



# Gardiner Chamber of Commerce

Meeting date: **Thursday, January 16, 2014** Started: **12:00 PM** Ended: **1:00 PM**

Location: Upstairs at the Gardiner Market

Purpose/Notes: Regular scheduled meeting

Chaired by: Scott Demaree

Minutes rec. by: Gardiner Chamber

## Attendance:

Present: Barbara Shesky, Elk Inc, Gardiner Market, Headwaters B&B, Montana Guide Service, Mountain Home, Mountain Mike's Tours, Outwest T's, Town Cafe, Upper Yellowstone River R, Wild West Rafting, Wildflour Bakery, Yellowstone River Lodge, Yellowstone Safari, YP Riverfront Cabins, Schalene Darr, "Be Our Guest " House, Frankie Aars, Above the Rest Lodge, 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, Gardiner Chamber, Child Care Connections, Comfort Inn- Yellowstone North, Aspen Cottage, 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, Gardiner Food Pantry, 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, Cheryl Hoppe, Chico Hotsprings, Johnstad's B&B and Log Cabin, Kellem's Montana Saddlery, Absaroka Knoll Construction, Little People's Learning Center, Livingston Job Service, Cowboy's Lodge, MacNeil Lyons, Medcor Inc at Yellowstone, Midwest Welding and Machine, Jean Modesette, Montana Buffalo Company, Montana Whitewater Rafting&Zipline, Mountain Mobile Auto Glass, 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, 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 Super 8 Motel, Yellowstone Village Inn, Yellowstone Wilderness Outfitters

Regrets:

Absent: Tumbleweed Bookstore & Cafe

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

Frankie Aars

Scott Demaree

Sandy Bierle

Cheryl Hoppe



Schalene Darr  
Jean Modesette

**Minutes:**

Anna Holloway has tendered her resignation from the Board. Danny will follow up with her.  
All others present.

**Status:** Completed

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**1.2. Director's Report**

Barbara Shesky

Update on office functions  
I Shout Out Ap

**Minutes:**

While the office has not had many visitors, Barbara remains very busy as the only office staff, and Email numbers are lower this year because Barbara has unsubscribed from a number of emails that were really not pertinent to our chamber functions. These emails were coming several times a week. Website visits are down this month and we do not have a clear indication as to why the number of visits are dropping. The newsletter is on track with increased revenue. We have more money in the bank than we did last December at this time. The events and newsletter accounts have been closed since the office has quickbooks now to delineate expenditures. As of January we have 131 members as compared to the final total number of 2013 which was 132. See attached reports for further details.

I have been apporached by "I Shout out" is a mobile web app similar to Twitter that is being created by a business in Idaho. It is nice that it is a regional start-up company. The application is free for users but as a business there would be a monthly fee. At this time, we do not have money to participate in this new program, if that changes we should keep an eye on them and, perhpas, use their services.

**Status:** Completed

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**1.3. Treasurer's Report**

Cheryl Hoppe

Report on the Chamber's financial status.

**Minutes:**

See Director's Report and attached documents for details.

**Status:** Completed

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**1.4. Approval of prior month's meeting minutes**

Daniel Bierschwale

Approval of the November and December meeting minutes.

**Minutes:**

no discussion. Motion passes.

**Resolution #:** 2014-01-01

**Moved by:** Scott Demaree

**Seconded by:** Schalene Darr

**Status:** Carried

**Vote:** all in favor

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**2. Old business**

No Old business

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**3. New business**

No New business

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**4. Committee Business**

**4.1. Yellowstone National Park**

Brian Suderman

**Minutes:**



Brian Suderman, YNP- in spite of the warm weather we have good snow pack in the Park.

Impact statement for bison vaccine has come out for remote vaccination. NPS has questioned its efficacy and the NPS doesn't think that it would have much impact. They will keep vaccinating the cows and calves at Stephen's Creek.

Winter use adaptive management plan: The plan sets the basic parameters but as things change management can change they would like to have public in the working groups. Do we want to have a person join Noncommercial winter use or operations and technology? The groups will be assembled soon the first conference call is Jan 22. Danny recommends that Barb attend email the board and give details on the process then we find reps from the board to attend visitor experience that working group is all encompassing Northern Range stuff as well as other categories wildlife , air quality.. etc.

Brian will get me the info the groups will either meeting in person or on the phone and come up with an adaptive management plan.

Monday is a fee free day in YNP and the 15,16,17 of Feb for Pres. day will be free as well.

ITTR – 2 page report on expenditures the report indicated Bozeman is on top for flights/expenditures. Brian will pass this around and Barbara will take it -Billings was second and Missoula was third.

**Status:** Completed

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## 4.2. Public Comment

Gardiner Chamber

Public Comment was moved up in the roster order because we had visitors whom we did not want to have to wait on us while we reviewed the Seasonal Resort Tax Initiative Petition signature collection. This conversation then melded into our events committee update and so that portion of the agenda is included here as well.

### Minutes:

The Fire Department and ambulance Company are here today: they are in a quandary, They do not charge fees for ambulance service, while on duty an employee was seriously injured and has been off work for months. They can't use Fire Dept. money to compensate him, so they are trying to figure out how they can channel money to him.

They would like to create a Gardiner EMS Fund, it will not be connected to the Fire Hall it would be a standalone account and that money would be used to reimburse funds lost by an employee when injured on the job.

They would like for the Chamber to remember "Buffalo Days" and they are wondering if we would help with a fundraiser; the fund will be a 501C-3. They are looking for someone to be a catalyst for creating a fundraiser. They don't know how to make it happen.

Scott, as a business owner he understands the need for fundraisers; the businesses have been on the hook as well as individuals because we don't get any money from Park County, that is why we want to get this RT passed and that will be a huge influx of money.

They feel that they have an immediate need they have never thought that anyone would be hurt so bad and be out of work for months and months and while this tax will serve that purpose very well, they don't think that the money will be coming in soon enough.

Danny reviews the resort tax process.

Sandy – the Flying Pig had a fundraiser last year they had raised \$1,500 they would be happy to raise money for that particular cause.

Frankie- Events: brewfest is number 1 we have the Park for the 16th of August we also have the Horse Round-up - We are talking with Chamber members Hell's A'Roarin' to create an event around their horse drive- it will be Memorial day weekend . They have also talked about a Saturday event; a BBQ. She has talked to the people Sara Ondrus, Anna Castillo, Anna Nini, Sue J, Jean Modesette, Suggestions have been flea markets, farmers markets, lighting the bridge, film festivals, 4th of July – Frankie would like to run an ad asking the community what they would like to see happen. Some of it would be 2015 some of them would be this year, the Memorial Day Horse drive for example. Maybe there is opportunity for them to have a booth. If they want to bring back Buffalo Days- a partnership between EMS and the Chamber, perhaps?

Danny: Bob Evanoff will you join our committee? Yes- that would make it so that they are tapped into the events we have.

Danny, thought: resort tax is most likely going to bring in over one million dollars: the RT won't be available immediately though it would be able to fund a Gardiner EMS insurance policy.

Danny and Richard review out loud RT plans

To answer Frankie's question we should couch the question so that it doesn't imply that these events will



necessarily happen this year. Frankie will draft an ad and send it out for Board approval. Cheryl A "boot drive" during the rodeo would also be a good way to raise some money for this person. They need a signature event to tack on because they do not have the man power to organize an event. They have to stipulate what it will be collected for if a donation is made to the Fire Department then they can't spend it to help an individual. The recommendation is to create a discretionary fund.

**Status:** Completed

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### 4.3. Gardiner Gateway Project

Daniel Bierschwale

#### Minutes:

GGP update - On Tuesday we facilitated a conversation with stakeholders on Park Street and the Planning committee. This was a preliminary meeting to the one that will be in March to begin the conversation and make the process less painful. Timing is a concern - they are trying to staying away from the high traffic season. Bill and Danny are trying to build the relationships with the owners and it is exciting to see some of the design elements.

Hwy 89 work is beginning this spring as well.

Future Gateway plans- Something we could do is to start mapping the walking tour of Gardiner and the wayside properties. It might be warranted to get the project going in terms of signage and get with YNP – get the plans together on where we want signs, art etc. GGCC is looking at these things, as well as, having done the historic survey and it would be advantageous to work cooperatively, This tour would include the confluence of the Yellowstone and Gardiner Rivers and Jardine too; with its mining and outfitting history it should be integrated well.

**Status:** Completed

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#### 4.3.1. Resort Tax, Gardiner Welcome Center and Public Restrooms

Daniel Bierschwale

Update on resort tax petition process. Each Board member will receive a portion of the list of the signatures that we collected last time and a copy of the petition if they have not already gotten one to recollect the signatures. We will review the names already collected so if you were one of the Board members to get a petition please bring it with you so that we can cross those names of the subdivided lists.

#### Minutes:

Danny is reviewing the petition papers and we will go through the names that we have collected already and the names that of the people that signed the first petition but have not come to the Chamber office to re-sign the new petition.

Each Board member has been assigned the names of those people that they feel they can contact and they have also been given a complete copy of the new Resort Tax Petition along with the map and accompanying documentation, as well as, the notarization form required. Once they have collected all the signatures they can, they need to go to a notary and then deliver the notarized petitions to Barb on Monday, January 27th. Barbara will then take the petitions to the Park County Clerk and Records Office in Livingston on Tuesday the 28th after the noon newsletter deadline.

If the petition passes, we are hoping for a vote in March with the tally completed in April.

Frankie has been doing some research with the County and she has an example of an RT reporting form. She has been informed that it is possible for us to make it so that people will only have to report one time instead of two times, as June falls in one quarter and the rest of the months fall into the next reporting quarter.

The reporting is determined by the governing body.

The Chamber will need to take a leadership role. Frankie has a list of those items that are taxable. We need to have a copy of this document. We are looking at having a mid-April roll out plan in place on how the form works and how businesses located within the designated Resort Area Boundary can use their POS system. We will help others find POS vendors through MT Hospitality Assoc as they have POS vendors who may be able to give a group discount.

With regards to businesses already taking reservations for this summer: Typically you cannot tax on pre-reservations but you could have a deposit of 50%, now if the trip happens in May it wouldn't be taxed but if it occurs in June it would. Another ordinance will need to be drafted by Park County.

Frankie –What is the procedure for the transition year for reservations? She will contact other Resort Tax area communities to see how they handled this. We need to start planning the rollout of this in April.



Danny has been talking to Cooke City on how they made the Visitor Center happen. The County took out a loan and had a legal doc drafted on how the payment would be made from the RT funds.

The RT committee has not met in a while due to the glitch we encountered. We have been looking at two properties on Park Street and we need to decide which one we want to pursue and put earnest money down on it. The County will secure the loan and then we can pull the trigger on construction. We want to have the price locked in.

Danny makes the motion "I move to allocate a total of \$60,000 from the GGP fund for the resort tax committee to commit earnest money and design fees towards the preferred Welcome Center property and begin design".

Discussion – the exact amounts allotted to each category in the motion will be determined by the RT committee.

Securing the property is important to move forward.

If the negotiations fail or the tax doesn't get passed we don't invest money into the architectural design plans. Based upon the facility we renovate, this figure, on the high end, is 8-12% of the cost of the facility. The RT committee will meet.

Richard second- all in favor -motion passes.

**Resolution #:** 2014-01-02

**Moved by:** Daniel Bierschwale

**Seconded by:** Richard Parks

**Status:** Carried

**Vote:** All in favor

**4.4. Gateway Coopertives and Partnerships**

Jean Modesette

**Minutes:**

The NRPC video shoot is starting this weekend. Jean brought in wage and hour posters and will leave some at the Chamber office if anyone needs them. She asks that all the Board members please write a bio for themselves and submit a picture as well so that we can complete the update to the "About Us" page on the Chamber website. We need to get our info updated. Jean will be highlighting members on Facebook so she will be sending out an email to everyone.

**Status:** Completed

**4.5. Events**

Frankie Aars

**Minutes:**

See Public Comments portion.

**Status:** Completed

**4.6. Date Next Meeting**

Daniel Bierschwale

We meet the third Thursday of every month at noon, upstairs at the Gardiner Market

**Minutes:**

The next meeting is February 20th.

**Status:** Completed

Total time scheduled: 60 min

Recording Secretary:

Chairperson:

Date:

4/17/14