



# Gardiner Chamber of Commerce

Meeting date: **Thursday, August 21, 2014** Started: **12:00 PM** Ended: **12:45 PM**

Location: Upstairs at the Gardiner Market

Purpose/Notes: Regular scheduled meeting

Chaired by: Daniel Bierschwale

Minutes rec. by: Gardiner Chamber

## Attendance:

Present: Frankie Aars, Sandy Bierle, Daniel Bierschwale, Gardiner Chamber, Cheryl Hoppe, Jean Modesette, Barbara Shesky, Brian Suderman, Yellowstone Basin Inn, General Manager Yellowstone Super 8

### Regrets:

Absent: 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, Big Wild Adventures, 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, 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, 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, Smith Family Ranch, Stafford Animal Shelter, Stonegate Chiropractics, Story Distributing, Subway, 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 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

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:**

Schalene Darr & Scott Demaree excused. Richard Parks absent. All others present

**Status:** Completed

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**1.2. Director's Report**

Barbara Shesky

Waived by Executive Committee

**Status:** Completed

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**1.3. Treasurer's Report**

Cheryl Hoppe

Waived by the Executive Committee

**Status:** Completed

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**1.4. Approval of prior month(s) meeting minutes**

Gardiner Chamber

Approval of May and June meeting minutes

**Minutes:**

All in favor, motion carried

**Resolution #:** 20140821-01

**Moved by:** Jean Modesette

**Seconded by:** Sandy Bierle

**Status:** Carried

**Vote:**

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**2. Old business**

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**2.1. Gardiner Resort Area District Formation**

Barbara Shesky

Discussion of the process to create a Resort Area District

**Minutes:**

The Chamber has followed through on the creation of a Gardiner Resort Area District Petition, the desire for which was indicated by chamber members and the public.

We have retained the services of Mona Jamison, a very well know attorney in the area , well versed in Resort Tax and Resort Tax District law and highly reccommended.

The boundaries of the Resort Tax Area District are exactly the same as the boundaries presented in the Resort Tax initiative petition last spring. Only signatures of those residing within the boudaries of the Resrot ax area will be considered valid.

The petition is available for signing at the Chamber office.

We need signatures of 10% of the voters registered in the Resort Tax Area to sign the petition. Ms. Jamison would like us to collect 75 signatures before we proceed to the next step; which is presenting it to the Park County Commissionners.

They would have to hold 2 public readings, verify the signatures and publish a public notice twice. Once it is accepted by Park County Commissionners then it would go to an official ballot vote to those residing within the Reosrt Tax Area boundaries.

We had hoped to get it on the ballot for this November 2014 election but after researching the law and then getting the petition created we found out that it was impossible to get on this November ballot. The item must be ready to go for ballot no less than 75 days prior to the election which, in this case, was August 11, 2014. At that point- the petition was still being created.

Our current time-line, should enough residents of the Resort Tax Area come to the office and sign the petition, will be a May 2015 ballot for the creation of the District.

If that ballot should be passed by the voters of the Resort Tax Area, then at that time, individuals that reside within the Resort Tax Area District will be eligible to run for office, It would be up to the individual interested to get his or her name on the ballot and then run an election campaign. The Board election would occur on the November 2015 ballot.



NOTE: The name would change if the ballot passed ; meaning that Resort Tax Area would thence be referred to as the Resort Tax Area District;

NOTE: The creation and election of Board members may not be on a special election ballot and must be on regularly scheduled ballots.

NOTE: Resort tax funds may only be spent within the boundaries of the Resort Tax Area.

**Status:** Completed

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### 3. New business

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#### 3.1. Chamber representation and letters to Livingston Enterprise

Daniel Bierschwale

##### Minutes:

Danny: This portion of the meeting is in regards to a letter to the editor from Joe Gross regarding the Gardiner Welcome Center and Public Restrooms and the Representation of Joe Gross' letter to the Enterprise. It is felt that the letter indicated he was representing the full Chamber body, He can be part of the team but he can't say that he is representing the chamber.

Joe Gross: You don't represent the full Chamber. What was the secret about the location?

Danny Bierschwale: We were under a nondisclosure agreement with the property owners this was and is a delicate matter for them. When you signed off on the letter you made it sound like you were representing the Chamber.

Joe Gross accuses Danny that he is using his position for personal gain and that he should have to resign.

Danny Bierschwale: We represent the Chamber under the MOU signed with the GGP. This is not about me or any member of this Board, this about Joe Gross and your claims that you represents the whole community you acted as if you was representing the Chamber. If you continues to do this we will have to take action.

Joe Gross; I talked to Steve Yobst that these aren't open meetings this is a closed meeting.

Redirect by Danny Bierschwale: This is about the letter that you sent to the Enterprise representing this organization Danny you don't.

Joe Gross refuses to acknowledge the point of the conversation and starts talking about the Yellowstone Association.

Danny Bierschwale: Out of respect for you Joe we asked you to come today. Do you understand what we are concerned about?

Joe Gross: Danny wants to get his own way for Yellowstone Association.

Sandy Bierle-Danny was elected by the Members and that is why he gets to speak for this organization. If you were voted in that position then you could but you weren't voted in and this is democracy you are welcome to your opinion.

Joe Gross: We will call an investigation have you guys subpoenaed.

Danny Bierschwale- Joe, please repeat why this organization has asked you to attend this meeting and what it is we are discussing here for the minutes.... interjection from Kim Kaiser...He can go collect names of 20 people....

At this point Joe Gross, Kim Kaiser and Danny Bierschwale were all speaking at once....

Joe Gross - We'll see. (He refuses to acknowledge that this was about the letter to the Livingston Enterprise and how he sounded and how he signed it.

Danny Bierschwale- If you do it again then we ( Meaning the Board) will have to do something.

Joe Gross- You do what you gotta do I'll do what I gotta do let the chips fall where they may

Danny Joe we want you on the team but you have to stop acting like you representing the Chamber

Again the accusation of being a representative of YA and not the Chamber.

Danny Bierschwale- Reiterates his point to Joe and says we are moving on to address the rest of today's Chamber business.

**Status:** Completed

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## 4. Committee Business

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### 4.1. Yellowstone National Park

Brian Suderman

Update on YNP

#### Minutes:

Fee free day on Monday Sept 27 will be another fee free day in the Park.

We are only two years away from the 100 anniversary of the Park Service. There will be some kind of celebration at this point plans are being made but not in place.

Visitation is really robust it 5.7% up for July 2013. Tthe North entrance was 4.6 % higher than last year.

Road construction continues between here and Mammoth they are doing ditch cleaning. Then the north entrance road stretch will get the paving overlay( that was supposed to happen last year when the government shutdown occurred) this coming Sept 22 – Oct 2nd.

The major construction is coming up: Craig pass total closure starts Sept 2 -closed for the season. You have to go around over the east side to Access the Tetons.

Mammoth to Norris will be Sept14-30 for bridge work.

Visitation is starting to drop.

Sadly, this past week there were 2 fatalities in the Park the 22 year old man who got swept down the Yellowstone River tubing on the Lamar and the 8 year that fell at Canyon.

**Status:** Completed

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### 4.2. Gardiner Gateway Project

Daniel Bierschwale

Gardiner Gateway Project update

#### Minutes:

Utility work is happening on Main Street. The Water and Sewer District has contracted Dick Anderson Construction. It started off poorly- the context was not set we (The Chamber) do not have a whole lot of control that is Park County, Dick Anderson and the Gardiner Park County Water and Sewer District.

They are holding public meetings now, the next one is scheduled on Tuesday September 2nd at the GPCW&SD Office in Arch Park.

**Status:** Completed

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#### 4.2.1. Gardiner Welcome Center & Public Restrooms

Daniel Bierschwale

Update on the Gardiner Welcome Center and Public restrooms

#### Minutes:

We put out a press release on our new Gardiner Welcome Center we are looking forward to the new facility.

Danny turns the meeting over to Barbara to explain the process of renovating the new facility to meet our needs.

The Chamber placed an RFQ, Request for Qualifications. It was published twice in both the Bozeman Daily Chronicle and the Livingston Enterprise. We received 2 SOQs back Submission Of Qualifications.

The submissions were from SpectrumGroup Architects out of Billings and CTA Architects Engineers out of Bozeman.

The Committess decision was based on the following 5 criteria:

#### Understanding of Need

#### Approach

#### Experience

#### Project Team

#### Availability

#### References

The SOQs were opened by a 5 member committee made up of Jean Modesette, Cheryl Hoppe, Danny Bierschwale, Sabina Straus and Barbara Shesky.

Upon opening of the SOQS on August 15, 2014 at the Chamber office each committee member was provided with a copy of each to be reviewed in depth. The committee reconvened on August 20, 2014 after each member reviewed the submissions and made their own decisions. CTA has a lot of experience



in building Visitors Centers, They built the Canyon Visitor's Center, the Albright Visitor's Center, The Yellowstone Heritage & Research Center. They are currently building the Livingston Food Pantry and did Plannign Services for the City of Ray in North Dakota.

Spectrum Group Architects has significant experience in office rennovations, their experience leaned more towards City offices. Their works included Drummond Elementary School, Livingston Armory & MDU Division Offices.

Some of the references for CTA included the Yellowstone Association. Due to this submission and the fact that Danny works at YA, he did not give hip opinion to the group, he stated facts about the projects that he was aware of and then abstained from the vote.

A reference check was done on CTA by contacting McCone County Board of Commissioners in Circle MT ` Commissioner Janet Wolff.

The Group felt that CTA was more in tune with the needs of the Chamber with regards to creating an inviting Welcome Center and Public Restroom Facility and that they measured up better in all categories better than Spectrum.

A vote was taken 4 in favor of CTA. Danny Bierschwale abstained from the vote.

Danny Bierschwale- In keeping with the topic of the new facility-the press release should have read we **intend** to apply for resort tax funds. We will be sending in a correctio to the Enterprise. although, we would be shocked if there was another organization that would be in place and able to apply for these funds.

**Status:** Completed

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#### 4.3. Yellowstone's Epic Horse Drive

Gardiner Chamber

Update on the event

**Minutes:**

Frankie abstain does not feel she can give a final report as Barb gave her the final P&L today Danny asked about the chutes Frankie – the rodeo club has figured out a way to deal with that themselves.

**Status:** Completed

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#### 4.4. Properties and Facilities

Daniel Bierschwale

Update on Chamber properies and leases, in particular, the Community Center building

**Minutes:**

The Chamber has a signed a leaseon the Community Center for the first time in several years. The lease is with the Greater Gardiner Community Council. The GGCC will run it for 6 months.

They have requested owning the property to operate but we cannot make that decision right now, so the compromise was for them to take over running it for 6 months. The Chamber does not have the staff or the wherewithall to run a Community Center. This matter will be discussed at the next Chamber Board meeting.

**Status:** Completed

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#### 4.5. Public Comment

Gardiner Chamber

**Minutes:**

**Joe Gross shows Raines article ( Livingston Enterprise) to Danny. Danny reiterates the correction that will be sent to the Enterprise.**

**Joe Gross asks about toilet paper and water costs and asks if Yellowstone Association is going to pay for it. Danny points out that expense is part of operational costs and would be included in the allocation in the Resort Tax Ordinance.**

**Joe Gross asks how much money that will be.**

**Danny Bierschwale tells him he doesn't know because collections aren't in yet.**

**Kim Kaiser said that he sent 2 emails to the Chamber asking about "Go to meeting to have chamber meetings be online. He says he recieved no resposne. Barbara Shesky does not recall getting these emails. Kim Kaiser acknowledges that has no record of it. He acknowledges that he got his email shut down because of remarks he made about the president of the US.**

**Danny Bierschwale- We ( The Chamber) are willing to look at. Barbara Shesky asked that he have Pete (Dahn) who Kim says he also sent it to send it to me so I ( Barbara) can see it and we will look into it.**

**Status:** Completed



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**4.6. Date Next Meeting**

September 18, 2014

**Status:** Completed

Daniel Bierschwale

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Total time scheduled: 61 min

Recording Secretary:

Chairperson:

Date:

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