



Gardiner Chamber of Commerce

Meeting date: **Thursday, September 18, 2014** **Started: 12:00 PM** **Ended: 1:54 PM**

Location: Upstairs at the Gardiner Market

Purpose/Notes: Regular scheduled meeting

Chaired by: Jean Modesette

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, Frankie Aars, Above the Rest Lodge, 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 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, 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 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: Absaroka Beartooth Outfitters, North Entrance Washtub, Brian Suderman, General Manager Yellowstone Super 8

Late:

Guests:

(none)

Meeting Documents:

(no documents)

Meeting Minutes:

1. Chamber Business

1.1. Roll Call & Introductions

Jean Modesette

Daniel Bierschwale - excused

Richard Parks

Frankie Aars - excused

Scott Demaree

Sandy Bierle

Cheryl Hoppe



Schalene Darr
Jean Modesette

Minutes:

Absent- Cheryl Hoppe, Richard Parks. No quorum- Therefore the meeting will continue but no items will be voted on.

Status: Completed

1.2. Approval of prior month's meeting minutes

Jean Modesette

Minutes:

Tabled

Status: Parked

1.3. Director's Report

Barbara Shesky

Update on Office Operations

Minutes:

Paid newsletter income was down significantly for the month of August as compared to last year. The Cost of the printer to keep the newsletter going was over \$10,000. This was a very significant and unexpected expense- The first printer didn't work right but a replacement was brought in and so far it is working the way it should.

North Entrance gate numbers exceeded last year's again this month and the numbers for the Park as a whole were up as well.

Last year's walk-in numbers were a record- but we haven't had as much traffic through the office this year possibly due to the relocation of a business that sent a lot of traffic our way and another business was not open for lunch this year as it was last year. –

We currently have 135 members 4 are courtesy memberships-

Status: Completed

1.4. Treasurer's Report

Cheryl Hoppe

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

Minutes:

Quick books, the check book register are balanced and Cheryl balances the checkbook against the Bank statement and all is in order.

The month's financial statement can be viewed at the chamber office.

Status: Completed

2. Old business

No Old business

3. New business

No New business

4. Committee Business

4.1. Properties and Facilities

Schalene Darr

Discussion regarding the future of the Community Center building.

Minutes:

The GGCC is currently leasing the Community Center until December 31, 2014. They have no interest in leasing after January. The insurance is a huge issue and cost. They (GGCC) had an insurance agent come in to explain liability insurance to the Council. For example- some potential renters of the Center for example -weddings – The Renter of the Center can use their homeowner's policy but not everyone that rents for a wedding owns a home. There are also beer and wine permits or catering permits and liquor liability



insurance that are needed with these functions.

This is one of those things, as Chamber, that we have to look at as a serious situation. Yoga, Turbo, Weight lifting, weddings all come with a certain amount of liability. We had a meeting with the GGCC back in July to discuss these issues.

We, as chamber, have to discuss what is going to happen to the building. We are looking at handing it over to the GGCC as a Public Facility. GGCC does not want to keep leasing the building. Getting insurance, getting the building onto the historical registry and pursuing grants for maintenance and improvements and renting the building out is too much with everything that the Chamber has going on already and only one paid staff person.

Scott Demaree - He felt that the meeting was good last July and we were able to get a lot of things on the table and solutions. As far as the Chamber is concerned he personally doesn't think we should expect anything for it- we didn't pay anything for it. Maybe as a Chamber we will gift this to you (GGCC) under these circumstances – (You) GGCC go after the grants get it on the historical registry etc.

Schalene - it has taken a lot for a few people to manage it and she can't speak for all of GGCC. (Note: Schalene Darr also sits on the GGCC Board of Directors) she sees it being used for an activity center- as we know there is plans for a Depot. We need another meeting to decide what the Community wants this building to be. We don't want it to go to somebody that won't use it for the Community.

Sandy - The insurance challenges will they go away?

Schalene – No- it is thousands of dollars for people to get insurance for these events. Even if we decide, as a Chamber, to not turn the ownership over to the GGCC, the Chamber would have to have event insurance it needs to be put back on the "renter"- Someone with a homeowner policy has a pretty easy time but that doesn't remove responsibility of the insurance.

Sandy- Long term- is there any idea of the value of it as an asset? We will be taking something away on the ledger.

Scott-If we keep it, we would have to close it because we don't have the resources to fix it up the way it needs to be -to be safer.

Schalene- It is an asset and a liability. The GGCC opens it up for community activity- yes - Community enrichment programs. There are a ton of people that use it and would be upset if it closes. We were in a really bad position as a chamber because no lease was signed we had issues with nothing being done and now that the GGCC has it and we have a lease but Schalene isn't comfortable being the Board member in charge of this.

Sabina- Are these people that are using the building participating in this?-No, they aren't- We need input and participation from those using it and for them to also help and care for it for the building. GGCCC would be able to apply for RT funds and this will show the Community why RT is so important.

There are really nice opportunities here and we need to figure out how to make it happen. The worst case scenario is that we have to temporarily close it. We need to get a cohesive story in front of those using the center so that they understand, & cooperatively care for the building. Scott thinks we as the two groups involved need to sit down and figure out what we want and we should be able to present it to the public. We will also probably want to put the title exchange if that is what is chosen to a vote of the membership.

We should create a statement from the Chamber and the GGCC- An informational statement to tell people what is going on.

To let everyone that we care, are working on it and trying to keep this building. It is the little things, cleaning putting out the TP etc it is in reality only a few people who do stuff.

If it gets to the point that updates and structural improvement maybe more people would be engaged.

Scott- Why wouldn't the Chamber be interested in running it? Do pros and cons list Scott and Schalene sit down and create a list.

Schalene- she and Danny have discussed it not being in our mission.

Jean-We are to be promoting business this is community development-

Is this going to be a public building for visitors or for the community?

Jean – Is the depot going to offer a meeting room?. Schalene similar to the Bozeman Library- Meeting rooms- events there. Opportunity for people to have wedding receptions there. The GGCC is pursuing this project and we need to look at that.

We need to know what the Community want this building to be -the kitchen in the building isn't really very good for catering.

Jean – we need to have a special meeting to discuss this.

Scott doesn't think that we should be under the gun of the New Year. Schalene agrees but we need to



realize that we would then need to run it.

We want this to be a community meeting but first we as the Boards of the Chamber and the GGCC need to meet.

Schedule a meeting create a fact sheet and be open to other people's ideas – is it for the betterment for the community not a specific group or individuals.

This is about what does Gardiner need 10 years down the road. We need to schedule a meeting of the Properties Committee then a meeting with GGCC before our next Chamber Board meeting.

Our Annual meeting of the members is in November. Meeting Scheduled for the Properties and Facilities Committee on Oct 2nd Yellowstone Grill.

Status: Completed

4.2. Yellowstone's Epic Horse Drive

Barbara Shesky

Update on the Chamber fundraising event

Minutes:

The Horse drive brought in \$14,864.16 expenses were \$13,033.30 For a profit of \$1,830.86

Status: Completed

4.3. Brewfest in Arch Park

Barbara Shesky

Update on the Annual Brewfest in Arch Park Chamber fundraiser.

Minutes:

This year Brewfest brought in \$9,990.51 Expenses were \$6,648.36 for a profit of \$3,342.15.

Summary: This year's events did not bring in the cash profit that we had hoped for. The Board discussed looking at events differently, rather than looking at them as Chamber fundraisers looking at them as Community Events with no expectation of profits as, historically, these events have taken a vast amount of time to prepare for with little financial return or not doing events at all. The general feeling is that it would be disappointing to not have these events occur but at the same time the Chamber's limited resources including funds and staff must be considered.

Jean - There are grants available but we have to match the money from Chamber funds and they limit the grant money to being spent on entertainment and marketing.

Improvements would need to be made on money handling procedures and communication, if we should continue. If we get out there early in December to get sponsorships getting the date- getting vendors we need to get things ready for both events in the winter they might work better – we can't wait till the month before the event.

More Board involvement- if we give people actual specific tasks that might work better; if it is too broad people don't know what to do and then don't do anything.

Jean- Barb gets pulled in so many different ways and the Community doesn't realize it.

Should events continue we need a yearly planner made.

Status: Completed

4.4. Gardiner Gateway Project

Barbara Shesky

Gardiner Gateway Project update

Status: Completed

4.4.1. Gardiner Welcome Center & Public Restrooms

Barbara Shesky

Update on the Gardiner Welcome Center and Public restrooms

Status: Completed

4.5. Marketing

Jean Modesette

Update on Marketing projects-

Upcoming is Montana Quarterly

Minutes:

The fall issue of Montana Quarterly is out on shelves now.

Over the summer Barbara Was contacted by a company through a YA referral called Old Hand Holdings. The business is a tourism company out of Jackson Hole that specifically caters to the Chinese Tourism



Market. With their connections they were able to create a Yellowstone Park website in China (China has very controlled internet access). In conjunction he also created a Yellowstone area tourism guide book all in Mandarin. We were offered a free ad in this magazine which is also online in China and distributed to the tourism agencies in China. Barb created an ad and the company translated it into Mandarin. Copies of the magazine are in the Chamber office. the magazine can be viewed at yellowstone.com.cn

Status: Completed

4.5.1. Gateway Coopertives and Partnerships

Jean Modesette

Updates with regards to our partnership with the Cooke City/Silvergate/Colter Pass Chamber of Commerce in promoting the northern range.

Status: Completed

4.6. Public Comment

Gardiner Chamber

Minutes:

Sabina is hosting a Working Dogs for Conservation fundraiser at the Yellowstone Basin Inn. These dogs can find things ranging from invasive plant species to aborted bison fetuses and gorilla scat in Africa. Everyone is invited. Event on Saturday-a dog will be there to give a demonstration of its abilities and then there will be a BBQ the total plate donations will be donated to them and 25% of room rate booked will be donated.

HR rep- Beth Casey from Xanterra would like to come to meetings to update us like Brian does for YNP.

Status: Completed

4.7. Date Next Meeting

Jean Modesette

October 16th - noon at the Gardiner Market

Annual Meeting of the members coming up soon - November 20th. Time and location to be determined.

Status: Completed

Total time scheduled: 55 min

Recording Secretary:

Chairperson:

Date:
