



Gardiner Chamber of Commerce

216 Park Street P.O. Box 81
Gardiner MT 59030-0081

406-848-7971
executivedirector@gardinerchamber.com

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

Meeting date: **Thursday, July 21st, 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

Amanda Hagerty, Mike Keller, Debbie Mackey, Sarah Ondrus, Mike Skelton, Trina Smith, and Sabina Strauss

Excused Absence: Chelsea Deweese and Billie Taylor

1.2 Approval of Prior Month's Meeting Minutes

Trina Smith motioned to approve.

Amanda Hagerty seconded. Minutes from June 2022 pass.

2. Committee Updates

2.1 Mike Thom – US Forest Service Gardiner District

Campgrounds are open and operating. The Eagle Creek Camp host shared that they have been pretty quiet.

There is a new trail project at Cutler Lake/Springs/hill trail. This is a new non-motorized bike friendly trail and should be completed within a month.

The OTO Ranch is hosting a public event on Sunday 8/21. They have been giving the ranch a facelift and are having groups for approximately 1 week stays for the next 4 weeks. Folks will be parking at the bottom and shuttling up. General use is still available during this time.

Petcoff asked if there was any worry about other areas of the river aside from the area of the river that was recently closed on the river. Thom responded that conversations are being had right now about what can be done, if anything, in regard to where the Tom Miner bridge ended up.

2.2 Terese Petcoff – Director's Report

New members since May 2022:

- Montana Yellowstone Hideaway & Bears Den vacation rentals
- Gardiner eBike Rentals - Gardiner eBike Rentals is located just northeast of Gardiner.
- Silver Back Transportation - Servicing Gallatin and Park County in Montana in transporting to airports. Transporting people, groceries, and other items, just ask!
- JTech Communications - JTech Communications is a web design and digital marketing firm

- Sagebrushers & Savages a food truck in the Blue Goose lot
- The Antler Lodge & The Antler Pub & Grill has rejoined
- Yellowstone Wildlife Guide Company

The Department of Commerce has asked Petcoff to send a weekly email to local lodging entities to determine the difference of occupancy from 2021 to 2022. This will be sent to certain entities until further notice.

The Chamber had received a grant from the CVB but has been able to transfer the funds to the Chamber general fund. The 15K grant must be expended by 8/1/2022. Petcoff would like to reallocate some of the funds with board approval, to include

- Jess Haas to assist with marketing
- Cody Brundidge to take current photos of the town

Strauss motioned to approve Petcoff's new budget request. Mackey seconded. The motion passes. Keller opposed and would like additional discussion. Motion approved by the majority.

Strauss asked if Petcoff has had trouble staffing the Chamber. Petcoff replied that she was and expressed that she was working on different budgets to make that work.

Petcoff asked what the thoughts were about paying Chamber employees for the hours missed during the two weeks they missed due to the flood incident. TBD

There is an influencer coming from the OTO ranch. Petcoff asked the group what their thoughts were about having this person do a park tour or have them stay in the Gardiner area doing activities here. The response was that they should spend their time in Gardiner; rafting, horseback riding, dining, etc. Yellowstone Country has offered to pay for the activities they do.

Promoting staycations was discussed by the group, and it was decided that Gardiner staycations should be promoted over YNP vacations.

Petcoff is working with the Livingston Chamber on the hwy 89 corridor project to promote tourism in Livingston and Gardiner.

GRAD We still need assistance to have garbage cans put in locations. Petcoff will be reaching out to folks. Dennis McIntosh was suggested.

We have received the AED from the hose company. GRAD has approved about \$200 for the accessories.

Hotel entities have lodging available for HK Contactors and can contact them directly.

The Old Saloon is trying to move the 8/19/2022 Pure Prairie League concert to Gardiner. They also are working on giving out 200 tickets to folks who stay in Gardiner lodging, but we haven't heard anything concrete. They are working on shuttles. TBD

The Brewfest was a success and sold out of available cups and many vendors sold out of food!

2.3 Tracey Sutton – Office Manager's Report

Visitation

- There were 19,227 visitors in July 2021
- Only 2,500 visitors so far for July 2022

Sutton reported that frequently asked questions revolve around confusion for visitors and potential visitors coming to Gardiner, this is mainly due to conflicting media reporting.

3. Outstanding Business

3.1 Sesquicentennial

Discussion was had surrounding Yellowstone revealed

- The buffalo dance performances will be 8/25-8/27 at Arch Park in the evenings
- Illuminated Teepees will be in Gardiner.
- The larger scale Teepee Village will be at Madison Junction

4. New Business

4.1 Flood Incident & Recovery

The SBA will be opening an additional location in Cooke City at the Super 8.

5. Public Comment

Strauss asked about the gutters since she was absent for the last meeting. Skelton explained that the gutters were paid for by the neighboring business and was voted on and approved via email.

*Trina motioned to adjourn
Debbie Mackey Seconded
Meeting adjourned*

Date of Next Meeting: August 18, 2022 12:00PM – 1:00PM