



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, June 23rd, 2022 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

All meetings are recorded and available upon request by emailing executivedirector@gardinerchamber.com.

Agenda:

1. Chamber Business

1.1 Roll Call & Introductions

Chelsea Deweese, Amanda Hagerty, Debbie Mackey, Sarah Ondrus, Mike Skelton, Trina Smith, and Billie Taylor

Excused Absence: Mike Keller

Absent: Sabina Strauss

1.2 Approval of Prior Month's Meeting Minutes

Debbie Mackey motioned to approve

Sarah Ondrus seconded. Minutes from May 2022 pass.

2. Committee Updates

2.1 Mary Wilson – Yellowstone NPS

Not present

2.2 Mike Thom – US Forest Service Gardiner District

Not present

Petcoff gave a synopsis of her conversation with Adam Washbeck with the Forest Service since Mike was unavailable

- The Yellowstone River is now open
 - Brogans and Cinnabar boat ramp are both closed which will affect some of the raft companies logistically
 - McConnel's is only available to permit holders
 - Joe Brown's is closed, however you can walk your boat into the water, no parking allowed.

2.3 Terese Petcoff – Director's Report

Prior to the flood, Petcoff placed a "Greetings from Gardiner" ad in USA Today National Parks Edition and shared it with the group.

Petcoff updated the board that the FY23 marketing plan had been approved and passed by the TAC on June 14th. Due to the flooding, Jan Stoddard presented Gardiner's plan.

MSU park county extension is contracting out Jess Haas for four weeks to assist Petcoff. Previous employees Sara Fleming and Neala Siegle have also been helping her out.

Petcoff will be submitting for a \$15,000 grant only available to CVBs in the Yellowstone Country Region to help with messaging and administrative costs. She will update the Board

Petcoff discussed various marketing efforts and resources and discounts available to businesses in Gardiner including:

- The Bozeman Chronicle is offering free ads and BOGO discounts through September 30
- Facebook Metaverse has offering advertising credit to help spread messaging.
- Rachel Cudmore is going to be working on getting food to Mammoth residents.
- The Governor will be allocating \$1M into a two-phase Marketing plan for Gardiner; first in state and then out of state.
- \$10-\$14M of bed tax money may be delegated to a business stability grant program that would act much like the COVID-19 relief grants.
- The State is currently also working on a one stop website to house resources.

Additionally, there was discussion around donations directed to the Gardiner Chamber of Commerce as the Macy's location in Bozeman would like to make a \$2,500 donation to the Chamber, however this would not be tax deductible. Petcoff agreed to discuss this with Macy's and see if there may be a better fund to donate to that would assist Gardiner Businesses, e.g. the Yellowstone Community Fund.

Petcoff asked that CUA holders consider bag lunches for tours to support Gardiner restaurants when CUAs are able to enter Yellowstone National Park.

Hagerty confirmed that the Teepee village slated for August is still happening!

2.4 Tracey Sutton – Office Manager's Report

We still have five seasonal employees, who are not currently. We would like to them start next Monday. Terese and Tracey are working on schedules. The Grant Money for VIS employees has to be used the same year or it has to be sent back to Yellowstone Country.

Terese is going to reach out to Robin Hoover at YC to talk about options. Skelton mentioned that we may be able to get a waiver

Tracey has been contacting business to gather data; open/closed, how are they doing, have they lost employees, etc. Some of these conversations were very emotional. Chelsea asked if we are planning to share with the park county business coalition, Petcoff replied probably yes!

Burns plumbing is here fixing the urinal in the men's room, again. He is also unclogging the sink in the family bathroom and giving our plumbing a check-up. Sarah Ondrus asked if we are still planning on replacing the urinal with another toilet stall. Ultimately, Skelton said it is not a needed expense at this time.

3. Outstanding Business

3.1 Rain Gutters

The matter of installing rain gutters on the west side of the building to be paid for by Nelli and Dimitra Nikolov was put to a vote. The vote was motioned to approve by Debbie Mackey and seconded by Sarah Ondrus. Motion. Passes

3.2 Sesquicentennial

No discussion

4. New Business

4.1 Flood Incident & Recovery – Mike Skelton & Terese Petcoff

Skelton shared the official messaging being put out by the incident team in Gardiner is coming directly from Park County. Folks can visit the Park County website or Park County flooding 2022 Facebook for official information. The IC Team, made up of in part by volunteer locals, had been meeting at the Chamber since the flooding event and moving forward would only meet on an as needed basis.

The water in Gardiner was tested and as been deemed clean for use and consumption! Water test kits are available for folks who are on a private well.

There will be a **MultiAgencyResourceCommittee** meeting held at the school Saturday June 25th and will include about 25 vendors: Yellowstone Forever, Nick Holloway from Park County, Jim Halfpenny from Yellowstone Community Fund, information about cleanup, applying for immediate assistance, etc. There will be no FEMA representative.

On June 28th at Noon, the region 9 office of the Federal Reserve is holding a meeting to gather data at the school, businesses are encouraged to attend.

FEMA and the SBA are currently for infrastructure only at this time but is working to get individuals in the declaration.

The National Park Service is working tirelessly on the North Entrance road and future plans.

The Chamber has been receiving complaints about local business cancellation policies. Skelton said that we should refer them back to the business or the BBB.

4.2 Casey at the fireworks stand

Casey requested that fee for space at the rodeo grounds and insurance required be waived this year. Discussion followed and it was agreed that the Board was comfortable waiving the fee but not the required insurance.

Sarah Ondrus asked if fireworks would be allowed at the rodeo grounds. It was agreed unanimously that the Rodeo Grounds would still not allow fireworks. Currently there are no designated locations in Gardiner to shoot off fireworks.

Sarah Ondrus motioned to approve to waive the rental fee for the grounds. Debbie Mackey seconded. Motion Passes.

5. Public Comment

Trina motioned to adjourn
Sarah Ondrus Seconded
Meeting adjourned

Date of Next Meeting: July 21, 2022 12:00PM – 1:00PM