



General Membership Meeting Minutes Thursday, September 29th, 2016 at Noon at the GN Lodge Room

Present: Mark Kunze, Ashley Stuart, Bruce Christofferson, Gary Howell, Kathy Bagley, Shane Anderson, Shyla Jones, Jake Stuart, Donny Bagley, Avery Sorenson

- **Call to Order & Welcome:** Meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm by President Mark Kunze.
- **Review Minutes/Financial Transactions:** Kunze asked for a review of the minutes from July 28th, 2016 and financial transactions as presented. Gary made the motion to approve as presented, Bruce seconded, motion carried.
- **Administrative Report and Project Updates:**
 - **Meetings/Conferences**
 - **Malta Parks & Rec.** – Ashley reported the City hired two new part-time directors and the Board would continue to meet, but only quarterly. The new directors are wonderful and have started many new programs beginning this fall/winter including adult co-ed volleyball, youth dodge ball and exercise classes.
 - **MT Missouri River Country** – Ashley is a Phillips County representative and attended the monthly meeting in Wolf Point. The MRC Board is in the process of working on updating the Travel Planner and the Wendt Agency will be presenting a Marketing Plan for FY17 in October.
 - **Bear Paw Development** – Ashley attending the Bear Paw Board meeting September 16th in Havre and gave a brief report. She also plans to attend the Oct. 6th Strategy Meeting Bear Paw is hosting.
 - **HiLine Technology Round Up** – Ashley reported the Tech Roundup on September 22nd at the Malta Business Center was a great success! A great turnout from the PC Community and across the state of Montana. Wonderful speakers, tradeshow booths and networking opportunities were just a few of the highlights from the day. Ashley pointed out the PCN had a great front page article highlighting the two big events, the technology fair and the roadshow event.
 - **Innovate Malta: Small Business Roadshow Event** – Ashley also reported the Roadshow event with Innovate Montana at Scout Energy Partners on September 21st with guest speakers: Triple Dog Brewing Co. & Valerie Veis with MontanaBaskets.com, was a wonderful success. The evening consisted of tours of the Scout facility, appetizers, brews from Triple Dog Brewing Co., great speakers and wonderful opportunities to network and visit about resources available to entrepreneurs and existing businesses in the area and across the state. Thank you to PhillCo for co-sponsoring the event.
 - **SBA/Havre SBDC Workshop on Cash Flows and Financial Statements** – PhillCo, along with Bear Paw Development and the Chamber hosted a free workshop with SBA Director John Donovan and SBDC rep Joe LaPlante on Sept. 15th. The class was another great business education piece and we were thankful to have the opportunity to host a great class for the area.
 - **Old Business/Ongoing Business:**
 - **Continued Ed Courses** – Ashley reported she is continuing to work with Chamber to bring Bear Paw & SBDC back in October for a FREE QuickBooks set of courses. The training will consist of multiple days & hours worth of training. Ashley is hopeful to have a date set soon and start promotion to the public.

- **MBIDD:** Kunze reported that Ashley sent a letter of support for the Addendum to the VCP for the Old Malta Airport Cleanup efforts to the DEQ. Ashley reported the approval for the Addendum of the VCP was in the Public Notices in the PCN. Mayor Jones reported NewFields would be putting the excavation of the contaminated soil project out to bid in the PCN next week and that the cost to complete the cleanup was a concern and that the City was afraid they would be short. Ashley asked how short and Mayor Jones stated they wouldn't be sure until the bids came back, and that she hoped local contractors would put in for a bid, but it was a concern.
- **Website/Facebook Page** – Ashley was happy to report the Facebook page is receiving new likes each week and she encouraged the community to share photos & stories of the area to increase interest and views.
- **Welcome to Phillips County Sign at the Port of Morgan** – Ashley was happy to report additional funding was awarded to the project after applying to a TransCanada grant program! Ashley is working with Dina at the Chamber to update the Chamber sign. The project has also been awarded a grant with MT Missouri River Country Co-op Grant to complete the vinyl wrap, artwork and install. Ashley passed around the potential draft of the billboard for the Board to review and reported Dina had the Chamber review the draft as well. The goal is to complete the project by the end of October.
- **Store Front Beautification Grant Program** – Continued interest and new applications. Ashley expressed concern as the program is only one or possibly two projects away from reaching its cap limit of assistance. She also stated she had visited with the Montana Office of Tourism for suggestions to keep the successful program running in the future and unfortunately they do not have an existing program to match the grant, but they were interested at looking for beautification supplementation for rural communities in the future. Kathy Bagely suggested looking into Art Place America for funding opportunities.
- **New Business:**
 - **MEDA Fall Conference** - Ashley brought it to the Board's attention the MEDA Conference was coming up soon on October 12-14th in Polson, MT. There was discussion as to cost and timing as to when would be the best time to attend. Ashley expressed interest in attending the Spring Conference in 2017.
 - **Next Meeting: November 24th (Thanksgiving), need to pick a new date** at noon @ GN Lodge Room. Ashley encouraged the Board to choose a different date for the next General Membership meeting since the current date falls on the Thanksgiving holiday. It was suggested to look at having one last meeting for the year in December, possibly the 8th. Ashley said she would look at the community calendar and keep the Board informed as to what the meeting date will be.
 - **Other** – Mayor Jones recommended PhillCo be present for the Speed Study meeting the County Commissioners are hosting at the PC Courthouse on October 5th at 11:00. Ashley stated she will put it on the calendar and plan to attend.
- **WHAT'S NEW IN AND AROUND PHILLIPS COUNTY:**
 - **October 1st – Loring Harvest Dance**
 - **October 8th - Oktoberfest: Hi-Line Future Foundation brewfest, live music, auction at Lucky Bullet Hole**
 - **October 15th – Ducks Unlimited Banquet**
 - **November 11th – Cattlewomen's Banquet at Tin Cup**
 - **November 12th – Phillips County Health Care Fundraiser**
 - **Hi-Line Arts Trail- Opportunity Link and Art Spot...dates to follow**
- **Adjourn**