



Gardiner Chamber of Commerce

Meeting date: 10.22.15 Started: 12noon Ended:

Location: Gardiner Visitor's Center

Purpose/Notes: Regular scheduled meeting/meeting of the members-

Chaired by: Daniel Bierschwale

Minutes recorded by: Executive Director: Barbara Shesky

Meeting Documents: See Binder in Chamber Office during Business Hours

Meeting Minutes:

1. Chamber Business

1.1. Roll Call & Introductions

Daniel Bierschwale

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

All present!!

Status: Completed

1.4. Approval of prior month's meeting minutes

Daniel Bierschwale

Regarding: September 17 minutes

Motion: Hal Broadhead makes a motion to approve the minutes of 9/17/15

Second: Schalene Darr

Discussion: Sabina abstains because she hadn't had a chance to read them.

All others in favor

Motion passes

Resolution #: 10.22.15.01

Status: Completed

New Business

Budget (A copy of the budget will be in the Binder at the Chamber Office)

Danny reviews the strategic plan and 2016 Priorities for the design of the budget.



Our new Welcome Center: Construction, make the build out happen as effectively and smoothly as possible. Also, focus on customer service making sure the employees have what they need to do their jobs.

Branding and CVB marketing plan execution have a good solid process moving forward it will fuel our marketing dollars in future plans if we market successful we should have more funds coming in from the bed tax.

Reviewed newsletter expense and income projection.

Social media expand staff involvement on those two.

Rodeo grounds – asset for the Chamber and the community. The properties and facilities committee is working hard to improve use.

Member engagement we have wanted to do this for a long time- The hope is Barb getting out and getting together with members and engaging them.

NPS celebration- limited staff involvement and financial commitment more of a commitment of Board engagement.

Jean: Is there any opportunity for the Chamber to do any fundraising?

Danny selling retail is in conflict.

Service? Beer and wine? Commemoratives sale.

Reprinting the Map? It isn't in here. Other priorities- break even budget and Barb can't have any more added to her plate, she is already overloaded

Several Board members would like to pursue possibly reprinting or redoing the map they understand that if they do, Barb cannot assist and they have to find the money on their own for costs.

Additional staffing: We can retain Zondra through the year for 3 days a week 1 day to help Barbara with administrative work, the other 2 days to work on the newsletter, her hours are being cut back to 6 on Wednesdays to make this work. She will only be able to work on the newsletter on Tuesdays and Wednesday because it is so time consuming to produce a quality newsletter.

We can only take payroll out of the Chamber account and the operations and maintenance account. The capital fund cannot be used for payroll.

The CVB funding only allows for up to 20% of the funds to be used for payroll and that can only be used towards Barb's pay- it has to go to only CVB related work.

VIC funding is only in the summer from Memorial day through the end of September and it is clearly defined in the grant rules that the person being paid by those funds can only talk to visitors, stock brochures and clean the VIC the person on that payroll cannot work on Chamber related duties. This year we will have to hire two people that will have to assist in the cleaning of the new restrooms and the stocking and cleaning of the building.

Some Board members say they will try to find grants or an intern to help.

The renovation is taking a big chunk of money.



Reivew of bank accounts and construction.

Discussion regarding the plowing, lawn and tree maintenance fo the parking lot this will be a yearly ask of the resort tax infrastucure and maintenance fund. In the future someone could look into a TBID or asking businesses on Park street to chip in.

Yellowstone Ecosystem concerns- We want to get these right they are individually addressed we don't know if we want to have a "Standard" . Some of these issues may pop up in the branding process. Making sure we are spending our time in the right place, we don't want it to consume our focus yet we need to be sensitive.

Sabina: I think that issues that negatively effect tourism in a negative way are the ones that we should deal with.

Is it appropriate to have an ongoing agenda item for Ecosystem concerns?

Schalene I think that we represent the majority of people in the right way.

Danny he received a calls from people thanking us for stepping up to speak out against the mines Schalene and Scott agree that they have as well. We are still figuring this stuff out. Learning process.

Any other priorities?

Social Media and Newsletter front

Budget Discussion: line items on income.

Parking lot maintenance

Town banners for the light poles

New welcome to Gardiner sign

MDOT dictates where signs can be placed. Also signage on this side so people know they are coming into Gardiner.

Jean Modesette makes a motion to approve the FY16 budget as presented and corrected.

Hal Broadhead seconds the motion.

No further discussion

All in favor motion carried.

Resolution #: 10.22.15.02

Status: Completed

Ecosystem

Sabina Strauss

Reviews number of member poll.

27% of our members responded (37).

Of that 27%, 84% do not think that a gold mine at Emigrant Peak or Crevasse Mountain are appropriate.



Q1. Do you think gold mines on Crevasse Mountain and Emigrant Peak are a good idea?

Yes=6 No=31

Q2. Do you support Natural Resource extraction in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem?

Yes=6 No 28

(There is a numbers variance because not all respondents responded with a simple yes or no. They gave more of an explanatory answer and therefore were not counted. As they said both yes and no.)

Q3. Do you charge the Gardiner Chamber Board of Directors to speak pulcally on behalf of the membership to communicate and work with County Commissioners, Governor, Congress and Environmental Organizations against gold mining and other natural resource extraction in Paradise Valley?

Yes=31 No=5

(Again the disparity in numbers is due to a response that was not clearly a yes or a no.)

Comment that Sabina heard at a meeting regarding this was “ It’s good to know the people Gardiner have starch in their shirts”.

Went to meeting on the 28th briefed Jennifer Madgic Senator Tester’s Aid on the situation.

Park County Commissioners had a meeting about the road swap they said that they will not enter into a memorandum of understanding with Mike Warner.

Addendum below added for clarity and to prevent misinformation.

*Addendum: Initially it was thought that they had voted to deny as was indicated in the Livingston Enterprise. This was later clarified by the Commissioners that they had decided not to respond due to the fact that Mr. Werner had not actually appropriately asked to be placed on the Commissioners agenda and the Commissioners were not going to pursue him. **Barbara Shesky Executive Director 11/12/15***

Barb reviews meeting with Senator Jon Tester, PCEC, GYC.

Senator Tester stated that he also did not believe that the Paradise Valley area and in such close proximaty to Yellowstone Park was a good idea. He stated that he would do anything he can to assist us in preventing this from happening.

Sabina and the PCEC talked to Walt from the Forest Service. Werner small mining permit allows him to disturb up to 5 acres. The application is on DEQ desk. Sin Nombre road is a seasonal road with a gate, but he has been given a key, so he actually does have access, so the Forest Service is waiting on DEQ. Werner hasn’t paid his filing fee or answered DEQ quesitons.

PCEC and GYC are going to contact DEQ since it all rests with DEQ. Sabina thinks that we should write a lettter asking for a public process.

Walt says they are willing to work with the public and creating a public process. Other than that, do we want to thank the commissioners for their decision and how do we want to communicate with the members do we want to do an update in the newsletter?

Decide not to put in the newsletter and these minutes will notify the membership. Also, It has been published in the Livingston Enterprise.



Status: Completed

Jean passes out an email from Sue Johnson- this will be tabled.

4. Committee Business

4.1. Nominated Committee

Cheryl Hoppe

So far one person has agreed to run, Sharon Gilbert- a couple other people are being contacted.

Sabina will be on vacation next month but she will throw her hat into the ring for Executive Committee.

Status: Completed

4.2. Properties and Facilities

Schalene Darr

Update on: Gardiner Visitor Center, Community Center and Rodeo Grounds

We got the TIIP grant money. Over 100K! Danny is good with the direction and what we have picked.

We are excited.

Status: Completed

5. Public Comment

Gardiner Chamber

Joe Gross- The Chamber BBQ is still sitting behind the Depot building. Scott says he can go get it and we can store it in our new shed out back of this building.

Status: Completed

6. Date Next Meeting

Daniel Bierschwale

The next meeting will be: The Annual Meeting of the Members on November 19th at 6pm Place TBD.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25pm

Status: Completed

Recording Secretary:

Chairperson:

Date:
