

Arlee Community Development Corporation  
Board Meeting Minutes  
February 21, 2009

LOCATION: The Hangin' Art Gallery & Coffee House, Hwy 93, Arlee, MT

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Donna Mollica, Carol-Lynne Toleno, Frank White, Paul Mollica, Judy Fundingsland, Amy Thomas, Ron Snyder, Lisa Samsel, Josy Mann, Philippa Crawford

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Debra Little-Starratt, Shaun Kendall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dale Duff, Jack Duff, Helene Bourdon, Elon Gilbert, Sister Joan Bartin, Dee Dawse, Dave Marsolek, Kim Folden

GUESTS PRESENT: Alice Jones, Erin from the Lake County Leader

Introductions were made.

A quorum was established.

Donna made a motion to approve January 2009 minutes as emailed by Donna. Paul 2<sup>nd</sup> it. All were in favor.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Big Sky Planning Grant – Donna, Julie Cajune and Patti Stevens met with the CSKT Tribal Council on February 3<sup>rd</sup> to request their partnership with the CDC on the planning grant. The Tribal Council approved the partnership and their contribution of \$5000 in community matching funds. We have their written letter of support which will be submitted with the grant application. The grant committee has met and each member is working on assignments for the grant development. Donna will start meeting with individuals and organizations to discuss the proposal and to ask for support. The CDC needs to raise \$5000.00 in matching funds, but would like to raise \$7500.00 This grant will help to do the research necessary establish the Jocko Valley as an arts and culture tourist destination which will benefit many existing businesses and organizations in the community.

Highway Landscaping On January 14<sup>th</sup> representatives from MDOT, Carl Dupuis and Jean Matt of CSKT, members of the CDC's Beautification committee and other interested community members the Agronomist from Helena made proposals about changing the species to be planted to shrubs and trees that tend to do well in this environment and agreements were reached about a plan that will provide landscaping and watering that should insure a strong start to the plantings. The landscape contractor is responsible for the first year of caretaking and Jean Matt who heads up the CSKT Revegetation work offered to help with a second year of watering. This will help the community to take over care of the landscaping in subsequent years. The group was also able to have clarity on what road paving is being done as part of the Highway

contract and what side streets will not be part of the contract. There was some discussion of seeing if it might be possible to get the County to help with paving some of the remaining side streets between the northbound and southbound lanes to make it easier for southbound traffic to come into the business district.

Beautification – The highway project will be providing sidewalks and landscaping through the Arlee business district which will improve the overall appearance of the area but more work will need to be done to come up with a plan for improving appearance of Arlee. Dana Boussard and Joe Weydt are taking pictures of Arlee to help put together some community planning later in the spring. With respect to addressing the needs of retail businesses drawing traffic from the southbound lanes Tony Hoyt has begun some brainstorming about signage issues. This will need to be coordinated with the project manager for the Arlee highway contract. More people will be needed to work on this and anyone who is interested should let Kelley know (726-5550).

Library -- Kim Folden, Library Director, reported that she had a conversation with Drew Hendrickson who is on board of the Brown Building regarding the Library picking up the costs for electricity, garbage collections and other regular maintenance costs. Kim acknowledged the generosity of the Brown Building board over the years allowing the Library to have space in the lower level at no cost and financial questions that will be raised for the Library in taking on these costs. The Library continues to need a handicapped accessible location to better serve the public and to be able to apply for government grants that require compliance with ADA regulations. A meeting has been scheduled for March 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM at the Library to explore possibilities for the Library with the Brown Building Board. Kim also mentioned that there might be some possibilities to collaborate with the Fire Department on space issues when they relocate during the Highway construction.

Governance Capacity Building – There was a discussion for a plan to help with developing additional governance capacity and administrative structure for the CDC as it moves into larger project planning. Four board positions will come open this year, one of which will be Donna's who will be stepping down completely from the Board and moving into providing grant writing and transition services. We are fortunate to have members with non-profit governance experience. Jack and Dale Duff have been asked if one of them would be interested being nominated to fill a Board vacancy in May and Jack has indicated his willingness to accept a nomination. Frank White has experience in group training and has agreed to provide technical support in this transition. Frank and Jack agreed to create a committee to up with plans for strengthening our governance capacity over the next year. If anyone else is interested in this process, please let Jack or Frank know, or let Kelly know and she will give them the information..

Missoula County Rural Initiative – Helene Bourdon and Donna Mollica met with Karen Hughes, a Senior Planner for the Missoula County Rural Initiatives and Addi Jadin their Administrative Aide to introduce the Arlee CDC to them, and to get assistance in understanding the Missoula County Community Council process and other planning initiatives. The meeting was productive and we now have places to contact to ask that we be included on planning notices. Karen Hughes expressed interest in attending a CDC meeting in the future and Donna provided her with the meeting information.

4 Day School Week – The School Board has been talking about a move to a 4 day school week since its October 2008 meeting. Donna attended a public meeting put on by the School Board on February 9<sup>th</sup> to give the public opportunity to give input and ask questions of the Victor and Alberton school representatives who have experience with moving to a 4 day week. Principal Taylor indicated that they would like to start this change in Fall 2009 and he encouraged people at the February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting to call and meet with him if they have questions or would like additional information. The next opportunity for public comment will be March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 PM in the school cafeteria and Donna believes this will be the last public comment opportunity before the School Board votes on the proposal. Donna will try to schedule meetings with him and Lisa Miller, Principal of the Elementary School to get additional information on the plan prior to the March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Anyone who would like to give input on this plan is encouraged to attend the March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: None

SECRETARY: None

TREASURER'S: Absent. It was asked if financial reports could be printed out for each meeting for everyone to see. Donna will show Kelley how to print out the reports so they will be available at each future meeting.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chocolate Lover's Festival: Kelley and Donna reported. Over \$3500.00 was brought in. After expenses, the Library and CDC Youth Programs will split over \$3200.00. This was our most successful Chocolate Lover's to date. J.R. Strand has been volunteering as the auctioneer for three years now. Donna suggested we get a gift certificate for dinner at Guy's Lolo Creek Steakhouse which is a favorite restaurant of J.R.'s and his wife. Kelley called the restaurant and felt that \$100.00 gift certificate would cover the cost of dinner, drinks, dessert and tip. Kelley will call back to have the gift certificate mailed to the CDC.

Jocko Valley Trails: Jack Duff reported. He said the committee is working on getting out a letter requesting support to various organizations and individuals including our senators and congressman. These letters will go with their proposal to the National Parks Service requesting a technical assistance grant for planning. The grant is due August 1<sup>st</sup>. Kelley will help the committee get the letters out.

Killdeer Artisan Guild: They received their Certificate of Intent to Incorporation as a Montana non-profit cooperative. They are working on bylaws and issues so they can finalize the process of incorporation. The geographic area for the Guild will be from Evaro to Nine Pipes including Dixon and Moiese. Right now they are working with 2 and 3 dimensional art.

After School Art Program: Philippa says it is going very well. Judy Martin will be leaving to move back home the middle of March. Philippa is working on getting

volunteers or another assistant to fill in in Judy's absence for the remainder of this grant year. Joyce Auer will continue to volunteer. Philippa will miss Judy's expertise and her ability to get the students to focus on their projects. Someone suggested Antoine Sandoval as a good person to help. We extend our thanks to Judy Martin for her important contributions to the youth of our community and wish her well on her move.

Recycling Signage: Kim Folden researched signs that could be placed at either end of the recycle bin. It would cost \$54.12 for two signs and she and her husband would provide the posts and labor to install them. The modest expenditure falls within our supply budget so Kim was authorized to proceed with ordering and installing the signage. A number of community members, including members of the Senior Center, have commented on the recycle bin in Arlee being of service.

The next Food Buying Club meeting will be held on March 7<sup>th</sup> at noon at The Hangin' Art Gallery. If anyone new to the process wants some help getting up to speed and learning about the process for sharing bulk items this is a good meeting to attend.

Frank White made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Donna 2<sup>nd</sup> it. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

The next CDC meeting will be Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 AM at The Hangin' Art Gallery.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Kelley Brown  
Administrative Assistant