



Gardiner Chamber of Commerce

Meeting date: **Thursday, August 22, 2013** Started: **6:00 PM** Ended: **7:06 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, Bill Berg, Best Western By Mammoth Hotsprings, Sandy Bierle, Daniel Bierschwale, Big Wild Adventures, Cabin By The River, Gardiner Chamber, Child Care Connections, 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, Feathers in Flight, 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, Medcor Inc at Yellowstone, Midwest Welding and Machine, 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, 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 River Motel, Yellowstone Suites B&B, Yellowstone Village Inn, Yellowstone Wilderness Outfitters

Regrets:

Absent: Scott Demaree, MacNeil Lyons, 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:

Richard, Gina, Scott and MacNeil excused, All others present. Quorum met.

Status: Completed

1.2. Treasurer's Report

Cheryl Hoppe

Minutes:

Finances appear to be on track, we have almost \$10,000 more in the bank compared to the same month last year.

Status: Completed

1.3. Director's Report

Barbara Shesky

Update on office operations, CPA bill, Office computer

Minutes:

The office has been very busy this summer, once again setting a record for number of walk-ins and sign-ins, 2,666 walkins (Barbara accidentally published 2,699 in the newsletter). The newsletter income was up this month compared to last year. NPS visitor stats vehicle count showed 51,336 vehicles entering the Park form the North entrance as compared to 49,937 last year. Web visits were also up slightly.

A new computer/security program/keyboard/ mouse and warrenty were purchased at the end of last month due to the old computer being attacked by a virus. Total cost \$964.96

The CPA bill for recreating a P/L for 2012 and refiling a form 8868 instead of the 990-N postcard was in the amount of \$1,600. The firm, Blakely and Walter (courtesy Chamber member) gave us an \$800 discount, leaving an \$800 balance.

Motion made to allocate \$2,000 to pay for the purchase of a new computer and any additional updated programs needed to run the office and the CPA bill.

Barbara will begin including a line on the monthly Director's report to show Face Book "Likes"

Resolution #: 082013-01

Moved by: Daniel Bierschwale

Seconded by: Anna Holloway

Status: Carried

Vote: All in favor

1.4. Approval of last month's meeting minutes

Daniel Bierschwale

The minutes from July are incomplete, We need the names of the persons who made the motion and the person that seconded the motion with regards tot he Allocation of \$4,000 from the GGP fund for appraisals and inspectiosn on the Rodeo grounds and the Community Center.

Minutes:

With revision: Daniel Bierschwaile made the motion to allocate the \$4,000 Jean Modesette seconded the motion. all in favor-last month's meeting minutes approved

Resolution #: 082013-02

Moved by: Anna Holloway

Seconded by: Jean Modesette

Status: Carried

Vote:

2. Old business

No Old business

3. New business

3.1. Big Bear Stampede

Pam Faerber

Pam Faerber of the Big Bear Stampede coming in September.



Minutes:

Pam Faerber addressed the Board and chamber members in the audience regarding the Big Bear Stampede Depression Awareness fundraiser on September 21st. On Friday, September 20th Billy Mills will come to speak regarding the issue. The 5K and 8K will be held Saturday. Busses will shuttle people from the rodeo grounds up to the Eagle Creek Campground area where the race will begin. There will be \$1,000 in prize monies. They are operating under the Park County Community Foundation so donations are tax deductible. The race this year will fund itself and any other proceeds will be given to EagleMount. 23 Gardinerites went to an Assist Program training for awareness and action how to help friends and family suffering from depression.

Hope for the future is to have a clinic here in Gardiner.

Status: Completed

4. Committee Business

4.1. Yellowstone National Park

Brian Suderman

YNP Update

Minutes:

There is a fee free day this Sunday, August 25th to celebrate the 97th Anniversary of the Park Service.

There was a bear mauling on the Cygnet Lake trail this month. It was a sow and her cubs, the victims used bear spray, which worked to drive the sow off and the people suffered scratches and bites but no one was seriously injured.

The Winter Use Record of Decision for YNP has been released. It does open up a small window of opportunity for someone to rent BAT snowmobiles out to visitors/locals who have won the day trip lottery that will determine who gets to travel self-guided into the Park after completing an online training course regarding snowmobile operation and rules within YNP. The North entrance will have 1 trip of no more than 5 people per day allocated.

YNP Fire status update hotline number is: 1-307-344-2580

Status: Completed

4.2. Marketing

Jean Modesette

Minutes:

We have 1,700 Face Book likes to date.

Jean is familiarizing herself with the application/marketing plan for a CVB. We will apply for this status if the Resort Tax is approved. We cannot apply for this if it is not. If the RT passes and we apply for and are granted CVB status then we will be eligible to receive back a portion of the bed tax monies that are already being collected in Gardiner, back to us for marketing the town.

Status: Completed

4.3. Gateway Cooperatives & Partnerships

Jean Modesette

Minutes:

We are wrapping up the Northern Range Project Cooperative website design. We have the rack cards ready to go once the website launches next week.

Status: Completed

4.4. Gardiner Welcome Center, Resort Tax Petition and Public Restrooms

Richard Parks

Update on the progress of the Resort tax petition

Minutes:

It is a lot of work to apply for a Resort tax referendum to be placed on a ballot. After many iterations, we finally created a petition that was accepted by the County Attorney's office. We are in the process of collecting signatures and are almost there with the number of signatures that we would like to have. Initially we wanted 100 and we are now shooting to have 125. The boundaries of the Resort area are "roughly" the water district boundaries from 1998 that was approved by the Montana Department of Commerce.

Once the signatures are verified, we will need to campaign again for the vote. If the referendum passes then we will have to have another ballot vote, similar to that of the School Board vote, to create a Resort District



and have a locally elected Board administer the funds instead of Park County.

Status: Completed

4.5. Events

Status: Completed

4.5.1. Brewfest in the Park

Gardiner Chamber

Minutes:

Brewfest this year was the biggest ever. We had a gate count of 591 entries into the Festival . Everyone liked the new set-up of having the vendors and breweries in a circle around the perimeter of the Park.

We recieved \$769.00 value in donated hotel rooms.

We collected \$2,052 in vendor fees and sponsorships

Proceeds collected at the gate, in ticket sales at brewfest and wine sales of the extra wine at CGY's wine garden were \$8,833.

We recieved \$238 in raffle ticket sales from the donated raffle prizes.

Total income: \$11,123

Total Expenses (including the CGY permit): \$6,248

Total profit: \$4,874.99 as compared to \$2,652.50 last year for an increased profit of \$2,222.49

Good Job Anna!

Status: Completed

4.5.2. Cycle Greater Yellowstone

Gardiner Chamber

Minutes:

Even though we refused to sign their "contract" (per our insurance agent's advice), the event went smoothly. The volunteers were complimented by the riders/CGY for how well it went here. CGY has some kinks they need to work out, as this was the first time these folks have put on this event. They should be coming back through in 3-4 years. Lodging and restaurants/bars saw a positive impact from their presence and the non profits and high school teams earned quite a bit through the stipend program and tips they received. The general feeling is that this event did bring positive economic impact and we should participate in this again when they come through town.

Status: Completed

4.6. Properties and Facilities

MacNeil Lyons

Report on the findings of the Community Center inspection.

Status: Deferred: 9/12/2013

4.7. Public Comment

Gardiner Chamber

Minutes:

Sabina Strauss-the EA is out on the Bison we are hoping for a workshop and a better understanding of the Commissions stance. Sabina will have FWP send the office some brochures about the bison.

Status: Completed

4.8. Date Next Meeting

Daniel Bierschwale

The next meeting of the Chamber will be September 19th at 6pm upstairs at the Gardiner Market

Status: Completed

Recording Secretary:

Chairperson:

Date:
