



Gardiner Chamber of Commerce

Meeting date: **Thursday, October 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: Mountain Home, Mountain Mike's Tours, Outwest T's, Upper Yellowstone River R, Wild West Rafting, Wildflour Bakery, Yellowstone River Lodge, Yellowstone Safari, YP Riverfront Cabins, Schalene Darr, "Be Our Guest " House, Above the Rest Lodge, Absaroka Beartooth Outfitters, Absaroka Lodge, Adventure Yellowstone, B Bar Ranch, B Wood Photography, 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 Inc, Elk River Art Gallery and Studio, Elk River Lodge, Entre Nous, ERA Landmark Western Land, Gardiner Food Pantry, Gardiner Laundry, Gardiner Market, Gardiner Pharmacy/Yellowstone Perk, Gateway Hose Company, Gold Strike Gifts, Graybeal's All Service, Greater Gardiner Community Council, Headwaters B&B, 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, Medcor Inc at Yellowstone, Midwest Welding and Machinery, Jean Modesette, Montana Buffalo Company, Montana Whitewater Rafting&Zipline, Mountain Mobile Auto Glass, MSU Park County Extension, North Entrance Vacation Rental, North Entrance Washtub, North Yellowstone Lodge and Hostel, NorthWestern Energy, Paradise Adventure Company, Paradise Gateway B&B & Vacation , Richard Parks, Photos by Sandi, Riversbend Lodge, Riverside Cottages, Rockin' HK Outfitters, Barbara Shesky, Smith Family Ranch, Stafford Animal Shelter, Stonegate Chiropractics, Story Distributing, Subway, Brian Suderman, Sunny Slope Lodge, The Wildside Tours and Treks, Tumbleweed Bookstore & Cafe, 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 Gateway Inn, Yellowstone General Stores, Yellowstone Mine, Yellowstone Park Travel Lodge, Yellowstone Raft Company, Yellowstone River Motel, Yellowstone Suites B&B, General Manager Yellowstone Super 8, Yellowstone Village Inn, Yellowstone Wilderness Outfitters

Regrets:

Absent: Frankie Aars, Yellowstone Gallery & Frameworks

Late:

Guests:

(none)

Meeting Documents:

(no documents)

Meeting Minutes:

1. Chamber Business

1.1. Roll Call & Introductions

Daniel Bierschwale

Daniel Bierschwale

Richard Parks

Frankie Aars

Scott Demaree

Sandy Bierle

Cheryl Hoppe



Schalene Darr
Jean Modesette

Minutes:

Frankie Aars excused, Cheryl Hoppe Absent all others present - quorum reached

Status: Completed

1.2. Director's Report

Barbara Shesky

Update on Office Operations

Minutes:

Newsletter profits were up as compared to September of last year.

North entrance gate visitation numbers continue to increase as well as the overall Park numbers.

We currently have 135 members- 4 of which are courtesy members.

Chamber FYTD we have had 195,604 website directory searches. as compared to the total of 116,057 for 2013.

Jean, Barbara and Danny attended this year's Montana Downtown Conference, where Danny and Bill Berg of the GGCC gave a presentation on the Gardiner Gateway Project. We also wrapped up our application to the Big Sky Trust Fund Grant for matching funds for the Architectural Concept Designs via Prospera Business Network. Stuart Leidner wrote the grant proposal for us. We are asking for \$15,000.

The District formation petition is still in need of signatures before we can move on to the next step.

Barbara also attended the Centennial Kickoff gathering in West Yellowstone. This meeting is in preparation of the 2016 NPS 100 year anniversary and spearheaded by the Teton Science School. The agenda included: Goal of the National Park Service: Connect with and create the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates.

- Find your park campaign
- Call to Action
- Partners
- Activities and events

Status: Completed

1.3. Treasurer's Report

Cheryl Hoppe

Update on Chamber's financial status this report may be given by the Executive Director as needed.

Minutes:

The Chamber monthly financial report can be seen in hardcopy at the chamber office

Status: Completed

1.4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Daniel Bierschwale

Approval of August meeting minutes

Minutes:

Schalene motion to approve

Jean Modesette second

All in favor Motion passed

Status: Completed

2. Old business

No Old business

3. New business

No New business



4. Committee Business

4.1. Yellowstone National Park

Brian Suderman

Update on YNP

Minutes:

Brian Suderman not present- FYI The renovations on the Albright Visitor Center will be completed next June.

Status: Completed

4.2. Gardiner Gateway Project

Daniel Bierschwale

Gardiner Gateway Project update

Minutes:

Gardiner Gateway Project update- boots are on the ground unfortunately, the way that communication and traffic control has been handled has been upsetting some people. Miscommunication and lack of communication has made things difficult. It appears that the flaggers aren't using radios and the overall staging has been a major issue with residents and businesses. The utilities portion will be closing up soon. We have an opportunity to get it right with the infrastructure work that will be done Fed HWYS -Park County and the Park will be able to put in feedback as they are offering matching funds.

The 95% designs are about done for phase 1 and going out to bid. Danny is gathering info to turn over to Federal Highways.

Status: Completed

4.2.1. Gardiner Welcome Center & Public Restrooms

Daniel Bierschwale

Update on the Gardiner Welcome Center and Public restrooms

Minutes:

Danny and Barb are going to Helena tomorrow for the BSTF grant presentation we are asking for \$15,000.

Status: Completed

4.3. Nominating Committee

Cheryl Hoppe

Collection of names in preparation for upcoming Annual meeting of the members and filling Board seats.

Minutes:

Cheryl Absent

Status: Completed

4.4. Properties and Facilities

Gardiner Chamber

Minutes:

The properties and facilities committee met and discussed what we wanted to do with regards to the Chamber ownership of the Community Center. GGCC is temporarily running the building until Jan 1st and the GGCC has shown some interest in taking over ownership so they can pursue grants for repairs and historical register.

The Chamber acquired the property through the Eagles when they disbanded and the only entity that was available was the Chamber.

It is a bit of a liability when it comes to insurance and events- the insurance is immense for certain activities. Currently there is turbo kick, wedding receptions, the American Legion.

There should not be any commercial catering done from there as the kitchen is not up to spec.

We would like to have a deed restriction so that it remains a community use only should the GGCC disband, Bill and Schalene couldn't go to the last GGCC meeting so they will try to get together. We don't want to have to lock the doors come January 1. If they take ownership It makes it possible for the GGCC to get it on the Historic register and pursue grants and donations that the Chamber, as a 501 C-6 can't apply for. (The GGCC is a 501C-3)

What do we need to do as a Chamber to get this moving?

We need to take a vote from the membership.

First we need the go ahead from the GGCC and then have a vote of the members at the annual meeting as



this is a big community issue. Schalene will get with Bill and get a GGCC vote on this so we can bring it to the membership.

We will look at a contract for deed and deed restrictions Barb will try to get ahold of Jovick again next week.

Amy has approached Schalene regarding the lease they have on the rodeo grounds. We expect that it is to shorten their lease term.

We have been notified that Arch Park will be closed next summer. Laura Williams has asked if the Chamber would consider renting out the rodeo grounds.

Richard-the Manry's should be contacted too before any decision is made about that.

Status: Completed

4.5. Public Comment

Gardiner Chamber

Minutes:

Joe Gross-The jail is going to go onto the historical register. Joe went to a Commissioners meeting in Livingston. Danny thanks him for taking the time and making the effort to keep the jail from getting torn down. Then Joe goes starts in again on Danny (very difficult to transcribe) Something about the locks on the Community Center-

Yes-The Chamber paid to have the locks changed too many keys floating around that the Chamber did not know about.

Joe starts in that the GGP is "Danny's"/YAs project Scott keeps trying to redirect him

Once again Joe claims that he represents the chamber membership and that no one wants the GGP

Scott -the majority of the Chamber and the Community does support it.

Dave (Two Bit) I think it is a good idea not to have a year lease on the rodeo grounds and for the Chamber to look at having other activities there.

meeting adjourned.

Status: Completed

4.6. Date Next Meeting

Daniel Bierschwale

Minutes:

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting of the members on November 20. time and location TBD

Status: Completed

Recording Secretary:

Chairperson:

Date:
