

# Gardiner Chamber of Commerce

Meeting date: **Wednesday, December 07, 2011**    **Started: 12:00 PM**    **Ended: 1:30 PM**

Location: Community Center Board Room

Purpose/Notes: Regular scheduled meeting

Chaired by: Bill Berg

Minutes rec. by: Barbara Shesky

## Attendance:

**Present:** Bill Berg, Daniel Bierschwale, Gardiner Chamber, Chuck Curtis, Gail Habener, Anna Holloway, Cheryl Hoppe, Gina Knight, North Entrance Shopping - Food Farm, Richard Parks, Barbara Shesky, Sabina Strauss, Ker'en Walters

**Regrets:**

**Absent:** Above the Rest Lodge, Absaroka Knoll Construction, Absaroka Lodge, Adventure Yellowstone Inc, CCC Salon, Child Care Connections, Comfort Inn- Yellowstone North, Crevice Mountain Lodge, Diamond Bar Heart Guest Ranch, Diamond Heart Guest Ranch, E.L.K., Inc, Elk River Art Gallery and Studio, Entre Nous, ERA Landmark Western Land, Family Massage Care, Flying Pig Camp Store and Rafting, Gardiner Laundry, Gardiner Pharmacy/Yellowstone Perk, Gateway Hose Company, Gold Strike Gifts, Graybeal's All Service, Headwaters of the Yellowstone B&B, Hillcrest Cottages, Johnstad's B&B and Log Cabin, Kellem's Montana Saddlery, Kremer's Cenex, Medcor Inc at Yellowstone, Montana Buffalo Company, Montana Whitewater Rafting&Zipline, Mountain Mobile Auto Glass, Outwest T's, Riverside Cottages, Rocky Mountain RV Park&Lodging LLC, Smith Family Ranch, Stafford Animal Shelter, Story Distributing, The Town Cafe, The Wildside Tours and Treks, Upper Yellowstone Roundup Assoc., Wild West Rafting, Xanterra, Yellowstone Gallery & Frameworks, Yellowstone Gateway Inn, Yellowstone General Stores, Yellowstone Mine, Yellowstone Park Riverfront Cabins, Yellowstone Park Travel Lodge, Yellowstone River Motel, Yellowstone Suites B&B, Yellowstone Super 8 Motel, Yellowstone Wilderness Outfitters, Yellowstone Yoga

**Late:**

## Guests:

John Clark (present), Lisa Curtis (present), JD Ellington (present), Judy Freeland (present), Deborah Fritz (present), Ron Hecker (present), Rebecca Kreklau (present), Jean Madesette (present), Brian Suderman (present)

## Meeting Documents:

- 2011 sec.new.web.visit.membership reports.xls

## Meeting Minutes:

### 1. Chamber business

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#### 1.1. Call to Order

Bill Berg

Meeting Start Time 12:00PM

Introductions around the room

**Status:** Completed

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#### 1.2. Approve Minutes of Last Meeting

Bill Berg

Cannot approve minutes from the meeting until next month

**Status:** Deferred: 1/25/2012

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#### 1.3. Treasurer's Report

Gardiner Chamber

We have less \$ than last year on record to date but a deposit of \$10,000 which was recently made does not appear on this statement

**Status:** Completed

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## 1.4. Secretary's Report

No significant changes to report

**Status:** Completed

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## 2. Old business

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### 2.1. Membership

Ker'en Walters

We received 66 membership renewal forms back by November 30, 2011. More membership renewals are arriving daily.

**Status:** Completed

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### 2.2. Map Project

Ker'en Walters

We have 66 businesses that will be identified on the walking map. All twelve advertisement spots on the back of the map have been sold. The preliminary deadline for artwork for those advertisements is Monday, December 12, 2011. Ker'en would like to have everything together and ready to send to the printers by the middle of this month, prior to the holidays.

**Status:** Completed

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## 3. New business

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### 3.1. 2012 Board Members

Vote new members in

We have a seven person board and three terms have expired as of 10/31/11. Gina Knight, Cheryl Hoppe, Bill Berg. Ker'en Walters seat has remained vacant since she resumed the position of Director when Michelle quit this past summer.

Gina, Bill and Cheryl all want to renew their 2 year term.

Chuck Curtis nominated to fill Ker'en's seat and finish her 1 year term.

MOTION: Richard Parks to approve Gina, Bill and Cheryl's renewed 2 year terms and Chuck's nomination to fill the vacant board seat for 1 year.

SECOND: Gail Habener

ALL IN FAVOR

Motion Carried.

**Status:** Completed

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### 3.2. Executive Committee

Vote on Pres, VP

Executive seats will be determined at a later date

**Resolution #:**

**Status:** Parked

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## 4. Committee business

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### 4.1. Updates

Gardiner Chamber

4.1 We want to be able to go live with Chamber Master in January.

Descriptions are limited to 75 characters but there is a lodging module on the website that members can update. You can post jobs, offer coupon deals ect. Able to link to social media . We have gotten good feedback from other chambers using Chamber Master.

Our website design Company for the new website is called "Toasty Designs" out of Billings MT. We should have a draft of that this week.

**Status:** Completed

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**4.1.1. Rodeo Club**

No news to report

**Status:** Completed

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**4.1.2. Yellowstone Country**

Danny Bierschwale

We must get everything together for the Gardiner Gateway Project before we can contact Yellowstone Country for a grant.

**Status:** Completed

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**4.1.3. Yellowstone National Park**

Brian Suderman

YNP second highest visitation on record, while the north entrance was down 7.5% for the year, we were up 3.5% in November.

The record of decision for the EIS - winter use plan has been signed implementing the same #'s as last year.

The EIS brought up issues in the comments period that a supplemental EIS will now need to be done before next winter to implement the new plan and there will be a comment period for that as well. New wildland and fire management plan has a Dec 22nd deadline for comments.

**Status:** Completed

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**4.1.4. Greater Gardiner Community Council**

Bill Berg

The Greater Gardiner Community Council was developed because the Chamber was being caught up in civic affairs that are not part of the chambers' mission statement.

Transfer of responsibility for Arch Park reservations, care and responsibility for the restrooms to the GGCC is being implemented.

**Status:** Completed

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**4.2. Public Comment**

Gardiner Chamber

On the Table:

A. What is in a name? Should we name the the project The North Entrance Plan or The Gardiner Gateway Project?

I. Points of discussion:

1. Downtown renovation
2. Public restrooms

II. We need to decide what we want

1. Decide how to make the plans into a presentation
2. Look at resources/ grants
  - a. Montana Office of Tourism
  - b. Senator Tester's Office
  - c. MDOT
  - d. County Commisioner's office

B. Christmas Stroll was a success

I. Ideas for next year

1. Have Santa earlier
2. YA booksale down here next year
3. Look at closing off street and having vendors and such for a street fair atmosphere

C. Ker'en and Bill went to the Yellowstone Business Partnership meeting in West Yellowstone last month

I. Look at partnering with West Yellowstone and Cooke City

D. Brochures from the Job Service about workshops for employers will be at the Library in Livingston in January

E. Looking at ways to keep the Chamber funded. Raising Dues, if so, will that make retention which is already an issue even more difficult.

F. Looking at resort tax and incorporation, can't use resort tax to fund the chamber but it could be used to fund things like fixing the streets and the sewer system and drainage issues and suchand public restrooms

and free up the \$ that the chamber has to pay out so we can have garbage cans for trash on Park Street So we need to put together an education session so that when it comes up people don't automatically vote no because they don't understand the process of incorporation or resort tax or the benefits and that the townspeople have total control over what is taxed and how much and when..

G. GGCC meeting tomorrow

**Status:** Completed

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#### **4.3. Date Next Meeting**

Bill Berg

Our next meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2012 at noon.

**Status:** Completed

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#### **4.4. Broadband Presentation by JD Ellington of CenturyLink**

Gardiner Chamber

To outline the capacity that the new fiber optic line will bring to the Gardiner business community.

37 miles of fiberoptic line was laid from Mill Creek on Hwy 89 to here at a cost of 1.63 million. This was not publically funded. It is 48 strand fiber optic line with a 9.53 gigabite capacity. IE you could run Chicago off this thing. It has 24 lines and only one will be turned on. DSL goes live December 15,2011 The farther out of town or up Jardine though, the slower it gets.

meeting adjourned 1:18pm

**Status:** Completed

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Total time scheduled: 78 min