



Gardiner Chamber of Commerce

Meeting date: 12/17/15 Started: 12:06PM Ended: 1:54PM

Location: Gardiner Visitor's Center

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

Chaired by: Schalene Darr

Minutes recorded by: Executive Director: Barbara Shesky

Meeting Documents: See Binder in The Chamber Office During Business Hours

Meeting Minutes:

1. Chamber Business

1.1. Roll Call & Introductions

Schalene Darr

Neli Karamfilova, Hal Broadhead, Sharon Gilbert, Scott Demaree, Sandy Bierle, Sue Johnson, Anna Holloway and Sabina Strauss.

Sue Johnson and Sandy Bierle excused. Anna Holloway will be arriving shortly. Quorum present

Status: Completed

1.2. Director's Report

Barbara Shesky

Update on Office Operations:

The Chamber budgeted \$3,000 for the payment of lawyers' fees to assist in the creation of the Gardiner Resort Area District and District Board election. A bill has been received from the attorney that in combination with the bill from last month and the fee paid for the legal ads that have run and for the ballot election will exceed that mark.

The Executive Director requests that the Board entertain a motion to go ahead and pay the bill.

A discussion has already taken place with the new G-RAD Board and they have agreed to reimburse the Chamber for all the fees associated with the creation of the G-RAD and Board of Directors. Funds have been released and will be transferred to the control of the G-RAD Board as soon as January 7, 2016 when the revised ordinance takes effect.

Sabina interjects that as we wait for the funds from the resort tax that Chamber finances are getting low and suggests that the motion include the transfer of up to \$4,000 from the Chamber savings account to the Chamber main checking account, then once the chamber is reimbursed we will put the amount taken out back into the savings account.

Motion: Hal Broadhead: To transfer up to \$4,000 from the Chamber savings account to the main checking account and continue to pay the lawyer fees until the Resort Tax funds are in the G-RAD's account.

Second: Scott Demaree.



No further discussion.

All in favor.

Motion carried.

Resolution# 12.17.15-01

Status: Completed

1.3. Treasurer's Report

Barbara Shesky

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

Review of the budget, what it contains. Presentation of a monthly budget versus actual spending spreadsheet created by Barbara and Zondra. Barbara explains how much effort that Zondra has put into creating this complicated spreadsheet that covers 4 classes and 5 bank accounts.

Barbara reviews the different categories and explains that now that the Chamber receives funding from a variety of state and local entities that it is very important to have this spreadsheet because monies cannot be comingled nor can they be spent on anything that they have not been officially designated for. For example: resort tax funds for the operation and maintenance of the Visitor Center cannot be spent to pay the water bill at the rodeo grounds. Marketing dollars for the CVB cannot be spent on anything other than the branding project that is in the marketing plan etc.

Status: Completed

1.4. Approval of prior month's meeting minutes

Schalene Darr

Regarding: annual meeting of the members 11.19.15 minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of 11/19/15

Motion: Anna Holloway: To approve the minutes from last month's annual meeting of the members.

Second: Schalene Darr

Scott Demaree and Sabina Strauss abstain from the vote.

No further discussion.

All in favor.

Motion carried.

Resolution #: 12.17.15-02

Status: Complete

2.Old Business

2.1. CVB

Barbara Shesky / 10 min Discussion and decision regarding whether the CVB have its own Board of Directors or be part of the Marketing



Committee.

This past Monday Barbara attended a regional CVB meeting in Bozeman. Yellowstone Country (the Montana Tourism region that we are part of) contains the most CVBs in the state: West Yellowstone, Big Sky, Red Lodge, Bozeman. Livingston and Belgrade are new to the process too this year.

The CVB Directors that have been around for a longtime were willing to help us and answer some of our questions. There is plenty of documentation on how and how not to spend the money but almost no info on how to operate a CVB.

Initially we thought we wanted to have a Board of Directors, but after talking with everyone, only Big Sky operates that way because they have it combined with the Tourism Business Improvement District (T-BID). Everyone else has the CVB as a committee.

Barbara also found out that, as a courtesy, the CVBs submit their marketing plans to the government that designated them as CVBs. Barbara will submit our marketing plan to the Park County Commissioners.

Because the money from the lodging tax that we receive from the TAC can only be spent on the marketing plan and further, cannot be spent on any marketing within 100 miles of the CVB, Barbara feels that the CVB should not be part of the marketing committee but rather a separate committee all on its own in order to keep finances clear.

Motion: Hal Broadhead makes a motion to have the CVB operate as a committee separate from the marketing committee.

Second: Anna Holloway

Discussion: none

All in favor

Motion carried.

Resolution #:12.17.15-03

Status: Completed

3. New Business

3.1. Bylaws, Articles and Policies and Procedures Manual

Barbara Shesky / 10 min

A thorough review of the Bylaws Articles of Incorporation and Policies and Procedures Manual for both standing and new Board Members.

Status: Completed

3.2. Member Ethics and Behavior

Schalene Darr / 10 min

Review of Bylaws and Policies as they pertain to this agenda item.

Schalene references Article 4 of the Articles of Incorporation and Article 3 Sections 1 & 3 of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Chamber.



Members have filed a lawsuit that is in conflict with the Chamber's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws that encourage transportation and infrastructure improvements, advocating for laws that will support a vibrant business community and community benefit programs. The Chamber partnered with Park County, which is allowable in the Articles.

Question: who filed the suit?

Since a lawsuit is a matter of public record: Jim Kemp, Myron Kovash and the Mcallisters have filed a lawsuit against Park County and the Park County Treasurer with regard to the Resort Tax. While they aren't suing the Chamber, they have named the Gardiner Chamber directly in the suit as well as Barbara.

The Board discussed different aspects of the lawsuit and how the Board could react to some of the statements contained in the lawsuit. They discussed the lawsuit and the unacceptable and ridiculous comments about Barbara and how to address them.

Different Board members offered their different opinions.

The Board decided to prepare a letter in support of Barbara and publish it in the newsletter.

Status: Completed

3.3. G-RAD office space

Barbara Shesky / 5 min

A discussion whether to rent space to the newly formed Gardiner Resort Area District Board.

The Gardiner Resort Area District Board needs a place to hold public meetings. They can't afford to rent a place that will only be used 10 hours a month sometimes. The Chamber has space upstairs that they could rent and remodel a cupboard with a lock system that only they (G-RAD) /their employee Assign a key to the acting president of G-RAD. The key can be handed down as the Board changes. They will be responsible for the key; employee usage will be up to them.

Status: Completed

3.4. Christmas Stroll Update

Schalene Darr / 5 min

Christmas Stroll was a great success! Thank you to Barb and Zondra there were a lot of people walking around. Record business- try to convince more business to have lights out at least even if they don't want to be open. Participation is key to growing this event. Great job on this - thank you Zondra.

Status: Completed

3.5. HD313-40 Elk hunting quotas

Schalene Darr / 5 min

A review and discussion of the letter and the Board process used to reach this decision. How to handle future Yellowstone Ecosystem Issues and public comment letters.

Results of the poll sent to the membership

1 Do you think hunting in HD-313 is a good idea? YES=26 NO=4

2.Do you support elk hunting in HD -313 that surrounds Gardiner? YES=25 NO=5



3. Do you as a chamber member want the Gardiner Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors to send the following letter to FWP, Governor Bullock and be read by Board member Susan Johnson at the FWP meeting this Thursday December 10th in Helena. YES=22 NO=11

The Board discussed ministerial concerns.

Anna will do research on how other chambers handle writing letters. Sabina will assist.

Status: To be continued

3.6. Committee Appointments

Schalene Darr / 10 min

The President will appoint directors, chairs- to the following Chamber committees for FY16

Properties and Facilities: Chair- Schalene Darr. Scott Demaree and Barbara Shesky.

Yellowstone Country: Scott interested and Danny interested Schalene interested they will chat we will put this on hold.

Gardiner Gateway Project: Due to the nature of this committee it is felt that past president Danny Bierschwale should continue on as this committee's chair.

Marketing: Chair- Sandy Bierle. Scott Demaree, Sharon Gilbert and Anna Holloway.

CVB: Chair- Jean Modesette. Scott Demaree, Barbara Shesky, Betty Deweese.

Membership: Chair: Anna Holloway. Hal Broadhead.

Nominating: Chair- Hal Broadhead. Neli Karamfilova.

Motion: Hal Broadhead makes a motion approve the committee slate as presented.

Second: Anna Holloway

Discussion: none

All in favor

Motion carried.

Resolution #:12.17.15-04

Status: Completed

4. Committee Business

4.1. Yellowstone National Park

Brian Suderman

Update on YNP

Tuesday the season started we just barely got enough snow from the north entrance.

Xanterra is no longer doing snowmobile tours- only the Best Western.



Second year of winter plan allowing non-commercially guided snowmobile tours. One group entry from each entrance each day for non-commercially guided. There were a lot of glitches last year. Hopefully this year will go better.

Mammoth Hotel opens tomorrow we should start seeing a lot more winter activity.

Another record setting year- over 4 million visits.

2016 will be even bigger especially if gas prices are going to stay low as predicted. There is a Nat Geo edition that is only about Yellowstone coming out.

Bus tours are really taking off.

Status: Completed

4.2. Gardiner Gateway Project

Daniel Bierschwale

Fun to see a new Board functioning- Good job Zondra on pushing to get the lights up it was a “Christmas Miracle”.

The 2016 event name will be: “An Evening at the Arch”.

They are still targeting Alison Krauss as the musical entertainment and Ken Burns to do a presentation. Park Service is focused on programming and talks.

Barb and I were approached by Mia Bell as part of the GGP. They are coordinating shutting down the Mammoth Hotel and Dining room for renovations. With the hotel and restaurant shut down for two winters, they want to redirect the business down here they will be coming to our next Board meeting this could be a big shot in the arm for Gardiner.

Status: Completed

4.3 Properties and Facilities

Schalene Darr

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

Today is the bid deadline for the 24-hour public restroom construction project.

Rodeo grounds: We want to be inclusive for use of the grounds but we have to do it responsibly. One problem is people using it for their horses and they don't clean up after the horse

Estimates coming for the MOU for the parking lot maintenance and it will be a RT ask. Bald Mountain - Snowplowing only. Shortscapes- does all- plowing, weed spraying – watering etc.

Status: Completed

5. Public Comment

Gardiner Chamber

Sabina is going to bring a personality color test to next month's meeting.



Status: Completed

6. Date Next Meeting

Schalene Darr

The Next Meeting Will Be: January 21, 2016

Meeting adjourned at 1:54pm.

Status: Completed

Recording Secretary:

Chairperson:

Date:
