

Gardiner Chamber of Commerce

Meeting date: **Tuesday, March 27, 2012** **Started: 7:00 PM** **Ended: 8:00 PM**

Location: KBar

Purpose/Notes: Special meeting

Chaired by: Daniel Bierschwale

Minutes rec. by: Gardiner Chamber

Attendance:

Present: Daniel Bierschwale, Chuck Curtis, Scott Demaree, Cheryl Hoppe, Gina Knight, Little People's Learning Center, MacNeil Lyons, Jean Modesette, Sabina Strauss

Regrets:

Absent: Above the Rest Lodge, Absaroka Knoll Construction, Absaroka Lodge, Adventure Yellowstone Inc, Elizabeth Baker, Bear Lair Lodge, Bill Berg, Big Wild Adventures, Cabin By The River, CCC Salon, Gardiner Chamber, 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, Elk River Lodge, Entre Nous, ERA Landmark Western Land, Family Massage Care, Flying Pig Camp Store and Rafting, Gardiner Laundry, Gardiner Pharmacy/Yellowstone Perk, Gardiner Therapeutic, Gateway Hose Company, Gold Strike Gifts, Graybeal's All Service, Greater Gardiner Community Council, Gail Habener, Headwaters of the Yellowstone B&B, Hell's A Roarin' Outfitters, Hillcrest Cottages, Anna Holloway, Home On The Range, Johnstad's B&B and Log Cabin, Kim Kaiser, Kellem's Montana Saddlery, Kremer's Cenex, Chris Lyness, Medcor Inc at Yellowstone, Montana Buffalo Company, Montana Whitewater Rafting&Zipline, Mountain Mobile Auto Glass, North Entrance Shopping - Food Farm, North Entrance Washtub, Outwest T's, Richard Parks, Riverside Cottages, Rocky Mountain RV Park&Lodging LLC, Barbara Shesky, Smith Family Ranch, Stafford Animal Shelter, Story Distributing, Brian Suderman, The Silvertip, The Town Cafe, The Wildside Tours and Treks, Upper Yellowstone Roundup Assoc., Ker'en Walters, Wild West Rafting, Wild West Vacations and Travel, Xanterra, Yellowstone Association, Yellowstone Country, Yellowstone Federal Credit Union, 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:

Mike ????????? (absent), Colene Sachanowski (absent)

Meeting Documents:

(no documents)

Meeting Minutes:

1. Chamber Business

1.1. Call to Order

Gardiner Chamber

Meeting called to order 7pm

Status: Completed

1.2. Roll Call & Introductions

Daniel Bierschwale

Anna Holloway

Cheryl Hoppe

Chuck Curtis

Daniel Bierschwale

Gina Knight

MacNeil Lyons

Sabina Strauss

Scott Demaree

Present- Scott Demaree, Macneil Lyon, Chuck Curtis, Sabina Strauss, Gina Knight, Cheryl Hoppe, Daniel Bierschwale.

Board Seat applicant - Jean Modisette

Absent: Anna Holloway

Status: Completed

2. Old business

2.1. Memorandum of Understanding

Daniel Bierschwale

Document to show commitment to working together and with outside entities with regards to the education/resort tax process.

President Daniel Bierschwale discussed "Downtown- Main Street" ideas from a conference that he attended. Ideas to create a sense of community; as recreational shopping for tourist in Gardiner is lacking. We can see how Bozeman has addressed their issues at www.mtmainstreet.mt.gov . website for The Downtown Bozeman Association.

Memorandum of Understanding: How it relates to the Gardiner Gateway Project (GGP)/Park Street Improvement Plan(PSIP)

Chamber Focus: Public Restroom Development, Original Downtown/89 Business District.

Gina Knight asked: "who is the "Steering Committee"liaisons (working group)?" -The Executive Committee.

The Steering committee would be committed to going forward with survey work for GGP.

NPS goal: To have MOU signed by early April.

Discussion:

Negative aspects: development/change. Is resort tax tied into the GGP? (a suspicion that needs to be addressed)

The MOU is not part of the Comprehensive plan for the Gardiner Community, the MOU is a starting point followed by but not connected to, a resort tax. The resort tax would be a financial support avenue for assisting the Comprehensive plan for Gardiner's future. It would be the financial support after the GGP.

Cheryl Hoppe comments that "In the 1989, conversations about resort tax were shot down, mostly, due to lack of understanding. We are starting off better, now, through education of the community first.

Bierschwale comments that a next/final meeting regarding resort tax needs to provide a pro/con presentation with a good moderator!

A petition regarding resort tax needs to be circulated through the businesses/residents located within the projected downtown business district. At least 10% of those located within the boundaries need to sign the petition in favor of pursuing the formation. The projected number of signatures required is 85. The petition needs to be submitted by mid-August in order for it to be on the ballot in November 2012.

Question: Will the Chamber facilitate the community education process and the GGCC focus on forwarding the petition? If the resort tax benefits commerce-the Chamber should facilitate.

Danny: The MOU states that the Chamber is responsible for fundraising. Should we seek out a loan program that allows us to borrow against our assets to build the public restrooms. IE; Rocky Mountain Development?

TBID/?)

Are there properties located on Park Street that are on the market? Speculation is that there will be two properties on the market within the next two months.

Sabina: If the Chamber is going to buy property rather than pay rent on Park Street, Do we have the assets to be approved for a loan?

We have the rodeo grounds, we could sell a portion of the land to Park County and seek out a matching grant from the state.(Leads to the question) - What is the property worth? Assets should be appraised to see what we actually have.

Will the Chamber go forward with the MOU?

Motion Scott Demaree, Second Gina Knight

Danny volunteers to stay on as Chamber Lead

All In Favor-Motion carried.

Chuck Curtis: Initiate focus on "Funding Community" in late April.

Resolution #: 032712-01
Moved by: Scott Demaree
Seconded by: Gina Knight
Status: Carried
Vote:

2.2. Letter of Interest

Daniel Bierschwale

Jean Modesette - Livingston Job Service

Jean Modesette - representing Livingston Job Service has submitted a letter of interest to fill the last open board of directors' seat. Sabina Strauss questioned having a board member who doesn't live in town. Scott Demaree stated that she can give a perspective from the Valley (Paradise Valley- She lives on Mill Creek Road). Daniel agreed that there is value in the initiative that she shows and is helpful for the town.

All in favor, motion carried.

Jean Modesette is accepted as a new board member, filling the ninth seat.

Resolution #: 032712-02

Moved by: Chuck Curtis
Seconded by: MacNeil Lyons
Status: Carried
Vote: All In favor

3. New business

No New business

4. Committee Business

4.1. Public Comment

Gardiner Chamber

RE: Website and Facebook, we should push pictures and videos of the area. jmmod@wispwest.net is the address that photos and such can be sent for facebook postings

Breakdown of primary reasons why Non-residents visit/travel through Montana:

40% vacation/recreation/pleasure,

25% just passing through,

17% visiting friends or relatives/family events,

11% business/conventions/meetings,

5% other,

2% shopping

The 5 most popular activities while visiting Montana:

66% scenic drive,

45% wildlife watching,

43% nature photography,

38% day hiking,

32% recreational shopping

Status: Completed

4.2. Date Next Meeting

Gardiner Chamber

April 18, 2012 @ 12pm

Status: Completed

Recording Secretary:

Chairperson:

Date:
