

# PhillCo Economic Growth Council, Inc.

## Membership Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 12:00 PM, GN Lodge Room**

Present: Ashley Stuart, Mark Kunze, Gary Howell, Mike Lang, Marko Manoukian, Van Savage, Ward VanWichen, Don Bagley, Joshua St.Denis, Lesley Robinson, Shirley Legg

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**Call to Order & Welcome:** Vice President Mark Kunze

**Review Minutes/Financial Transactions:** Review/approve minutes of previous meeting, January 29, 2015 and financial transactions as presented.

**Administrative Report and Project Updates:**

**Meetings/ Introductions:** Stuart reported on the multiple meetings she had attended and was introduced as the new director of PhillCo (Bear Paw Development Corp., Malta Chamber, Malta City Council, and Missouri River Country – at Glasgow Children’s Museum)

**Grants:** PhillCo is involved in applying for the Triangle Connected Community Challenge grant with the Malta Chamber. Stuart is a part of the Stakeholder Committee. Notice of successful applicants will be made before yearend with the startup in early January. The committee plans to host a technology fair in Malta if approved for the grant.

**Old Business/Ongoing Business:**

**Beautification Store Front Grant Program:** Update on program from Stuart, three new applications this month with another possible application to come. Stuart reported the program granted a total of \$33,241.01 with 21 approved applications since 2012. The original program started with only \$25,000, Stuart wondered how much money was added to the program in 2013 and how much was left in the fund. Howell suggested finding minutes since it was approved but not sure how much or when. A motion was made by Lesley to recommend another \$10,000 be added to the program by the Community Fund Committee to fulfill the upcoming projects with a second by Marko, motion passed. A question of where the program wanted to head in the future, Mike suggested looking into funding outside of PhillCo for future projects.

**MBIDD:** Former Malta Airport Redevelopment Update- Marko reported progress is being made with NewFields. Additional testing has been completed and the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of comments has gone to the DEQ. The removal is hopeful for next spring with the City of Malta waiving the disposal fee and the County approving the usage of trucks and signage for the project.

**New Business:**

**Website Update:** Numerous quotes from web designers were reviewed and a demonstration of possible templates for a new webpage was presented by Stuart. Ward MM to approve the quote for the 20 page website package where Stuart will fill in the content along with a logo creation for PhillCo by Montana Graphix, with a second by Don Bagley, motion passed.

**Malta Senior Center:** Lesley Robinson reported on the Public Hearing with SMA Architects out of Helena for the CDBG program. A final date and location is being set for the upcoming hearing. PhillCo is considered a mediator and is helping facilitate the public hearings and meetings.

**Next Meeting:** The next PhillCo Membership Meeting will be held Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at noon at the GN.

**Other:** The laptop for the PhillCo office is currently using XP which is no longer serviced by Microsoft, Stuart said she was given a quote to put Windows 7 on the laptop. Lesley MM to upgrade the laptop program, Lang 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.

Marko presented a non-discriminatory letter to be read and signed by the Executive Director for his records.

**WHAT’S NEW IN AND AROUND PHILLIPS COUNTY:**

**U.S. Customs and Boarder Protection** - Port Director of Morgan Port of Entry, **Joshua St. Denis**, reported on the new U.S. port and the completion of Canada’s port. The newly constructed road to the

port is complete and seeing lots of traffic; we just need new signage along with a kiosk for information about Phillips County for visitors coming through. St.Denis encouraged a tour of the new facility and possible location by the port for a kiosk, St.Denis said he would restock kiosk if put in. He also reported the current welcome sign to Phillips County was faded and in very poor condition and should be addressed. St. Denis encouraged an updated webpage to refer to and would offer a link to the PhillCo page on the Port's webpage. The port hours are a cause for concern; St.Denis recommended not encouraging a 24 hour port due to staffing issues, but a port with consistent hours year round, not different summer hours and winter hours.

**Greg Gianforte** – Stuart encouraged everyone to attend the telecommunications and economic development discussion with Greg Gianforte, who will be in Malta, November 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. at the GN Lodge Room.

**-Lang reported the BLM** is coming December 16<sup>th</sup> for a public meeting regarding the sage grouse plan for Montana to limit surface disturbance for south Phillips County.

**Adjourn:** Lang MM to adjourn meeting, Howell second and motion passed.