

**Divide Chamber of Commerce  
Business Meeting Minutes  
September 9, 2009**

**The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by President Lisa Lee at John Wesley Ranch.**

**In attendance:** Lisa Lee, President; David Martinek, Vice President; Jodi Mijares, Secretary; Joe Kain, Board Member; Guests Kenny Funk, Andy String, Carmon and Beverly Stiles, and Steve and Patty Tomsky.

**Introductions were made.**

**John Wesley Ranch:**

Kenny Funk, Director of John Wesley Ranch, gave us a tour of the facility and grounds. The Ranch is suitable for everything from tent camping to large groups, and is open to the public, regardless of religious affiliation. This was a very comfortable and convenient place to hold our meeting. Kenny has very generously offered to host all remaining monthly chamber meetings, including our December Holiday Dinner. Thank you!

**Christmas in Divide:**

The Christmas in Divide Planning committee met on September 8. Many people are volunteering to help, and preparations are on schedule. Some items were further discussed tonight:

1. Jodi will create a cover letter to attach to the vendor applications. She will include an apology for no event last year, an explanation of the new mandatory Silent Auction donation or gift certificate, and new pricing, including the opportunity to rent the foyer for \$100. Joe Kain would like the letter to include explanation that vendors may sign up in his store, Ancestral Arts.
2. The Chamber and any members' static displays will be set up in half of the cafeteria, along with the Silent Auction items. The bake sale and food sale will be in the other half of the cafeteria. The vendor tables (up to 40) will be set up in the gymnasium. Any member who would like more than a static display at the chamber table may purchase a vendor table.
3. Silent Auction proceeds are the Divide Chamber's main fundraiser, and help fund the Chamber's activities and special projects, such as the Midland Depot renovation.
4. Steve Tomsky volunteered to sell door prize tickets for \$1 each. Door prizes will be announced each hour. Must be present to win hourly door prize. Steve suggested we come up with one big-ticket item to increase ticket sales. Big-ticket item will be drawn at the end of the day. Do not need to be present to win.
5. David suggested we come up with a larger tree for Santa pictures. He has a 6-7 ft. artificial, and Kenny has either artificial or real trees we could use.

**Ute Country News:**

Carmon and Beverly reported on the success of the Ute Country News. All ads and articles are due next week for the Oct. 1 release of the Oct/Nov/Dec paper. Although the paper is nearly full, they will try to include an announcement of Christmas in Divide. Carmon shared that businesses whom have advertised in the paper are experiencing an increase in business. Carmon states that

this is due to the fact that Ute Country News is the best-read paper in our area, reaching 5580 mailboxes, and many local businesses are agreeing to place newspaper stands at their locations. Park State Bank alone has distributed an additional 400 papers.

**Elections:**

Elections will be held at the December DCC monthly meeting. Nominations need to be made by the November meeting, and a ballot needs to be ready for the December election.

**Midland Depot:**

David reported on the progress of the Depot renovation project. A Board of Directors has been created, and is working to solve the problem of land ownership. Progress was stalled until recently over this issue. In the meantime, Pete Kyper has agreed to fund the cost of stabilizing the foundation, as well as the cost of adding an adaptable sewer connection. The goal is for the Board, THE Coalition, and other partners, to occupy the East wing by Jan. 2010, in the hope that this increased activity and visibility will stimulate progress.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm. **The next monthly meeting will be held on Wed. Oct. 14 at 6pm at John Wesley Ranch. All are welcome to attend.**

Jodi Mijares  
Secretary