

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, November 21, 2024, from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM**
Location: **Gardiner Chamber of Commerce, 216 Park St. Gardiner, MT & [Virtual via Zoom](#)**
Purpose: **November Board Meeting 2024**

1. Call to Order.
 - a. Present: Amanda Hagerty, Karrie Kahle, Debbie Mackey, Sarah Ondrus, Maria Sascha Khan, Mike Skelton, Billie Taylor
2. Approval/correction of prior Month's minutes:
 - a. Correction to line 1.3 of October meeting minutes: Vote for Approval of Letter of Support for Park County. The Vote was 4 in favor, 0 No votes, 0 abstained, 3 directors did not vote. There was a **motion** by Karrie Kahle and a second made by Sarah Ondrus to accept the correction as stated. Passed unanimously.
3. Committee Updates:
 - a. Mary Wilson – NPS. Overall, Park visitation was up 6% from 2023 numbers, with a 16% increase comparing October 2023 to October 2024. Dec. 15, 2024, is the opening day for the Winter Season. Interior roads are closed, Mammoth Campground will be open on first come/first served, Mammoth Dining Room will open on Dec. 15.
 - b. Mike Thom – USFS. Road to Bear Creek open/bridge repaired. Christmas tree permits are available for \$5. Eagle Creek CG has been hopping with hunters. Funding issues have come up regarding staffing, repair of McConnel Boat Ramp and others.
 - c. Maria Koppelberger-Rogers – Executive Director Report.
 - i. State Meetings for MT Downtown Mainstreet attended, PCCS nonprofit training attended.
 - ii. Training for QuickBooks continues.
 - iii. Sign Project completed and paid for.
 - iv. Funding: Current Lodging Tax revenue is up this year, CVB funds are like operating funds and can be rolled over.
 - v. Chamber has been asked to participate in YF's Plastic Reduction Grant. As soon as the MOU is out, it will be shared.
 - vi. Other Grants: Visitor Center Enhancement grant final report submitted, Visitor Staff Grant report was submitted and then presented at the Yellowstone Country Board of Directors meeting. Rolled over funds for snow removal. Asks submitted to GRAD for improvements

including bathroom update, baseboard heater replacement and awning replacement, refuse collection as well. Announcements of awarded applications will come Dec. 9th, 2024.

- d. Hernon Lavin – Operations Manager Report.
 - i. Montana Main Street conference created a wonderful space for networking.
 - ii. Outreach to the Chamber members continues.
 - iii. Christmas Stroll update.
4. New Business:
 - a. Todd Walton, Director of Marketing and Sales for Xanterra was welcomed to the Chamber Community.
 - b. **Motion:** Motion to appoint Todd Walton to one of the vacant seats on the Chamber Board with the position expiring January 2026 was made by Debbie Mackey and seconded by Amanda Hagerty. Motion carried unanimously.
 - c. Discussion of 2025 proposed budget ensued.
 - i. TDG marketing proposal for sourcing out media work was discussed.
 - d. **Motion:** Motion to adopt the GCoC FY 2025 budget with retaining the Travel Guide, Walking Map and Contract Bookkeeping was made by Sarah Ondrus. Seconded by Todd Walton. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Old Business
 - a. Board member terms. Hagerty and Mackey are up for reelection in Jan. 2025. Skelton terms out Jan. 2025. The Chamber should offset term expirations so that 4 seats are up one election with 5 seats expiring the next year.