



General Membership Meeting Minutes Thursday, September 28th, 2017 at Noon at Tin Cup Bar & Grill

Present: Kelly Murray, Shyla Jones, Duane Murray, Ward VanWichen, Marko Manoukian, Jane Ereaux, Carly Bishop, Gary Howell, Juli Snedigar, Anne Boothe, Dina Meneely, Richard Dunbar, Jenny Tollefson, Ashley Stuart

- **Call to Order & Welcome:** Vice President Marko Manoukian
- **Review Minutes/Financial Transactions:** Review/approve minutes from July 27th, 2017. Ward MM to approve the minutes as presented, Shyla 2nd the motion; motion carried. Gary MM to approve the financial transactions as presented, Kelly 2nd the motion; motion carried.
- **Administrative Report and Project Updates:**
 - **Meetings/Conferences**
 - **MT Missouri River Country** – Ashley reported the MRC meeting was hosted in Malta at the Tin Cup. The Board toured Blue Ridge Brewery and had lunch at Ray J's. Ashley reported the application for the Fire relief grant on behalf of Zortman/Landusky was approved for \$4,995 to promote Zortman/Landusky and to remind travelers it is still open for business, despite the July fire.
 - **Bear Paw Development** – Ashley gave a meeting report; hosted at the Fort Belknap Community Center
 - **Hi-Line Arts Trail Committee** – Ashley reported the project has been extended and the committee hopes to begin painting the mural in the spring of 2018. Funds have been dispersed for the projects.
 - **Phillips County Proud Celebration** – September 16th was a great success! Great food, music and 100 year celebration stories.
 - **Hi-Line Future Foundation** – Ashley reminded the group of the Oktoberfest fundraiser event for the City pool was coming up on October 14th at the Lucky Bullet. Come and enjoy live music, food and many auction items.
 - **Phillips County Need Assessment Group** – Ashley requested Ward VanWichen with the Phillips County Hospital give a brief meeting report. Ward explained the group was formed to discuss the needs of Phillips County and especially those related to healthcare in the county. The group meets monthly.
 - **Old Business/Ongoing Business:**
 - **City of Malta Water Project** – update from Mayor Jones; Mayor Jones reported the water project is done for the most part, although the City crews are busy checking water lines for issues and there have been quite a few locations where the pavement is sinking that will need to be repaired. Helena Sand and Gravel has been in town recently to assess the sinking pavement.
 - **MBIDD: Old Malta Airport cleanup** – MBIDD and completion report – Mayor Jones; Mayor Jones reported that the grass that was seeded this summer needs to grow in order for the completion report to move forward. Mayor Jones stated she has been in touch with Willy with NewFields and she is projecting the completion to cost \$65-70,000 due to the reseeding that will most likely need to happen, along with the cost of the actually completion report that will need to be submitted to DEQ.
 - **Store Front Beautification Grant Program** – Ashley reported there are still funds available in the SFBG program and encouraged businesses to consider applying before the end of the year.

- **PhillCo Strategic Plan** – Ashley stated that the Executive Committee is in the process of updating the strategic plan and will bring the draft to the November General Membership Meeting for review.
- **Phillips County Community Branding** – Ashley gave an update of the branding project progress. Thus far, the 168 surveys have been tallied, the information was presented to the working group for discussion in two separate meetings and excellent feedback and discussion amongst the committee has continued to move the project forward. Ashley stated the next step is to collectively choose a designer and submit the Brand Pillars established by the Working Group to help create a logo/slogan for the PC Brand.
- **Potential Grain/Pulse Facility for Phillips County** – Ashley reported on the current status of project including contact with potential pulse facility and BNSF Railroad. She reported she is still hopeful the conversation with Anchor Ingredients continues to progress as she did receive an email from the company stating that they will be hiring a new employee that will focus on the Montana territory in November.
- **New Business:**
 - **Hi-Line Technology Roundup** – Ashley reported the committee decided to table the fall technology fair for 2017 and revisit the idea in 2018. The committee will continue to build a fall/winter class schedule as well as early spring classes.
 - **Board Leadership Training** – Ashley reminded the Board of the Board Leadership Training with Paul LaChapelle with MSU Community Development on October 3rd at the GN. PhillCo (\$100)/Chamber/RSA are sponsoring the event.
 - **MEDA Fall Conference** – Ashley informed the Board of the upcoming MEDA Fall conference on October 5&6 in Red Lodge. The Board discussed the expense of the training and value of Ashley attending. Gary made a motion for Ashley to attend the MEDA Conference, Ward 2nd the motion; motion carried.
 - **Next Meeting: Thursday, November 30th at Noon at the Tin Cup Bar & Grill**
 - **Other** – Anne Boothe handed out a copy of a recent article from Montana Business Quarterly titled, “Recreating the American Prairie” by Jeremy Sage. The article was based on research conducted by the ITRR report for Montana’s Missouri River Country tourism board to educate the board as to visitor spending, preferences, etc. Anne raised a concern of the report and requested we consider inviting Jeremy Sage along with MT Department of Ag and MSU Extension to come to Phillips County to explain the report and projected trends for our area.
- **WHAT’S NEW IN AND AROUND PHILLIPS COUNTY:**
 - **Phillips County Suicide Prevention Awareness Walk – Oct 7th** – Phillips County Health Department, Jenny Tollefson, RN Public Health Nurse. Jenny informed the group of the upcoming Suicide Prevention Awareness Walk, the logistics of the event and encouraged the community to participate.
 - **Phillips County Update** – County Commissioner, Richard Dunbar gave a brief update of a few County projects. The reduced speed signs heading on Hwy 191 heading south have been complete. The Walk Bridge project will begin construction next spring. TransCanada Pipeline hearings in Nebraska went well and as of December, we should learn more as to whether it may move forward.
 - **October 2nd – Northeastern Arts Network presents Twin Kennedy** to perform at MHS 7pm
 - **October 3rd – Board Leadership Training**, GN Lodge Room
 - **October 7th – Loring Harvest Dance, Loring Hall**
 - **October 14th – Oktoberfest, Lucky Bullet** – HLFF fundraiser for city pool
 - **November 4th - Specialty Fair, City Hall**
- **Adjourn**