

# 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: **September 17, 2020 from 12:00pm – 1:00pm**

Location: Zoom meeting

Purpose: Regularly Scheduled Meeting

## **Agenda:**

### **1. Chamber Business**

**1.1 Roll Call & Introductions** *Jeff Guengerich, Edwin Johnson, Kelly Burns, Trina Smith, Mike Keller, Mike Skelton, Ann Skelton, Alex Roberts, Hal Broadhead, Zondra Skertich*

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

August minutes were approved unanimously with no edits needed. Mike Skelton made the motion to approve the minutes and Mike Keller seconded the motion.

### **2. US Forest Service – Mike Thom – USFS**

*Mike Thom was unavailable. Hopeful to be present at meeting in October*

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

Wilson started her update with being grateful to see the Chamber's safety messaging to stay safe and encourage the use of masks considering COVID-19.

Winter operations are yet to be determined.

Road construction continues in the park, especially from Fishing Bridge to Indian Pond and Tower to Canyon. Weather contingent closures are expected to happen as cooler temperatures occur. Wilson encouraged everyone present to encourage visitors to utilize using the road update text messaging system for updates along with the Yellowstone app.

NPS is having roving rangers to assist visitors due to the need to have Visitor Centers remain closed.

August visitation statistics was provided. There was a 7.5% increase in August 2020 from August of 2019.

Elk Safety Messaging needs to be continued to be shared.

Lone Star Fire has expanded to 3,900 acres and activity has slightly increased. Wilson reminded the Board that the smoke that has settled in the area is coming from the fires of the west coast. It's important to stress to visitors that fires need to be burned only in designated fire rings. The park is doing what they can to keep the stretch of road affected by the fire open.

Steamboat Geyser has erupted thirty-seven times this year.

Overall, September has been remarkably busy in the park.

### 3. Committee Updates

20 min.

#### 3.1 Office Manager Report – Sara Fleming

Fleming began her report with an update on Terese and the birth of her baby girl. She gave birth to Hake on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Mother, baby, and family are well and recovering at home.

The automatic lock for the vestibule door at the visitor center is scheduled for the week of September 28<sup>th</sup>. A 50% deposit has been placed and the remaining balance will be paid upon the completion of the installation. The restrooms will unfortunately not be open on weekends for the next couple weeks due to no staffing on the weekends.

Montana Safety Grant CARES Act updates were provided. The Chamber can hire Fran Ragsdale as an administrative cost of the grant. We also currently have a volunteer named Shelby Conrad who we look forward to having help with Safety Grant items.

VIC seasonal staff will conclude their work at the Chamber on September 30<sup>th</sup> per the grant funding timeframe we need to be in.

COVID-19 cases have jumped to 12 active cases currently in Park County. The countywide mask mandate remains in effect indefinitely. There is asymptomatic surveillance testing at the Gardiner school this Sunday from 12PM to 1PM. Unfortunately, routine weekly testing at Yellowstone Forever will conclude on September 28<sup>th</sup>. The Chamber is grateful for YF hosting the testing and Park County Health for hosting what they could throughout the summer.

#### 3.2 Constitution and Bylaws Amendments and Vote

Mike Skelton moved to amend Article 8 with the following edits: Mike Keller seconded the motion.

##### ARTICLE 8

##### BYLAWS

The Board of Directors of this Corporation may adopt Bylaws for the conduct of the business of the Corporation and the carrying out of its purposes as such Directors may deem necessary from time to time. ~~Upon notice properly given, the Bylaws may be amended, altered, or rescinded by a majority vote of the directors present at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, except that the Board of Directors may not make or alter any Bylaws fixing their number, qualifications, selection or term of office without the approval of a majority of members present at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose.~~ Any Bylaw changes are subject to any limitations set forth in the Montana Nonprofit Corporation Act (MCA 35-2-113 et seq.).

Amendment passed unanimously by present Chamber and Board Members.

Mike Skelton moved to rescind Article 10; Mike Keller seconded the motion.

##### -ARTICLE 10-

##### Rescinding of ARTICLE 10

~~These bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at any regular or special meeting, provided the notice of such meeting shall have contained a copy of the proposed alteration, amendment or repeal.~~

Article rescindment passed unanimously by present Chamber and Board Members.

### 3.3 Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation Amendments and Vote

Mike Keller moved to make the listed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation: Mike Skelton seconded the motion.

#### -ARTICLE 4- MEETINGS

##### Section 1.

The annual meeting of the members shall be held during the month of December of each year, at such a date, place and hour that the Board of Directors shall designate. The fiscal year begins on the first day of January. The Board amended the Constitution and Bylaws – Article 4 – MEETINGS Section 1., to state: The annual meeting of the members shall be held during the month of ~~January~~ ~~December~~ of each year, at such a date, place and hour that the Board of Directors shall designate. The fiscal year begins on the first day of January.

#### -ARTICLE 5- DIRECTORS

##### Section 6.

The Directors shall have the power to hire an Executive Director and fix his/her salary. Directors shall have the power to fill all vacancies on the Board of Directors.

The Board amended the article to state agrees to be more vigilant in the future of any turnover in Executive Directors. And in the future at the time of voting on a new Executive Director they will also vote on his/her salary.

##### Section 7.

Except as specified elsewhere in these by-laws, the constitution or articles of incorporation; the affirmative vote of a majority of the directors is required to establish a budget, expend money in excess of \$1,000.00 or to acquire or to sell real property of the Chamber.

The Board added the amendment that moving forward there will be a line item in the budget to reflect the \$25,000 expenditure to reduce the buildings principle in the coming years.

### 3.2 Director/CVB Report – Terese Petcoff

*Terese is on maternity leave and will be absent until conclusion of her leave.*

## 5. Public Comment

15 min.

### Rodeo Grounds Discussion

Fleming opened the discussion with asking for the Board's advice on how to proceed with the removal of abandoned vehicles at the Rodeo Grounds. Vehicles remain at the grounds despite multiple notices being placed throughout the summer. Board members advised contacting community members who might own the abandoned vehicles, which Fleming will follow up with. The Board agreed that towing vehicles that owners cannot move is appropriate.

### Xanterra Winter Operations

Mike Keller updated the Board on what is in store for Xanterra winter operations, beginning with informing that Mammoth Hotel will remain open. The Snow Lodge at Old Faithful will be closed throughout the season, and Old Faithful will be available for day use only. The decision to modify operations is based on prioritizing the health and safety of staff and visitors. The company will have daily shuttle operations to and from Bozeman.

### Delaware North Winter Operations

Alex Roberts informed the Board that operations will close through November (closing date is set for either October 31<sup>st</sup> or November 1<sup>st</sup>). The company will have snow coach tours that will start sometime in December. Full breakfast and lunch operations will resume again next Spring.

## Letter to Park County Commissioner Discussion

Concerned Board members brought up the request for the Board of Directors to draft a letter to the Park County Commissioners regarding lack of lighting on Stone Street. The street is unsafe at night due to potential run ins with wildlife, crime, and the inability to navigate without light. This concern stems from the attack on a young woman this summer that may have been averted by proper lighting. Fleming will draft a letter on behalf of the Board for Jeff to approve.

## Candidate Forum

Board members brought up that there is a need for a candidate forum for local candidates in the upcoming election. Fleming will see if there is a possibility of having candidates participate in a local event.

## Tom Miner Overuse

Trina Smith advised to Board members to not encourage visitors to go to Tome Miner Basin to view wildlife. The area is seeing an increase of poor behavior that has negatively affected residents and poses the risk of habituating wildlife.

## **6. Date of Next Meeting: October 15, 2020 12pm – 1pm.**

*Meeting was adjourned.*