

SMART Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, June 1, 2010
6pm

Members Present: Steve Zachmann, Selena Nelson, Karol Zachmann, Traci Bruha, Norton Walker, Mona Madler

Members Absent: Candy Loehding, Christy Follmer, Harvey Reetz, Laurie Mackay

April 27th Meeting Minutes were read. Karol made a motion to accept the minutes; Traci seconded the motion. Motion passed.

May Financial Report was provided. Discussion was held regarding why the employer tax portion of FICA and Medicare does not match the budget to date figure. Mona will check into that for the next meeting.

Director's Report:

Veterans Memorial – Monument engraving is complete. Coordinating the ground work, concrete and electrical work that needs to be done with Kent Ehret, Mike Griffith, Scott Rabbitt, and Allen Barth. A meeting has been scheduled with myself and the afore mentioned people for June 8th at 8am. Kent is scheduled to do the cement work the weekend of the June 12th.

City of Baker Housing Grant – Committee met May 26th. One trailer house upgrade; one home remodel – exterior paint, roof, interior lead paint removal and repaint, etc. Julie working with CDBG to expand scope of work outside of initial designated area.

Custer Country – MT State Department of Commerce has terminated their contract with Custer Country. Custer Country is now broke. DOC will use the funds slated for Custer Country to promote the Custer Country Tourism Region. They will also issue a Request For Proposal as soon as possible to select a nonprofit corporation to market our region. MT Tourism Advisory Council (TAC) no longer recognizes Custer Country as the regional non-profit tourism corporation. There was a five member committee appointed to review the state's findings and they have been meeting. They will make recommendations to the board and members on June 17th. An article in the *Billings Gazette* states, "Group members talked about changing the flaws in Custer Country and applying for the contract again when the Commerce Department advertises it." A special meeting has been scheduled for June 17th in Miles City to discuss the report from DOC and restructuring Custer Country. Mona will be attending that meeting.

Renewable Energy Presentation – held Thursday, May 13th at Baker Senior Center. Provided in-depth information about small wind and residential solar energy options including machines, materials, costs, etc. Kathi Montgomery, DEQ Energy, also presented information about federal tax credits and low interest loans available for these systems. She asked me if we have gotten any further with geothermal research in Fallon County. I told her that we are concentrating on the housing project at this time. She agreed that when you have a viable project such as that going on, it's best to concentrate your time on it. That being said, I am collecting any current geothermal energy information that comes across my desk.

Keystone XL/TransCanada EIS Hearing – held Thursday, May 20th. Representatives from the State Department, MT DEQ, MT BLM, the contracted company who completed the study, and TransCanada participated in the panel. Community members were allowed to make public comments and those who spoke brought up some very well thought out questions/concerns. In my opinion, the panel heard the questions and answered them to the best of their ability. The Baker camp location has not been determined at this time. I met and talked with Bud Andersen who is a liaison contractor for TransCanada. He is very willing to meet with us – County, City, SMART, etc. – anytime we would like. We will set up a meeting after the camp location has been designated, which will be in the next couple of months. Discussion was held and Mona will talk to Bud/DEQ inquiring if they would like any input as to the location of the site.

MEDA Spring Conference – Wednesday, June 9 – Friday, June 11 in Miles City. Wednesday, I will participate in a historic walking tour in the morning, and attend a USDA Rural Development program information seminar on Wednesday afternoon. Wednesday evening I will attend the Meet-n-Greet, which is always a great networking time. I will not be able to attend the conference on Thursday. Friday is the Annual Meeting and a few seminars.

Port Authority 4-Plex – Started advertising Invitation to Bid in Friday, May 28th papers and on Builders Exchange website. Bids will be opened on Tuesday, June 15th at 2pm.

Old Business:

Goals Update:

Trading Card Program – An Advisory Council meeting has tentatively been scheduled for Monday, June 28th at 5:30pm.

Welcome Bags – Many items available for the bags, but I have not secured anything such as coupons from retailers. That is a June priority.

Business Training for high school students – I did not get the high schools contacted in May. I will revisit this goal when school starts in the fall.

Kiosk: The kiosk will be put up when the highway gets paved later in June.

New Business:

SBDC Workshop: Sam Bixler from SBDC in Colstrip has asked if we would like to have him present a Business Plan 101 Workshop for small businesses – I said yes. Due to his schedule, the workshop will probably take place in late July or early August. When the date is set, Mona will let Karol know so she can put it on Talk Around Town.

Norton Renewal: \$59.99. My computer is having an internet explorer problem, which I'm hoping Norton can fix. If not, the computer will need to be looked at. Mona will look on the TechSoup website to see if we can get it for less than \$59.99.

Credit Card Request: Mona requested a business credit card to pay for such things as the Norton Renewal, hotels when traveling, etc. Discussion was held regarding getting a debit card from Wells Fargo from the checking account. Karol made a motion to have Mona inquire about fees, rates, limits, signatures and any other pertinent information regarding a debit card from Wells Fargo. Traci seconded the motion. Motion passed. Mona will report on this at the next meeting.

Other New Business:

Steve asked if anyone had attended the County Commissioners' candidate forum, and if anything was mentioned by the candidates regarding their position on economic development. No one was able to attend the forum.

Traci reminded the Board of the Car Show this Saturday, June 5th. There will be a 6x6 replica train set from Marmarth, Relay for Life information, and Nascar memorabilia.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 22, 6pm, SMART office. Karol made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Selena seconded it. Meeting adjourned.