

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.

DATE: February 20, 2025; 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

LOCATION: Gardiner Chamber of Commerce, 216 Park St., Gardiner, MT & Virtual via Zoom

PURPOSE: Monthly Meeting

PRESENT: Amanda Hagerty, Karrie Kahle, Debbie Mackey, Cara McGary, Billie Taylor, Todd Walton, and Karoline Sleichter

Excused Absence: Sarah Ondrus

Agenda:

1. Debbie Mackey called the Meeting to Order at 12:03 PM

1.2. APPROVAL/CORRECTIONS of prior month's minutes

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of January 2025 as circulated. Motion by Todd Walton / Seconded by: Karrie Kahle
- **Carried.**

2. Committee Updates

2.1 USFS – Tim Schumacher
Schumacher was in attendance but had no report.

2.2 Director Report – Terese Petcoff

- New Members
- Operation Manager – Nesta Susquehanna. She will begin March 3rd, 2025.
- Petcoff will reach out to Christina White at YNP to see if the Board meetings can have a Park Service representative since Mary Wilson has retired.
- Visitor Guide ads have gone on sale.
- Building Pay off

- Food Pantry Wood Bank Request – Linda Gray approached the Chamber concerning the storage of firewood at Rodeo Grounds.

3. OLD BUSINESS

4. NEW BUSINESS

- 4.1 Chamber Meeting Times were discussed. Cara McGary suggested many Guiding Services could be impacted by current meeting times. Discussion ensued. Petcoff will issue a survey to the Board members and follow up with them on future meeting times.
- 4.2 Gardiner Response to Federal Hiring Freeze and Lay Offs. Current governmental activities have caused concern regarding our business outlook for peak tourist season.
 - Motion for the Chamber to draft a letter to the Montana Congressional Senators and Representatives seeking clarity and direction regarding the recent personnel and budget cuts specifically at the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service.
 - Karrie Kahle made the motion and Cara McGary seconded. Motion carried.

5. Public Comment

- Member of the public, Richard Midgette, shared his recent experience as an employee laid off from the Park Service. He thanked the Board for their support in writing a letter to the delegation.

6. Motion to adjourn made by Karrie Kahle, seconded by Cara McGary

7. Date of next meeting: currently, March 20, 2025 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM