

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: March 28, 2024

LOCATION: Gardiner Chamber of Commerce, GARDINER, MT & Virtual via Zoom

PURPOSE: March Meeting 2024

PRESENT: Amanda Hagerty, Karrie Kahle, Debbie Mackey, Mike Skelton, Trina Smith. Guests: Richard Parks, Alyssa McGeeley, and Sabina Strauss

Zoom Attendance: Billie Taylor, Maria Sascha Kahn

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL/Corrections OF PRIOR MONTH'S MINUTES

- **Correction:** correct the spelling of K. Kahle name.
- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of February 15, 2024; as corrected. Motion by Amanda Hagerty, Seconded by: Sarah Ondrus.
Carried.

3. Guest Presenters

3.1 Richard Park GRAD report. Over the last 10 years, \$7 million dollars has been collected (\$6.4 million spent on Gardiner projects). GRAD will be reviewing its mission over the next 10 months and invites the public to attend meetings. The next election cycle is 2025.

3.2 Alyssa McGeeley, and Yellowstone Forever, have been working to bring the Illuminated Teepees back to the Gateway, August 4-10, 2024. The Pretty Shield Foundation (i.e., Snell family) asks for community feedback to discuss expanding the event.

3.3 Committee Updates

a. Terese Petcoff – Director Report

- i. The conference room booking policy needs to be updated. Petcoff will follow up on possible edits to the Board.
 - ii. GRAD Grants are still being executed. Additionally funding sources for updated signage needs to be explored.
 - iii. The new travel guide is complete upon receiving remaining ads.
 - iv. VIC staffing funding from Yellowstone country has increased over last years amount from \$10,000 in FY 23 to \$15,000 in FY24.
 - v. Annual Gardiner Earth Day Activities were discussed on how the Chamber would support. Smith noted that she would talk BBar about supplying brats and buns and follow up. Petcoff will also follow up with the Board once she meeting with GGCC representative, Dennis McIntosh.
- b. Maria Koppelberger – Operations Manager Report
- i. Bison have come down out of the park.
 - ii. Visitation dropped off after over-snow travel ended for season, but there is a bump in Spring Break visitors.
 - iii. The Chamber has Bear Aware packets available for short-term rentals. These packets are designed to educate area guests about bear etiquette. Please feel free to take some for yourself or for anyone who might be able to use them in their rentals. The packets are from People and Carnivores (Bozeman) and this organization works with Evan of Bear Aware Gardiner.
 - iv. Advertising for summer positions for the Chamber will begin shortly.
 - v. We received our new toilet for the family restroom, and it will be installed in the next few weeks. (This was paid for from the Resort District grant.)

4. Old Business:

- 4.1 Final 2023 budget discussion. Current financial situation is a \$10,000 deficit.
 - a. Membership dues delinquency for Nov. & Dec. (paid up in January).
 - b. Chamber received less grant monies.
 - c. Unexpected expenses/purchases this winter (e.g., wood for heating, boiler maintenance, building repair) contributed to deficit spending.
- 4.2 Pursue ninth board member? No strong preference either way and is not required.

5. New Business:

- 5.1 Firearm policy for Chamber. Staff will draft policy and ask for review.
- 5.2 Sue Johnson informally asked for Chamber to financially support the fife and drum Corp for Rodeo. Current deficit precludes support. However, members suggested the committee ask individual businesses for sponsorship.
- 5.3 **Bold business listings** in newsletter directory as additional revenue stream. Staff is looking into the possibility and will follow up with the Board.

5.4 Parking lot recommendations. Skelton mentioned the possibility of the Chamber officially leasing the Park Steet Parking lot from Yellowstone National Park

5.5 Referendum 1 will be on June 4th ballot.

6. Public Comments

6.1 Sabina Strauss announced her run for Park County Commissioner. The vote for this position will be on the November ballot.

7.0 Motion to adjourn by Trina Smith, seconded by: Sarah Ondrus. Motion carried.