

Gardiner Chamber of Commerce

Meeting date: **Wednesday, January 16, 2013** **Started: 12:00 PM** **Ended: 1:47 PM**

Location: Community Center Board Room

Purpose/Notes: Regular scheduled meeting

Chaired by: Daniel Bierschwale

Minutes rec. by: Gardiner Chamber

Attendance:

Present: "Be Our Guest " House, Daniel Bierschwale, Gardiner Chamber, Scott Demaree, Feathers in Flight, Anna Holloway, Cheryl Hoppe, Kellem's Montana Saddlery, Livingston Job Service, MacNeil Lyons, Jean Modesette, National Wolf Watchers Coalition, Richard Parks, Riversbend Lodge, Barbara Shesky, Brian Suderman, Two Bit, Yellowstone Basin Inn, Yellowstone Raft Company

Regrets: Gina Knight

Absent: Above the Rest Lodge, Absaroka Knoll Construction, Absaroka Lodge, B Bar Ranch, B Wood Photography, Bear Lair Lodge, Bill Berg, Best Western By Mammoth Hot Springs, Big Wild Adventures, Cabin By The River, Child Care Connections, Clear Lines Writing Consulting, Comfort Inn- Yellowstone North, Crevice Mountain Lodge, Diamond Bar Heart Guest Ranch, Elk River Art Gallery and Studio, Elk River Lodge, Entre Nous, ERA Landmark Western Land, Family Massage Care, Gardiner Laundry, Gardiner Pharmacy/Yellowstone Perk, Gateway Hose Company, Gold Strike Gifts, Graybeal's All Service, Greater Gardiner Community Council, Hell's A Roarin' Outfitters, Hillcrest Cottages, Home On The Range, Howlin' Hounds Cafe, Johnstad's B&B and Log Cabin, Kremer's Cenex, Little People's Learning Center, Chris Lyness, Medcor Inc at Yellowstone, Montana Buffalo Company, Montana Whitewater Rafting&Zipline, Mountain Mobile Auto Glass, North Entrance Shopping - Food Farm, North Entrance Vacation Rental, North Entrance Washtub, NorthWestern Energy, Paradise Adventure Company, Paradise Gateway B&B & Vacation , Photos by Sandi, Riverside Cottages, Rocky Mountain RV Park, Smith Family Ranch, Stafford Animal Shelter, Stonegate Chiropractics, Story Distributing, The Lighthouse, The Wildside Tours and Treks, Upper Yellowstone Roundup Assoc., Wilderness Connection, Wolf Ridge Lamb & Wool Company, Xanterra, Yellowstone Association, Yellowstone Country, Yellowstone Federal Credit Union, Yellowstone Gallery & Frameworks, Yellowstone Gateway Inn, Yellowstone General Stores, Yellowstone Mine, Yellowstone Park Travel Lodge, Yellowstone River Motel, Yellowstone Suites B&B, Yellowstone Super 8 Motel, Yellowstone Village Inn, Yellowstone Wilderness Outfitters

Late:

Guests:

(none)

Meeting Documents:

(no documents)

Meeting Minutes:

1. Chamber Business

1.1. Roll Call & Introductions

Barbara Shesky

Daniel Bierschwale

Sandy Byerle

Anna Holloway

Gina Knight

Scott Demaree

Richard Parks

Cheryl Hoppe

MacNeil Lyons

Jean Modesette

Minutes:

Gina Knight and Sandy Byerle Excused Cheryl Hoppe arrived late

Status: Completed

1.2. Secretary's Report

Barbara Shesky

Minutes:

The office seems to be slower with regards to walk-in visitors.

It was noted that the total number of Chamber members listed as "to date" is incorrect, it is only showing those that have currently renewed but we have members whose dues are not due yet. The accurate count of members to date is 116.

The office remains busy with emails and phone calls.

The Newsletter is down from last year, speculation as why includes that this is not an election year.

While business in town seems a bit slower the Park numbers indicate a slight increase over last year's gate numbers.

Status: Completed

2. Old business

2.1. Prior Month's Meeting Minutes

Daniel Bierschwale

Minutes:

Scott Demaree's correction of last month's minutes-"Moving forward, before we poll our membership we need to have a concensus from the Board of directors on the messaging"

Approved with this revision

Resolution #: 011613-01

Moved by: Daniel Bierschwale

Seconded by: Anna Holloway

Status: Carried

Vote:

2.2. Policies and Procedures Manual

Daniel Bierschwale

At last months meeting a new Policies and Procedures Manual was handed out for review.

Minutes:

Bullet point 2 on page 1 does not reflect the previous discussion of the modification of our Mission Statement - this needs removed

Rodeo grounds / Community Center Committee and the Executive Committee needs to be added to this section

Page 4 - Vice Presidents position- remove Events Committee and change membership to co-chair of the Marketing Committee

Page 6 Amend to reflect that the Executive Committee evaluates office staff

Motion made to pass the Policies and Procedures Manual pending the completion of the above amendments.

Resolution #: 011613-02

Moved by: Jean Modesette

Seconded by: Anna Holloway

Status: Carried

Vote:

2.3. Nominating Committee

Cheryl Hoppe

Nomination and election of the Executive Board positions of President, Vice President and Treasurer

Minutes:

Daniel Bierschwale - President

Scott Demaree - Vice President
Cheryl Hoppe - Treasurer
Richard Parks Moved to elect the slate.

Resolution #: 011613-03

Moved by: Richard Parks

Seconded by: Jean Modesette

Status: Carried

Vote:

2.4. Operating Budget

Daniel Bierschwale

Detailed review of this year's budget

Minutes:

Discussion of the operating budget has been tabled until the next meeting so that the new treasurer-Cheryl Hoppe has time to review it.

Status: Completed

2.4.1. Rent Increase

Daniel Bierschwale

Exploration of options to fund the 73% rent increase we have experienced this past year.

Minutes:

The Community Center was discussed as an optional location for the Chamber office but due to the layout of the building, its location and the fact that it is very expensive to heat, this idea was considered to be an unrealistic option.

Raising membership dues was also mentioned as an option.

Scott and Danny will try to arrange a meeting with the landlords to discuss a short-term lease.

Status: Completed

2.4.2. Additional GGP workload

Daniel Bierschwale

Exploration of funding for additional chamber staff hours to accomodate the additional workload of the Gardiner Gateway Project

Minutes:

Danny requested from the board 10 hours of work time/week for Barbara Shesky to assist with the project management of the Gardiner Gateway Project . Funding would be allocated from the seed money from Gateway Project funding from Montana Department of Commerce.

Anna moved that: The Chamber allot 10 hours of work per week to Barbara Shesky at her current rate of pay. Funding would come from the Gardiner Gateway Project funds received from the MTOT. Hours will be allocated until May 24, 2013, when the VIC grant money becomes available.

Resolution #: 011613-04

Moved by: Anna Holloway

Seconded by: Richard Parks

Status: Carried

Vote: All in favor

2.5. Resort Tax Poll Follow-up

Daniel Bierschwale

From meeting of 12/12/2012

At the Dec 4th 2012 Resort Tax Educational Seminar we pulled in as many other communities as we could. It was the most civil conversation that has been had in the community regarding this subject.

Letters with a link to a poll question were sent out yesterday via email and via postal mail to every member and we will bring back the results from the poll in the Jan meeting.

Today 1/16/13 we will present Poll results and the Board will vote on sponsoring a petition for resort tax.

Minutes:

With regard to the poll question to our membership as to whether or not the Chamber should draft a resort tax petition that includes funding for a Gardiner Welcome Center and Public Restrooms.

The Chamber received 51 votes by January 1, 2013.

33 votes in favor of the Chamber drafting a resort tax petition

18 votes in opposition to the Chamber drafting a resort tax petition.

Scott Demaree requested clarification as to why the individual votes were only known to the Chamber President, Director and Secretary.

Daniel Bierschwale- Like all elections, confidentiality in votes is necessary. Our members were informed of this in the letter that accompanied the official RT poll ballot. We could have a third party review.

Scott to Danny- Do you feel that a third party is better than the Board?

Richard Parks to Scott-Is it that there is a feeling that the vote tally reported to us is fundamentally wrong? Then a third party should canvas the votes. Otherwise, it seems that the driving force is to find out who voted how. That is why confidentiality was promised. I would rather people not know, that's why votes are secret ballots. Is the concern related to the vote tally?

Scott-No.

Richard- Then we should take the tally and go with it, otherwise, you are tying names to votes, it is up to the individual and not us to "out" themselves.

Scott-This discussion is helping. This is protection. How about just who voted?

Chuck Curtis and MacNeil Lyons at the same time - Why?

Cheryl Hoppe-"I don't want to know.

Scott - I'm sorry! Sabina is off the Board I'm supposed to fill her shoes! (Everyone including Sabina, who is in the audience laughs.)

Danny to Scott- Thank you for voicing your concerns.

Richard Parks- If there is no motion, there is no decision. If someone makes a motion, it frames the discussion, otherwise you end up wandering around talking "relatives"-What the motion is, shapes it.

Richard Parks: "I make a motion that the Gardiner Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors appoint a committee to explore all aspects, in the drafting of a Resort Tax petition to include; public restrooms and a Gardiner Welcome Center and report back to the Gardiner Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors by May 1, 2013 with said petition draft."

The above motion was read three times outloud to the Board and the audience.

Discussion. The options for this vote are yes, no or abstain. Even with anyone abstaining we would still have a quorum.

The vote: 6 ayes, 0 naves and 1 abstention - motion passes

Resolution #: 011613-05

Moved by: Richard Parks

Seconded by: Anna Holloway

Status: Carried

Vote:

2.6. Formation of 2013 Committees

Daniel Bierschwale

Board members appointed to chair Chamber Committees

Minutes:

Resort Tax Petition/Gardiner Welcome Center/Public Restrooms Committee- Richard Parks (chair). Additional committee members made up of those Board Members and Community members in the audience that raised their hands to join: Sabina Strauss, Daniel Bierschwale, Lisa Curtis, Barbara Read, Scott Demaree, Anna Holloway.

The initial meeting will familiarize everyone with the previous legwork. Then the committee will begin the drafting of the petition. Danny -we will need legal counsel down the road.

Events Committee- Anna Holloway (chair) and Sandy Byerle (Danny will help with the 5K)

Membership- Gina Knight (chair)

Marketing- Jean Modesette (chair)- Scott Demaree co-chair, Gina Knight, Anna Holloway, Daniel Bierschwale.

Gardiner Gateway Project - Daniel Bierschwale (chair)

Yellowstone Country- Daniel Bierschwale (chair), Scott Demaree

Nominating Committee- Cheryl Hoppe (chair)

Properties and Facilities (the Rodeo grounds and the Community Center) - MacNeil Lyons (chair), Richard Parks

Jean makes a motion to pass the slate of committee appointments

Discussion- none

Resolution #: 011613-06

Moved by: Jean Modesette

Seconded by: MacNeil Lyons

Status: Carried

Vote: All in favor motion carried

3. New business

No New business

4. Committee Business

4.1. Gardiner Gateway Project

Daniel Bierschwale

Gardiner Gateway Project Update

Possible Access Grant (13% match needed)

Minutes:

History: we have had three public scoping sessions which were done by CTA Architects.

Park County sponsored a grant to help pay for the scoping sessions. A portion of the grant money from MTOT was also utilized. We have recieved the final draft, copies of which are at the Courthouse in Livingston and at the Chamber office for review for public comment until the beginning of February. We inquired about an online version and were told that's not how it is done.

We have an opportunity for grant funding through the Federal Lands Access Program. They have 25 million a year for the next 5 years to give away for projects that provide improved access to public lands. We asked for approximately \$10 million.

Three entities decide who gets funding: MTOT, Federal Highways Department and MACO.

Park County is kicking in \$670,000 if we are picked. We need to have high priority. We need to plant the seeds with the new administration.

The deadline for the application is February 8, 2013. The application process is going through Nittany Grant works. We need letters of support (We support the Gardiner Gateway Project's pursuit of this grant).

An email of the address to send the letter and talking points will be sent out to the membership. We are asking for 7.7 million dollars. We won't find out if we are successful until August 2013.

2014 is Phase I of the Project and 2015 is Phase II with completion still expected by 2016. We are still on track to be able to host an event then.

Status: Completed

4.2. Public Comment

Gardiner Chamber

Status: Completed

4.3. Date Next Meeting

Gardiner Chamber

February 20, 2013 12noon here at the Community Center

Minutes:

Lets meet at the upstairs of the Food Farm (Richards suggestion)

Status: Completed

Recording Secretary:

Chairperson:

Date:
