

# Gardiner Chamber of Commerce

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

Meeting date: **Thursday, December 19, 2019**

Location: Gardiner Chamber of Commerce

Purpose: Regularly Scheduled Meeting

## **Agenda:**

### **1. Chamber Business**

#### **1.1. Roll Call & Introductions**

*Jeff Guengerich, Trina Smith, Edwin Johnson, Mike Skelton, Neli Karamfilova, Mike Keller*

*Excused absence: Kelly Burns, Anna Holloway, Leslie Everett*

#### **1.2 Approval of Prior Month's Meeting Minutes**

**5 min.**

*Motion to approve made by Mike Skelton. Seconded by Edwin Johnson*

### **2. Committee Updates**

#### **2.1 US Forest Service - Mike Thom- USFS**

**10 min.**

Mike let us know that they will begin grooming the Nordic ski trail up Bear Creek when there is enough snow on the ground, which will probably be after the new year.

He presented that they have begun a raven research project where they will be netting ravens from carcasses and attaching tracking devices to them.

Finally, he noted that the final phase of the Forest Plan Revision will begin in March.

#### **2.2 Yellowstone NPS - Mary Wilson- National Park Service**

Mary presented that the warming huts are now open at Canyon and Old Faithful. She also informed us that Cam Sholly was recently in a PBS interview in Wyoming and encouraged us all to watch it.

Additionally, she reminded us to remind visitors about remaining at a safe distance from animals especially after there were two wolf pups killed in Yellowstone after being struck by a car. It was believed that these animals had become use to humans that that may be why they were so close to the road.

Lastly, Steamboat geyser erupted on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:42p.m.

#### **2.3 Director/CVB Report - Neala Siegle**

The Chamber's newest members are Jardine Retreats and Log Cabin Café.

She reported that the Gardiner Chamber received the Resort Tax Funds that we requested on behalf of the Rodeo Club. Other recipients were EPAC, GGCC, Gardiner Water and Sewer, the Booster Club, and NYEF.

The Christmas Stroll was a success and that our door counter had over 470 people through the doors.

The picnic table for Joe Gross is assembled and in Arch Park. Additionally, there is now siding on the side of the building instead of stucco.

Lastly, she plans to meet with the executive committee after the holidays to go over her transition and she intends to stay through March 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### CVB Updates

- The Montana Office of Tourism notified me that we have \$24,810 in uncommitted tax funds on hand to increase our marketing budget. There will be a meeting with the CVB in February to allocate those funds.
- Ad sales for the Visitor Guide have closed
- We participated in a very recent Joint Venture opportunity with Yellowstone Country where Gardiner is featured in a two-page spread print that will appear in Sunset, Midwest Living, and Northwest Travel for a total circulation of over 2 million readers.
- In the next couple months we hope secure a winter press trip and an indoor photo shoot of people being cozy and enjoying themselves here in Gardiner as these are images we're missing in our winter photo library.
- In February 2020 at the CVB meeting we'll vote on the next cover of our visitor guide.

#### **2.4 Office Manager Report – Terese Petcoff**

Terese informed the board that the Chamber will not be able to make a lump sum payment more than \$25,000 toward the building's principal for the year. Moving forward the board would like a payment of \$25,000 made before the end of the year and then again in the month of January before the interest rates reset. She also reported that there is over \$13,000 in an Escrow account with Guardian that was supposed to go towards the building's property taxes and insurance. Moving forward the Chamber will no longer pay these bills through our operations account but through the escrow account.

In January Jeff will meet with Jerry Kahr to re set the building interest rate.

It was discussed that in 2024 the Chamber will investigate refinancing the building mortgage. Additionally, the Chamber may discuss with a lawyer prior to 2024 on what the best options would be moving forward.

#### **3. Voices of Montana Tourism Presentation – Dax Schieffer**

**20 min.**

Link to full presentation can be found at [www.visitgardinermt.com/images/Gardiner\\_2019.pdf](http://www.visitgardinermt.com/images/Gardiner_2019.pdf)

#### **4. Outstanding Business**

##### **3.1 2020 Chamber of Commerce Budget Final Proposal**

**20 min.**

*Neli motions to approve the budget. Trina seconds the motion. Motion passes.*

**5. Public Comment**

**5 min.**

**6. Date of Next Meeting: January 16, 2020 6pm-8pm**