Minutes are from the September 7th, 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, Tina Schowengerdt and Jim Cameron.

Also present: Laura Rotegard, Shirley Cortright and Betty Hadley.

Bob called the meeting to order at 12:22 p.m.

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

- **Secretary's Report** – Dave read out two Thank You letters, one from the Deer Lodge Valley Conservation District regarding our support of Range Days. A letter was received from Theresa Lombardi thanking the Chamber for her PCHS scholarship.

Chamber Membership stands at 78. Inquiries down by 13 at 143 total, 50 phone, 4 email and 89 office visits. One visitor pack mailed out in August. Website statistics were 55,563 hits (up 450), 13,861 page views (down 1389), 4,488 unique visitors (up 209) and 722 pdf/doc downloads (up 169).

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

Cris from Browsing Bison Books had requested the Chamber send out blogs/emails for their book signing events, having been impressed with the emails she receives from the Chamber. Dave asked the board's permission to offer this extra service to our members. Discussion followed. Donna made a motion to allow Chamber members to issue blog alerts through the chamber, seconded by Tina. Motion passed.

Dave had been contacted by Chamber Masters, an online software company that manages Chamber membership, accounts, etc. The cost is \$600 to \$1500 set up, and \$69 to \$119 per month. Dave asked for permission to investigate cheaper alternatives. Discussion followed. Dave will check on the alternatives and smaller Chambers for their suggestions.

Button supplies are required for the Christmas Stroll. 1000 cost \$93, 2,500 for \$211. A motion to buy a thousand was proposed by Tina, seconded by Julia. Betty asked about the buttons being used by the Draft Horse Expo, and it was suggested that 500 is added to the order for payment by the Expo. Original motion was retired by Tina. Donna proposed a motion to order 1,500 (1,000 for the Chamber, 500 for the Draft Horse Expo, and the shipping charge to be split between the two). Seconded by Tina. Motion passed.

- **Demolition Derby** – Patty was not well enough to attend. Bob passed on her thanks to everyone who had helped at the Derby. Dave passed around the Income and Expense report for the event. Expenses, income and profit increased on last years numbers. The Fair Board had informed Bob that they would cover the cost of the final pumping. A final committee meeting will be held, Donna and Jim to be invited. Discussion followed.

- **Other Business** – Tickets for the Annual Rialto Fundraiser go on sale at Quilters Corner on the 15th for \$125. On Sunday 11th, the 10th Anniversary 911 Memorial Ceremony starts at 4pm at the fairgrounds with free food, speaker at 6pm is Judy Martz. Donna Maddox with the First Presbyterian Church is looking for a project to get involved in.

Cass made a motion for the Chamber to purchase 700 pumpkins, at a total cost of \$770. Donna seconded, motion passed.

- **Board of Directors Election for 2011** - Donna, Tina and Julia are up for re-election at the end of this year. Decisions and suggestions to be ready by next months meeting.

- **Grant-Kohrs Ranch Report** – Laura spoke about next week's events, the Academy of Living History. 101 people had registered so far, highest amount at this stage. Hot Dogs and History next Friday with local groups. Patricia Warren will be at the Ranch next Friday for book signings and her father will be inducted into the Expo Hall of Fame. Laura thanked the Chamber for their support of

Pumpkin Sunday. Volunteer numbers are up for this year. There will be Apple Cider pressing again this year. Sunday October 16th from 1 pm to 4 pm. Montana State Parks said that Senator Baucus COS had ordered 72 packs of GK Ranch Jerky for Washington D.C. for the debt reduction talks. Visitor numbers were down 8%, but retail sales were up.

- **Old Montana Prisons** – Season is winding down, Powell County Museum closed on the 7th, last day for Yesterday's Playthings and Frontier Montana will be Sunday September 25th. Old Prison and Auto Museums will be open from Wed through Sunday, 10 am till 4 pm after the 25th. Not enough staff for the Yard Sale, but Saturday 17th will be free admission for Museum Appreciation Day. A new TV series will be filming at the Old Montana Prison in October, for National Geographic Channel. Haunted House in October. Visitors down about 3%.

- **Draft Horse Expo** – Betty said that the event is coming up fast, going to be wonderful. The sponsors banner is coming together well. Paying out dollars to the 5th place on exhibitors.

- Laura said she had received 8 signatures in support of their request to petition the State to reduce the speed limit in front of the Ranch, from 45mph to 35mph. The Chamber was the first to sign.

. Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.