

Gardiner Chamber of Commerce

216 Park Street
PO Box 81
Gardiner MT 59030-0081

Phone: 406.848.7971
E-mail: executivedirector@gardinerchamber.com



The Gardiner Chamber of Commerce serves our community through developing local tourism while endorsing stewardship of the Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Meeting date: **Thursday, October 21st, 2023 from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM**

Location: Gardiner Chamber of Commerce 216 Park St. Gardiner, MT & [Virtual via Zoom](#)

Purpose: Regularly Scheduled Monthly Board of Directors Meeting

Agenda:

1. Chamber Business

1.1 Roll Call & Introductions

Chelsea Deweese, Amanda Hagerty, Mike Keller, Debbie Mackey, Sarah Ondrus, Mike Skelton

Excused Absence: Brian Koski, Trina Smith

Unexcused Absence: Billie Taylor

1.2 Approval of Prior Month's Meeting Minutes

Mackey motioned to approve the minutes from September 2023. Hagerty seconded. 6 in favor/ 0 opposed/ 0 abstentions. Motion approved.

2. Committee Updates

2.1 Mary Wilson– Yellowstone NPS

Not Present

2.2 Tim Schumacher and Mike Thom – USFS

Not Present

2.3 Terese Petcoff – Director's Report

RESORT TAX REQUESTS

The Gardiner Chamber requests for the 2024 funding cycling are still being completed she shared that the Chamber will no longer be requesting the inverter, that she is awaiting a quote from Signs of Montana regarding building signage, and awaiting a few answers from Randy Trauth regarding snow removal. While awaiting some answer the Chamber will submit four requests: updated building signage, continued garbage collection on public use trash canisters, improvements to the public restroom facilities, and snow removal from public sidewalks.

COMMISSIONER PROCESS

From watching the most recent special meeting they have narrowed it down from the 11 candidates to 5 that I believe they plan to interview on October 24. They have not yet released the details of that meeting. The candidates they narrowed it down to are Dann T. Babcox Sr., Rachael Jones, Luke Jergenson, Monica Lynn Tietz, and Bryan Wells. If you are interested in learning more about them or watching the meeting I can email the board where to find that information and pass along the agenda when I receive it if everyone would like.

YNP STATS

September up 10% from September 2019, down approx. 7% compared to 2021 the year of record-breaking visitation.

PED SIGNS

Bill Berg placed 7 new ped signs on Park St, there is one more that is not placed yet for a total of 8 signs. The Chamber will be moving these to the Rodeo Grounds at some point in November so that snow plows do not have issues and will place them back in April when YNP roads reopen.

Ondrus suggested that Cowboy Cross Walk would be a good place for the 8th pedestrian crossing sign to alert drivers to pedestrians in such a congested area.

VIDEO GALLERY

Petcoff shared that there was a request from a Chamber Member, Yellowstone Wild, to have their video included in our Video Gallery on VisitGardinerMT.com. We currently don't have a "policy" on where we share membership content on our website aside from being included on their listing landing page, I was wondering what the Board thought about having a section on the Video Gallery page that says MEMBERSHIP Videos and then displayed the video and the name of the member?

Skelton suggests further discussion on the video matter and to not make a decision now.

Ondrus agreed that there should be continued discussion and suggested that we offer this service but make it fee based.

Petcoff had moved on to the below discussion on the bench but conversation circled back to the Video gallery once Deweese had her audio working.

Deweese shared that the request to include Yellowstone Wild's video was because MT Whitewater had a promo video located on the page. Petcoff apologized as she was unaware of the MT Whitewater video being on the page and communicated that all non-Chamber videos would be removed until there was a specific policy in place.

Skelton further suggested that the Chamber start from scratch with a written policy regarding videos on the Chamber website. The board determined that the organization would circle back to the topic in the near future.

BENCH

The Chamber was contacted a while back by a family whose father was a frequent visitor of Yellowstone and especially loved Gardiner. They were wanting to have some sort of memorial for their father in town and were interested in having a memorial bench, something similar to what is outside of Kellem's outside of the Chamber. I was wondering what our thoughts were on this? I additionally referred her to Park County and also spoke with Morgan Squires of Park County Fairgrounds myself in regard to something being placed in Arch Park. She explained that they have begun to have this type of inquiry more often and that they are in the process of figuring out a policy for these requests. The board discussed the idea and ultimately decided to allow the bench but would like the specs to be passed along.

2.3 Maria Koppelberger – Operations Manager's Report

VIC

Chamber summer staffing ended Sept 29th. Petcoff and Koppelberger turned in the end-of-season report to Yellowstone Country, which is a part of the grant the Chamber receives for funding summer staff. For the grant period, end of May through end of September, 47,096 visitors walked through the doors of the Chamber.

Chamber staff are getting ready for the Christmas Stroll on December 7th. The poster contest is in the newsletter and running through October 31st. Anna Holloway is no longer organizing the craft fair, instead, Christy with Emigrant's People Market is heading that up: emigrantpeoplesmarket@gmail.com.

Property and Facilities

Fireplace – Chimney sweep cleaned Wednesday, Sept 27.

Boiler – regular maintenance the first week of October. Adam Dreyer gave some suggestions about keeping the heat working properly. He noted that the hard water is really taking a toll on the boiler and it may fail in the next few years so we should budget for replacement.

Jim Roberts has been working on a few small projects around the Chamber. Swamp cooler- removed and the hole is patched up. Already making a difference in keeping cold air out of the building and the warm air in. The space heaters up here have been working well. AED installed, inside the cabinet are a rescue breathing mask and Narcan. He is looking into solutions for the restroom stall doors and the front door sticking.

Plumbing – Louis Kiel will be here next week to replace a bad element in the hot water heater and give an estimate for replacing the toilet in the family restroom.

4. Outstanding Business

None

5. New Business

Skelton received a letter from the Montana Tourism Advisory Council commending Executive Director Terese Petcoff for her leadership of the Gardiner, MT DMO (formerly called CVB). Montana recently changed the terminology for their Convention and Visitor's Bureau (CVB) to Destination Marketing Organization (DMO).

Skelton shared that he had heard from Jim Halfpenny of the Yellowstone Community Fund and that the Chamber will receive \$15,000 and possibly more due to the Chamber's efforts in post-flood recovery and communication.

Skelton communicated that the tax valuations changed for both the Rodeo Grounds and the Chamber building. He asked that Petcoff and Koppelberger review insurance coverage to be sure the properties are insured for the correct value.

Skelton noted the new pedestrian crossing signs and the value they bring to help pedestrians.

Deweese's board term is almost up and Skelton asked if she is running again. Deweese said she will get back soon with a decision. Keller is terming out. Ondrus' term is up and she is able to run again. She expressed interest in running again. Taylor's term will be up, as well and Skelton will contact her to determine if she is running again.

The November meeting will be an Executive Session to work on the budget. It will not be a public meeting. Petcoff will get a draft budget out to the board before the November meeting, the board will discuss at the meeting, and then the budget will be brought for approval in the December board meeting.

Skelton asks that on the rare occasions that Petcoff asks for a response from the board in her emails, the board responds. Deweese requested that Petcoff contact the board in a secondary system to let them know they need to give input. Petcoff will find an alternative.

6. Public Comment

None

Keller motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ondrus seconded. 6 in favor/ 0 opposed/ 0 abstentions. Motion approved.

Date of Next Public Meeting: December 21, 2023, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM