

Arlee Community Development Corporation
Board Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2009

LOCATION: Arlee Alliance Church, McMurtrie Road, Arlee, MT

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Donna Mollica, Carol-Lynne Toleno, Frank White, Debra Little-Starratt, Shaun Kendall, Paul Mollica, Judy Fundingsland, Amy Thomas

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Lisa Samsel, Philippa Crawford, Josy Mann, Ron Snyder

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dale Duff, Jack Duff, Jo Crawford, Denny Nault, Jerry Garcelon, Cherie Garcelon, Helene Bourdon, Deanne Smith, Mary Stranahan

A quorum was established.

Motion was made to approve November 2008 minutes as emailed by Shaun. Carol-Lynne 2nd it. Motion passed. (Note – no meeting in December 2008)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Donna presented to the Board for approval to proceed with applying to The Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund through Lake County Community Development Corporation for a Category II Planning Grant of \$25,000. Shaun made a motion to proceed and Judy seconded it. All were in favor.

The purpose of the grant is to do research and planning necessary to create the Jocko Valley as an arts and culture destination for tourism. This would be in partnership with the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes. With the approval of the CDC Board to proceed, the next step is to get approval from the CSKT Tribal Council which Patty Stevens, Tribal Member, will coordinate. A one-third cash match from the community is needed. This amounts to \$8,250, but \$10,000 would be preferred.

The concept planning group for this includes Donna Mollica, Judy Fundingsland, Philippa Crawford, Patty Stevens and Linda Grinde who is a theater expert, director, choreographer and educator. She is the former Director of Bigfork Summer Theater and was co-artistic director with William Yellowrobe, Jr. for a 2001 theater arts camp at the Pow Wow grounds.

After School Art Program: Donna reported for Philippa. There are approximately 33 children attending. Fourteen are in Kindergarten through 2nd grade and 19 to 20 are in 3rd through Junior High. Jenny Meyers will not be coming back in the spring. Judy Martin will continue and is doing a great job. Donna and Mark Steele wanted to make a donation to the Art Program and purchased supplies. Thank you. Given increased numbers of children served, and the economic downturn, snacks are becoming difficult for parents to provide and Philippa would like others to help. The Gallery provides snacks once a month. Question was asked, "What kind of snacks?" Philippa needs to elaborate on what she is wanting. We'll get more information out when we have it.

MEETING CHANGE: Many people were in favor of changing the CDC meetings to a Saturday. Meetings will now be held the 3rd Saturday of each month at The Hangin' Art Gallery at 10:00am. The next meeting is scheduled for February 21st, 2009. Thank you Shaun and The Alliance Church for having provided the space for us to hold our evening and annual meetings for these past years.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: None

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Carol-Lynne and Frank White still have not heard from the Lake County Community Development Corporation (LCCDC) about being on their board. They sent in a form months ago with this request. Carol-Lynne will call Billie Lee to follow up. Donna is looking into getting involved with the Missoula Economic Development Group as well since so much of our service area is in Missoula County.

Holiday Decorating: We received \$450.00 in donations for decorating trees. We put up 16 trees. For next year we need to let the merchants know that the trees are getting used twice; once to decorate town and once to decorate for the New Year's Eve party. Carol-Lynne talked with Patsy Corcoran about doing candy cane wreaths next year in place of some trees since so many of the trees get blown over. Carol-Lynne commented on how nice the Brown Building looked with the lights the Cordier family put up for the Parade of Lights. The lights were donated by the CDC Beautification Committee.

New Year's Eve: About 50 people attended despite the bad weather. More decorations were used this year and will be used again next year. A little over \$200.00 was taken in. There were a lot of young people, but some did not pay. While we didn't make money, we also did not lose any. Drinking outside the Gallery was a problem. Mary Stranahan suggested asking the Tribal Police to police the area as they do for the Senior Prom. Dale Duff congratulated Frank and Carol-Lynne for all the work they put into the party.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Shaun had nothing new to report. Donna mentioned that the Jocko Valley Food Pantry received \$2000 grant from Lower Flathead Valley Foundation and how grateful we all are to them for their assistance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Landscape/Irrigation: Donna attended a meeting at MDOT to discuss landscaping and irrigation of plantings to be installed with expansion of the highway. Marvin Rehbein suggested calling Carl Dupuis, CSKT Engineer for the highway project here, to request assistance, and he got us on the agenda for the meeting. Donna felt it was a very productive meeting. We won't be getting irrigation, although Donna is hopeful for a watering truck. The Agronomist from Helena reviewed the plans with an eye towards what would thrive 5 – 10 years out after planting without requiring irrigation. He suggested paring down the number of species of shrubs and trees to those that typically do well in this environment and removing ornamental grasses and wildflowers which are

labor intensive. He also suggested that no trees be put in north and south of town as they will be harder to water after the 1 year watering required by the Landscape Contractor. Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at 10:00am at The Hangin' Art Gallery, the necessary people from MDOT including the agronomist, and the CSKT engineer and re-vegetation manager will come to Arlee to meet with the community and reach some agreements about how to proceed.

Bridge Safety: Kelley reported for Amy Burland. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the safety of the bridge north of Arlee and pedestrian crossing of bridge. After introductions were made, most people went to view the bridge. Upon returning, Doug Moeller of MDOT said he saw three possibilities for solving the non-motorized traffic problem over the bridge. They included: 1) Attach walkways to each side of bridge which Doug feels would be the most expensive solution. 2) Reconfigure the lanes on the highway – maybe taking out passing lane. 3) Construct a bridge down below for non-motorized traffic with bike paths leading to it on either side. Doug said he will see to it that plans and estimates to the three possibilities are developed and choose one to pursue. Once that is done, grant writing to fund the project can happen. Virginia Sloan, Kalispell Field Director for Senator Jon Tester, is willing to help with grants. She said that the main function of her position is to help find resources for funding. Chuck Whitson, County Commissioner, said he will check another avenue for funding and let us know. Kevin Howlett said that changes and fixes will take place after the highway construction is complete. Regarding reduced speed limit, Doug Moeller said the speed limit has been temporarily reduced north of town and has been lowered south of town due to highway construction. Once the road construction is done completely, a study will be done to see how the road works and how traffic flows before there is a permanent reduction in speed limit. The question was asked about getting a stop light so that children have a safe way to cross the highway to get to and from school. Doug said that a study has to be done to see if it is warranted. There are seven warrants and two have to be met. There is a 5 year waiting list for stop lights. Amy Burland has volunteered to continue being the contact person for this project and will keep everyone posted.

Jocko Valley Trails: A proposal to the National Parks is being drafted and will be submitted by August to receive planning assistance from them. If approved, NPS will rent staff to the Trails committee to help with long term planning of trails from Evaro to Ravalli. The committee is currently drafting a letter of support. A purpose statement for the Jocko Valley Trails has been written and Mary will email it to Kelley.

Jack talked about the need for better communication in the community. A public meeting maybe needed later on regarding the Trails. This topic needs to be addressed in the needs assessment.

Killdeer Artisan Guild: Judy said the Guild is incorporating as a cooperative. At the next meeting stock options will be discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Chocolate Lover's Festival: Jo Crawford has graciously agreed to head up this committee. She said things are going well with the planning. She does need volunteers the night of the festival. Volunteers need to come in between 4:30 and 5:30 pm on February 12th to help decorate and set up. It will be held at The Hangin' Art Gallery. Jo is working on getting someone from KISS FM with Craig and Al and Eagle 93 with Scott and Paula to put on PSA's about the festival. We need bidders! Hand written invitations will be sent to previous bidders. Door prizes as well as prizes for entries will be given out to encourage people to stay and bid. JR Strand will be the auctioneer again this year. It is important to let people know that the proceeds go towards youth programs and the library. Youth programs dollars help us to assist youth programs beyond the After School Art Program which receives substantial grant funding and in-kind funding from the community. Funds raised at the festival are what allows the CDC to donate to Little Dribblers and the youth baseball teams, for example.

Jocko Valley Library: Volunteers are needed to keep the library open. There is only one person who volunteers during the week and 4 people who rotate Saturdays. Dale and Jack Duff said they would be interested in volunteering. Deb Starratt and Amy Thomas may be willing to volunteer as well. Amy asked about being open on Sundays. Kelley will ask Kim about that. To volunteer call the library at 726-3572. Leave a message and Kim will call you back.

Missoula County Community Councils: Helene Bourdon met with Kelley and Donna about Missoula County setting up community councils in outlying areas such as Frenchtown and Evaro to discuss growth. Helene owns Cougar Ranch B&B located at the Southern end of the Arlee Joint School District #8, the service area for the Arlee CDC. The Evaro home owners and businesses south of Cougar Ranch are part of the Frenchtown Schools and Fire District. Helene requested assistance from the CDC to meet with Missoula County organizations to insure that her business and the areas north of her are included in the Arlee CDC planning areas for economic development. She spoke with Patrick O'Haran from the Rural Initiative Office and he said the Missoula County Commissioners would come up to Arlee to talk with Helene and the CDC to discuss the growth of the area. Helene is going to try and get appointments with Msla Area Redevelopment Corporation and the Montana CDC in Missoula to discuss planning. Donna will meet with her. Donna also talked about needing to include Ravalli in whatever planning we do as they are also part of the Arlee Joint School District #8 and have been hard hit by the Highway project. Dave and Nancy from the Windmill need to be invited.

Donna spoke to the need for a set of printed materials for the Arlee CDC now that we are growing in the scope of our work and in the involvement of people who have not been part of the original establishment of the organization. We need to have written materials and a Power Point program to present to organizations such as the ones mentioned above, so that they can see what we are about. We also need to do new board member information packets.

Arlee CDC Meeting Minutes
1/12/2009

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm. The next CDC meeting will be Saturday, February 21, 2009 at 10:00am at The Hangin' Art Gallery.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Kelley Brown
Administrative Assistant

P.S. Please make note that the monthly CDC meetings will now be held the 3rd Saturday of each month at The Hangin' Art Gallery at 10:00am. The next meeting is February 21, 2009.