



Gardiner Chamber of Commerce

Meeting date: **Thursday, July 18, 2013** Started: **6:00 PM** Ended: **7:27 PM**

Location: Upstairs at the Gardiner Market

Purpose/Notes: Regular scheduled meeting

Chaired by: Daniel Bierschwale

Minutes rec. by: Gardiner Chamber

Attendance:

Present: Gardiner Market, Upper Yellowstone River R, Wildflour Bakery, Yellowstone Grill, "Be Our Guest " House, Above the Rest Lodge, Absaroka Knoll Construction, Absaroka Lodge, B Bar Ranch, B Wood Photography, Bear Lair Lodge, Best Western By Mammoth Hotsprings, Sandy Bierle, Daniel Bierschwale, Big Wild Adventures, Cabin By The River, Gardiner Chamber, Child Care Connections, Clear Lines Writing Consulting, Comfort Inn-Yellowstone North, Crevice Mountain Lodge, Scott Demaree, 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, Anna Holloway, Home on the Range, Cheryl Hoppe, Johnstad's B&B and Log Cabin, Kellem's Montana Saddlery, Gina Knight, Kremer's Cenex, Little People's Learning Center, Livingston Job Service, Chris Lyness, MacNeil Lyons, Medcor Inc at Yellowstone, Jean Modesette, Montana Buffalo Company, Montana Whitewater Rafting&Zipline, Mountain Mobile Auto Glass, National Wolf Watchers Coalition, North Entrance Vacation Rental, North Entrance Washtub, NorthWestern Energy, Paradise Adventure Company, Paradise Gateway B&B & Vacation , Richard Parks, Photos by Sandi, Rainbow Ark, Riversbend Lodge, Riverside Cottages, Rocky Mountain RV Park, Barbara Shesky, Smith Family Ranch, Stafford Animal Shelter, Stonegate Chiropractics, Story Distributing, Subway, Brian Suderman, The Wildside Tours and Treks, Two Bit, Upper Yellowstone Roundup Assoc., Wild Bear Adventures, Wilderness Connection, Wolf Ridge Lamb & Wool Company, Xanterra, Yellowstone Association, Yellowstone Basin Inn, Yellowstone Country, Yellowstone Federal Credit Union, Yellowstone Gallery & Frameworks, Yellowstone Gateway Inn, Yellowstone General Stores, Yellowstone Mine, Yellowstone Park Travel Lodge, Yellowstone Raft Company, Yellowstone Suites B&B, Yellowstone Village Inn, Yellowstone Wilderness Outfitters

Regrets:

Absent: Bill Berg, Feathers in Flight, Midwest Welding and Machine, Yellowstone River Motel, Yellowstone Super 8 Motel

Late:

Guests:

(none)

Meeting Documents:

(no documents)

Meeting Minutes:

1. Chamber Business

1.1. Roll Call & Introductions

Daniel Bierschwale

Daniel Bierschwale

Richard Parks

Anna Holloway

Gina Knight

Scott Demaree

Sandy Bierle

Cheryl Hoppe



MacNeil Lyons
Jean Modesette

Minutes:

Gina Knight absent

Status: Completed

1.2. Treasurer's Report

Cheryl Hoppe

Update on the financials of the Chamber.

Minutes:

We have our revised 990-N Federal Tax return from Blakely and Walters, certified public accountants. In the past we filed a 990N-postcard. Due to the fact that we had more than \$50,000 in receipts, we are required by the Federal government to file an actual tax return, this does not mean that we have to pay taxes on the money, just that we have to show that we have it.

Our Quickbooks program is finally complete. All the information from January 1, 2013 to the present has been entered and we now have a chart of accounts and will be able to generate reports.

Status: Completed

1.3. Director's Report

Barbara Shesky

Update on office operations.

Minutes:

We have hired Gregory Muller, a former Park Ranger as our second Visitor Information Specialist. Shirley Seaton is our returner from last year.

We had record walk-ins for the month of June, we had 1,702 compared to last year we had 870. This is actually the most recorded walk-ins to date since we began recording them.

We put in a public restroom sign but also hope that it is because we are doing a good job in the office and with Face Book and advertising in Montana Quarterly, Distinctly Montana and the Chicago ad that we did.

Our donation jar is filling up faster too.

Newsletter revenue is down, but since we don't "sell" ads there isn't much that can be done to increase these numbers.

The gate numbers are being calculated differently as of this month. rather than the number of people per car as a comparison the Park Recommends using the vehicle count which was up by 5%,

For the North entrance: in June 2012 the vehicle count was 49,937 this year for June we are at 51,336, so there was an increase.

Web visits for this past June were 13,738 as compared to 12,987 in 2011.

Through a generous donation by MTOT We have new furniture in the office: new chairs racks and a display case it is all made in Montana. MTOT also paid the shipping fees to have the furniture delivered to us. The display case and has been filled by local Gardiner residents with Gardiner, YNP and Montana memorabilia.

We are storing the extras at the rodeo grounds and potentially may be able to store it at the YA barn.

We recieved a grant to cover half the cost of an I-pad and wireless printer from MTOT.

Status: Completed

1.4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Daniel Bierschwale

Approval of the April, 2013 and May 2013 minutes

Minutes:

April meeting minutes were revised to accurately reflect the resort tax conversation.

All in favor -minutes approved.

Resolution #: 072013-01

Moved by: Jean Modesette

Seconded by: Anna Holloway

Status: Carried

Vote:



2. Old business

2.1. Policies and Procedures Manual

Barbara Shesky

A new Policies and Procedures Manual was handed out for review in December 2012, revisions have been finalized and a vote needs to be taken.

Minutes:

Purpose of the document is ethics and duties of each of the Directors, staff and committees. To facilitate our mission statement.

The Director's duties are fluid as are the committees.

Any further modifications after we sign this document will need to be made at the Annual meeting of the members in November;with a member vote, the same as the procedure for changing the Articles of Incorporation.

A signed copy will be in the safe.

Resolution #: 072013-02

Moved by: Daniel Bierschwale

Seconded by: Jean Modesette

Status: Carried

Vote:

3. New business

3.1. Request to use Gardiner Map by a private writer

Barbara Shesky

Mark Gardiner has requested to use the map created by/for the Gardiner Chamber of Commerce in a book he is writing.

Minutes:

We have questions: what is the book about? liability? we hold the intellectual property rights, and while the compensation could be trivial if he is writing it for his own amusement that is one thing, if he is going to publish it in the web or sell it we need more detailed information before we will be willing to give permission.

Resolution #:

Status: Parked

3.2. Trash

Daniel Bierschwale

The Chamber has been notified by YNPS of a complaint they received regarding trash from Park St businesses blowing down over the banks of the Yellowstone River to the fishing access site.

Minutes:

Just so the Board is aware,we were notified by Park Service of a complaint they received regarding trash down by the river also just so the Board is aware, the Chamber pays for trash removal on Park Street at the present time. We don't know how the trash is getting down to the river confluence. There is no trash receptacle there. FWP might be able to help with a bear proof can. We should consider examining this as we proceed with the Gardiner Gateway Project.

Status: Completed

3.3. Request: Long-term lease of a portion of the rodeo grounds

Barbara Shesky

We have received a request from Silvertip propane of Livingston to lease a portion of the rodeo grounds for a propane holding tank.

Minutes:

Brian Wanner from Silvetip Propane. See attached documentation of full request.

They are hoping to pay \$2,400/year.

This would set a precedent for the use of the property.

This would be a commercial use not a community use.

This request will be reviewed by the Properties and Facilities Committee.

Resolution #:



Status: Parked

4. Committee Business

4.1. Yellowstone National Park

Brian Suderman

Updates from Yellowstone National Park

Minutes:

There are some changes to the fishing regulations this year. The purpose of the regulations are to protect, preserve and enhance the native species of the Park. With respect to non-native species; Rainbow and Brook Trout it is now required they be killed in the Lamar River drainage the same as the Lake Trout in Yellowstone Lake.

East Entrance Road construction where the road washed out; there has been a stop light there for a few years. That work is now being done. The Tower road project is proceeding as planned. The delays are not as long as anticipated. It is supposed to be done by October this year. At Inspiration Point the last section of stairs has been damaged. There is no set completion date for the repairs.

The Albright Visitor's Center rehab project is set to begin. Construction will be starting this fall. This is a total gutting and rebuild and should take about a year and a half. There will be a temporary visitors center set up like the ones that were set up at Old Faithful. Spring of 2015 completion.

Status: Completed

4.2. Marketing

Jean Modesette

Updates on Facebook and CVB application

Minutes:

We have NBC news out of Bozeman, ABC news Montana, FWP, Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, MTOT and Beef Jerky Outlet in Naples Florida following our FB page.

Some nice comments we have received: Love it can't wait to visit. Great Newsletter you sure do a good job of putting Gardiner on the map.

Jean contacted Barb Sanem and has received an entire packet on CVB application process which she is currently reviewing.

Status: Completed

4.3. Gateway Cooperatives & Partnerships

Jean Modesette

Update on the progress of the Northern Range Project Cooperative with Cooke City.

Rack Card

Website

Minutes:

The rack cards are printed and waiting the launch of the website to be distributed.

The website is still being worked on by TDG Communications, our web design firm. So far what we have looks great.

Status: Completed

4.4. Events

Status: Completed

4.4.1. Brewfest in the Park

Anna Holloway

Update on the progress of putting together brewfest

Minutes:

We are on track and have a number of brewers lined up as well as vendors. The bands will be The Bus Driver Tour and Cure For The Common. We also have a rootbeer vendor coming this year and the wine will be by Ten Spoon.

Status: Completed



4.4.2. Yellowstone Gardiner Stampede

Anna Holloway

Update on the recent 5-10K fundraising event.

Minutes:

The race went very well. We had more participants than last year but it needs to grow significantly for it to actually be very profitable. It is easy to put on but the attendance has never been very high. We made \$1,505 from the event. The T-shirts, medals and postage was donated.

Status: Completed

4.4.3. Cycle Greater Yellowstone

Anna Holloway

Cycle Greater Yellowstone will be here next month update on volunteers and if Anna needs any help.

Minutes:

We have some concerns regarding a contract that CGY just presented to us, the event is in less than a month away. Anna and Barb will review the contract and determine whether or not the Chamber will sign off on it after they confer with Sherry Moore.

Status: Completed

4.5. Membership

Gina Knight

Minutes:

Gina was absent from the meeting. Membership is up over last year.

Status: Completed

4.6. Properties and Facilities

MacNeil Lyons

Review of current properties status, Rodeo Grounds and Community Center.

Lease on Community Center

Property tax status

Minutes:

Due to conflicting business schedules, MacNeil has not been able to connect with everyone he needs to speak with in order to give a full report.

Resolution # 072013-03 Alot \$4,000 for property inspections and appraisals of both the Community Center and the Rodeo Grounds from the GGP fund. Made by Danny Bierschwaile, Second-Jean Modesette

All in favor motion carried

Status: Completed

4.7. Resort tax/public restrooms/Gardiner Welcome Center

Daniel Bierschwale

Update on the FLAP grant application by Danny and an update on the progress of the resort tax petition by Richard.

Minutes:

We will receive the release on the successful FLAP grant applicants on Monday, July 21st.

We had our initial petition application was returned to us as we needed a more detailed legal description and a time frame for the resort tax to be in place. We will correct these issues and reapply to the Park County District Clerk and the County Attorney for a second review.

Status: Completed

4.8. Public Comment

Gardiner Chamber

Minutes:

MacNeil Lyons: Bear Creek Council has drafted a response that we can use with regards to wildlife issues that arise from time to time in the office. The response encourages people not to boycott Gardiner but rather come here and better acquaint themselves with the difficult issue and directs them to send their letters of complaint to the proper authorities on the matter.

Status: Completed



4.9. Date Next Meeting

Daniel Bierschwale

The next meeting will be held on August 22, 2013 at 6pm, upstairs at the Gardiner Market.

Status: Completed

Recording Secretary:

Chairperson:

Date:
