

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

Minutes are from the September 5th, 2013 meeting held at 12 noon at the Broken Arrow Steakhouse.

Those present: Bob Toole, Dave Williams, Linda Spaulding, Julia Brewer, Therese Hunt and Darryl Barton.

Also present: Jacque Lavelle, Sarah Bannon, Sherrill Kraakmo, Betty Hadley and Michelle Spears.

As a quorum was not present, a Board Meeting could not be held. The regular meeting started at 12:11 pm

- **Secretary's Report** – Dave reported Chamber Membership currently stands at 8. Inquiries down 8 at 143 total, 45 Phone, 10 Emails and 88 office visits. One relocation pack and VIC Brochures mailed out in August. Website statistics were 74,672 hits (+15,882), 22,741 page views (+1,930), 5,063 unique visitors (+754) and 439 pdfs downloaded (+110).

The Montana Economic Summit is Butte on Sept. 16th and 17th has many top name speakers. Does the Board wish for Dave to attend and represent the Chamber? No charge for the Summit, but there will be costs for transport, meals and hours to attend (max. 12 extra hours). A motion was proposed by T that the Chamber pays for Dave to attend the Summit in Butte, seconded by Darryl. All board members present voted yes, Dave will get votes from the non-attending Board Members.

Bea Rosenleaf from the 'Freedom in Christ Prison Ministry' asked for Chamber support for an event to be held during Territorial Days next year. No problem with helping promote the event but no financial aid. Dave will get more info.

Computer still giving problems, but Bob has loaned the Chamber a PC which Dave will be able to use as a backup. Waiting for the Office of Tourism e-grant to be announced, that may help cover the cost of replacement. Sarah will check to see when the grant info will become available.

- **Deer Lodge Youth Board** – Michelle gave an overview of the Youth Board and events for the coming 12 months. The new board has been operating since last year. Homecoming Dance is on September 14th, with a Barn Dance at Garrison on Oct 5th. Trying to work with Close-Up to get access to the School Buses. Halloween Fun Run on Oct 26th, a 1 mile and 5k event. November will have a 'blackout' dance, Family Fun Day in January, Valentines Dance in February and kid's carnival planned for next March. Pool Party in April. Laser Tag planned if enough money is raised during other events. Looking for chaperones. The Winter Ball is planned for December 7th, will try and link event with the Chamber Christmas Stroll. Julia offered to help coordinate the events.

- **Demolition Derby** – Bob talked about the event, we made some money, had a Classic Main Event, with sponsorship from NorthWestern Energy. Major money maker for the Chamber. Over \$750 for the 50/50 winner from Anaconda. Thanks to everyone who helped.

- **Christmas Stroll Committee** – T and Bob to co-chair, Julia, Bob and T explained the Christmas weekend events to those not familiar. The DL Development Groups Holiday Home Tour is on Sunday 8th, as is the GK Ranch Victorian Holiday Open House. Events will be coordinated. The Stroll, together with Christmas cash, help drive customers to local businesses, a major part of what the Chamber is all about.

- **Grant-Kohrs Ranch** – Jacque said visitation was up 7% for August at 2,589. Youth Programs were very popular, 8 programs were up 95% over last year. Website hits at 8,000.

- **Old Prison Museums** – Julia said their number were up about 6%. MT Shakespeare in the Park on Aug 31st had a higher turnout than Butte, with a very enthusiastic crowd. The Academy of Living History next week, Haunted House in October. The front of the Auto Museum will be re-painted in historic red. Fire crew is helping out. Pen Convention has had a total inside re-new.

- **Draft Horse Expo** – Betty went over the events, more exhibitors than last year. 2 full days of events starting at 9am. The raffle for re-furbishing ‘Clyde’ is still going on. Expo Buttons get admission into the Museums. The 6-horse hitches are paid \$1250 to attend and they give a good return with their performance. Day or weekend pass (button) available. A busy weekend for Deer Lodge businesses. Dave will put out a Chamber blog post next week promoting the Expo.

- **Rialto 2013 Candidates Forum** – Bob outlined the Rialto 2013 Candidates Forum planed for October 15th. at 7pm. This is a public forum for candidates for the City Ward and Mayor Elections. They are looking for a co-sponsor to help with the costs of mailing info to all addresses in Deer Lodge. The cost will be \$200. All candidates are invited to answer questions at a moderated discussion. The money will go direct to the Rialto to cover the costs of the direct mailing. Julia, Darryl and T all voted Yes. Dave will call the other Board Members for their response and votes. The committee is Ron Scharf, Bob Toole and Ed McCarthy.

- **Chamber Banquet** – T asked that all Board Members think of nominations for the ‘Chamber Member of the Year’ at this years Banquet in November.

Meeting adjourned at 1:18 pm

Votes by telephone/email.

A - To compensate Dave for his expenses in attending the Butte Economic Summit;

Patty – Yes
Heidi – Yes
Jim – Yes
Marge – Yes

B – The Chamber to co-sponsor the Rialto 2013 Candidates Forum for \$200

Patty – Yes
Heidi – Yes
Jim – Yes
Marge – Yes
Linda - Yes