



Gardiner Chamber of Commerce

Meeting date: **Thursday, January 15, 2015 from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM**

Location: Upstairs at the Gardiner Market Purpose/Notes: Regular scheduled meeting

Meeting Documents:

See meeting binder in Chamber office

Minutes

1. Chamber Business

1.1. Roll Call & Introductions

Daniel Bierschwale / 1 min

Daniel Bierschwale- Hal Broadhead- Frankie Aars -Scott Demaree- Sandy Bierle- Cheryl Hoppe- Schalene Darr- Jean Modesette -Sabina Strauss.

Cheryl Hoppe Excused.

1.2. Director's Report

Barbara Shesky / 3 min

Update on Office Operations:

Interview process- We are currently interviewing for a part-time 25 hour a week position. This is a brand new position "Newsletter and Visitor Information Center Coordinator".

DBA creation- The Chamber has created a DBA called the "Gardiner Resort Area Visitor's Center and Public Restroom Facility"

Treasurer Report -Bank accounts- Created for the RT tax funding capital grant account and another one for the operations fund.

Accounting- Due to a computer glitch at our accountant's (Cat Moody) office, our 2013 tax return was submitted a day past the deadline. She is communicating with the IRS to rectify the penalties associated with this accidental infraction.

New volunteer- Paul Helfrich a student at Gardiner High School will be volunteering at the office Monday – Thursday from 3-3:45pm through the end of May.

Deed transfer-Lawyer Update- Bob Jovick is currently working on the draft of the restricted Community Center deed transfer to the Greater Gardiner Community Council

Offer of *free of charge* internet service for the new Chamber office by Chamber member Yellowstone Media and Designs.

1.3. Treasurer's Report

Cheryl Hoppe / 1 min

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

1.4. Approval of prior month's meeting minutes

Daniel Bierschwale / 1 min

Resolution #: 20150115

Motion to approve December minutes Scott Demaree. Second: Hal Broadhead. All in favor, Motion carried

2. Old business

2.1. Wolf Issue response letter

Sabina Strauss / 5 min

Sabina will present the letter that the committee has created. (See both versions in meeting minute's binder)

Due Date: 1/15/2015

We received a letter form a woman regarding the killing of a wolf in Late November she appeared to be (hostile). The committee devised 2 versions of a letter to address this issue.

We need to focus on our mission and direct those comments to the proper entities that have control over hunting privileges and regulations we felt that it was time to address it in a more formal way to give Barb a tool.



Question- Tom R- Clarification- people are mistaking the chamber for the entity in charge? –yes

Sabina- the letters- one has the mission statement & one doesn't.

Sabina doesn't care to have the mission in it. Sabina- For the letter we should remain short and sweet, we should look at this as a starting point for the board at the retreat (coming up in February). She feels that, perhaps, it is the time to decide to take the stand either way.

Danny- recommends the more succinct one. Scott, Jean and Hal agree to use the short one.

I.e. to identify- the one without the mission statement in it.

It was agreed that Barb will use the shorter version.

Completed date: 1/15/15

3. New business

3.1. Depot Update

Bill Berg / 10 min

Update by the Greater Gardiner Community Council regarding a new Depot building.

Bill the president of the Greater Gardiner Community Council (GGCC) and Dennis McIntosh are here, as well as, Park County Sheriff, Scott Hamilton and Undersheriff Herbst-

Bill Berg gives a brief history on the NPR Depot. It was there (in Arch Park) for 50 years. Rail service stopped in the 30's and it burned down in the 40's. The current building was erected in the 1950s. Since the early 70s it served for alternate services- the Library, Water District and sheriff's offices. We need a long term solution for these offices.

Sheriff Hamilton:

Sheriff's Office deficiencies- 400 sq. feet for office and bathroom, evidence and storage. We are going to see an increase in tourism we do not have the space we need. Also, we have to go through the whole town with our lights and sirens if there is a call. They would like to be down by the other emergency services.

Bill Berg:

We have federal and county money that will be invested in the creation of the new Depot building. There is asbestos in the building. Only 1 bathroom and we would have to work around the building.

This brings us to the rodeo grounds- the Chamber hold the deed. In 06-08 plots were divided off for our fire department. Phase 1 of the Gardiner Gateway Project (GGP) will determine what happens down in the Park; if we can clear the building off Arch Park. We held public meetings regarding the use of Arch Park. It was discussed and the feeling is more towards a multiple use building for the library and large meeting rooms/small conferences. That would fill some restaurant tables and lodging in the shoulder seasons. There are multiple moving pieces. Do we want to hold on to that building down there? If they were to stay there the sheriff's office and the library would be squeezed tight.

Dennis McIntosh:

This ties into a conversation regarding the needs and wants of the community. We have our county seat 50 miles away, we don't need city offices at this point, regardless of where things end up we feel that it is up to the GGCC to communicate with the Chamber, we now have the ability to guide ourselves more efficiently and we even have a checkbook.



Frankie Aars:

She applauds their foresight. The GGP is helping to move Gardiner forward and addressing the infrastructure we are lacking. How can we better support some of our local authorities? She feels it is important to continue in that direction.

Bill Berg:

The (Sheriff's) office is 400 sq. feet they have no evidence locker no privacy, they have talked to the county planner and feel that a piece could be carved out without depleting the grounds for the Rodeo space. Estimating 1,200sq. ft. - 30x40 sq. foot

How big of a footprint?

We don't know at this time. They (GGCC) wanted to approach the Chamber before going to that extent to find out.

Scott Demaree:

We absolutely want to utilize the Rodeo grounds more for the benefit of the community. The rodeo does need to stay as a focus but to have all the emergency services in one area is a good idea.

Dennis McIntosh:

They took an inventory of the grounds in town and this seems to be the best option.

It doesn't compromise the rodeo but it would compromise parking down there.

Danny Bierschwale:

Next step? Board? (Addressing the Chamber Board) Formal proposal to the table?

Sabina Strauss:

A formal proposal with a map so we can see how much parking would be lost.

Bill will get with Public Works and the County Planner – Look at adjusting the boundary line, perhaps, allow an easement- a land swap- this would be the cleanest it would have to be of equal value. Dennis McIntosh-They can work with the county, the H2O dept. and the Sheriff's office.

Tom Rapp:

Maybe lease a modular and put it out there as a starting point for the Sheriff's office.

Dennis McIntosh:

This brings up the possible time line problem we could have- there might be a need for temporary housing.

An ideal timeline – middle of this summer have direction on work and start accruing funds for all three of the entities they are trying to keep stride with the Federal Highways Department.

They (GGCC) will bring a formal proposal to the table.



4. Committee Business

4.1. Yellowstone National Park

Brian Suderman / 5 min

Update on YNP Brian was unable to attend this month's meeting

4.2. Xanterra update

Xanterra / 5 min

Update from Beth Casey regarding Xanterra.

Winter season is proceeding we will be closing before we know it. Snow Lodge closes March 1st, Mammoth March 2nd. She will bring all the opening dates to the next meeting.

In our new contract we are supposed to have Mammoth open year round we are looking at this happening in a year or so. We will flip flop and have Mammoth open first and Snow Lodge second they are looking to push traffic through the North Entrance. They are working hard towards 2016 for the 100th Anniversary of Park Service and the 125th Anniversary of Lake Hotel- Which has been completely renovated. It is striking. The Interior design work is more in line with the period in which it was built.

Snow Lodge opens on the December 18th and Mammoth on the 20th –not huge variance

4.3. Gardiner Gateway Project

Daniel Bierschwale / 3 min

Gardiner Gateway Project update

The GGP plans are nearing 100% completion. The project is going out to bid.

4.4. Properties and Facilities

Schalene Darr / 10 min

Update on the progress of moving the office into our new location

We have had the carpets cleaned, window decals taken off. Paint has been chosen and they will be able to paint next week. The man who took off the decals is giving us an estimate and we will get one from Montana Canvas on the awning; repair versus replace.

We need to take signs down, she will check with NWE or Cowboys, we need fire extinguishers, locking door knobs and a properly wired electric outlet for the printer.

Review lease with the Upper Yellowstone Rodeo Club

Rodeo grounds discussion: The rodeo club cannot afford the \$2,000 they would like to rent it for a week for \$250. (See letter they submitted in Meetings binder).

Perhaps they would be willing to make us the highest level sponsor. Danny wants to have a conversation with Amy to discuss this.

Sabina –Are we back to having to worry about maintenance?

Frankie-It is a concern it is not very eye appealing. Concerns. The building- the maintenance.

Schalene-They are having new chutes put in. They have donation money for them but have to put in their own money in towards one. They have lost money the past two years.

Scott- There is a lot of background to this property, it is in our best interest to help them succeed I don't think cutting off \$1,750 is going to be a long-term solution.

Sandy- If they could throw in some sweat equity and pull weeds and clean up that would be helpful.



It is some of our responsibility to maintain it too. We also have people parking out there leave their horses there. We have no control.

Frankie- we need to understand the agreement when the buildings were erected.

There are no restriction or mention in the deed of the buildings.

We don't have the staff to run the rodeo grounds.

Amy is the main person in charge, she does everything Shawnee G and her sister help.

Schalene has reached out to her and a meeting will be set up.

Tom how about a sliding scale lease so if they have a good year they pay a higher amount versus a bad year? We also have to be conscious of the neighbor.

Fireworks stand at the Rodeo Grounds

Are we going to be leasing to the Casey Hubbard for a fireworks stand the last week of June and the first week of July again this year.

Tabled.

4.5. Marketing

Jean Modesette / 5 min

Update on marketing projects-

Our Board retreat is scheduled for Feb 26.

Our focus is applying for Convention and Visitor's Bureau (CVB) status. We are now eligible to apply for this status and for funding that we couldn't tap into before. We present a written marketing plan and present it to the Tourism Advisory Council in June (TAC) we have to decide what that project is and we have to have it done and submitted by the first week of May; it is a great opportunity.

The Horse Drive is still going to continue but it is not going to be a Chamber event; it is going to be a one day event. We will not be spending the \$5000 investment- it was a net 0 event. There is a huge amount of interest so it should bring in business to town.

We are not going to do Montana Quarterly this year it was very time consuming we are going to put it on hiatus and pursue other options. We may do again in the future.

4.6. Public Comment

Gardiner Chamber / 5 min

None

4.7. Date Next Meeting

Daniel Bierschwale / 1 min

Reminder - chairs to call planning meetings if they have not already done so for their committee's plan of action this year.

The next meeting will be held on February 19, at 1pm in the new Gardiner Visitor's Center.
