



Gardiner Chamber of Commerce

Meeting date: Thursday, July 23, 2015 Started: 12:04 PM Ended: 1:20PM

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.

Sandy Bierle unexcused

Status: Completed

1.2. Director's Report

Barbara Shesky

Update on Office Operations:

The Tourism Infrastructure Improvement Program (TIIP) grant has been submitted, there was a delay but it was a good delay. The Chamber received a \$10,000 grant from the First Interstate BancSystem Foundation; which is being managed by the Park County Community Foundation. These funds are being used as part of the match towards the TIIP grant which is a 2/1 match. We should know in 2 months whether or not the application is successful.

The security Camera system is up and running.

Memberships we have 2 new members, The Montana Awareness Education and Equine Rehabilitation Association and its sister organization Montana Trail Rides. This brings Chamber membership to 137.

Status: Completed

1.3. Treasurer's Report

Cheryl Hoppe

Budget and update a/o 6/30/15

Danny and Barb met recently to work on the budget for next year. A breakdown of expenses was distributed and explained to the board and the public. They are now at a good starting point to begin



planning for next year's budget. The Executive Committee, along with Barb, will meet soon to begin this process.

They have set a standard for moving forward with all financials. Quickbooks has allowed Barb to break down the Chamber finances into more detail which has been extremely helpful. The goal of the Chamber is to have Barb complete a monthly spreadsheet which will be very helpful in understand where we are financially.

Status: Completed

1.4. Approval of prior month's meeting minutes

Daniel Bierschwale

Regarding: June 18, 2015 minutes

Jean Modesette makes a motion to approve the minutes from the June meeting, Hal Broadhead seconds- Discussion-none- all in favor motion passes

Resolution #7-23-15-01:

Status: approved

Vote: Approved

2. New Business

Governance

There will be open seats on the Board coming this November. So we should start planning- Danny and Cheryl are terming out- Cheryl has been on the board for 20 years.

Cheryl will begin approaching folks to recruit. Perhaps, Howard from Teddy's and Judy from the Super 8. Eleanor Stone and Nellie from the Corral.

Cheryl will ask Sandy if she is able to stick around, if not, then perhaps, another rafting company. Sue J., or Nadia or Mike from Flying Pig. Nadia may be able to help or step up to the plate.

We would like representation from all segments of our membership.

Let people know we have a marketing budget.

We will have a completely new round of Officers as well for next year – We will need to fill the positions of President and Vice President and Treasurer. We should have current Board members fill those positions.



4. Committee Business

4.1. Yellowstone National Park

Brian Suderman

Update on YNP

The news release came out about the road construction from Mammoth to Norris. Night closures will become effective and will be 11pm to 7am emergency vehicles can get through this will be in effect through September.

Visitation for June 20 up again over for last year. We are for sure going to see a new record this year.

Albright Visitor Center rededication on July 12th they completely redesigned it a really nice upgrade.

You might have seen the upper terrace drive closing and reopening. This was due to thermal activity- rumors start flying like "the volcano is going to blow!!" This is just a little new vent and really no big deal.

5th injury from a bison encounter in the Park. Please spread the word to stay away from the wildlife this last woman got lucky and only had minor injuries.

Status: Completed

4.2. Xanterra update

Xanterra

Updates by Beth Casey

None

Status: Completed

4.3. Gardiner Gateway Project

Daniel Bierschwale

Road Work: MDOT is doing their resurfacing all the way out to Yankee Jim this is a separate piece of work not Federal Highways.

Main contention is Scott Street and Park Street. Federal Highways is working the best that they can with the business owners. There was an elevation issue for the sidewalk on Scott Street. Federal Highways had to pull the sidewalk crew. Also, directly in front of YA the parking has been closed for two months. Hopefully they will get that concrete poured soon.

2016 Centennial Celebration: Joanne Gardner, the Centennial Event Planner that we have hired has been doing a very good job of getting a budget prepared and is currently searching for a



media sponsor for the event. She is currently talking to HBO. The media partner would fund a large portion of the event. Danny is going to the Targhee Festival along with Joanne to connect with the Teton Symphony. The challenge has been trying to get Park Service from a federal level to see how they are going to integrate into this event. The current players are: The Chamber, The Community Council, Park County, Joanne Gardiner and YNP Service (on the local level).

It's been hard because it is a political game, and trying to get the DC component to commit hasn't happened. They have been busy with the "Find Your Park" initiative and the Christmas tree lighting.

A meeting has been planned for August 25th that will include Montana, Idaho and Wyoming to see how to spark this thing moving forward.

A letter is being drafted to Montana State officials to get them to support this event.

We will invite Joanne to our September Board meeting to give a report.

Danny feels that this is going to be a "wait- wait" situation and then all of a sudden "what are we waiting for?"

Joanne is hoping to have events on 8/25/16 be televised and draw the event out on a local level to reignite the Yellowstone Music Festival but he does not think that Joanne will be able to help with that.

Joanne had a good conversation with Allison Krauss.

When can people start helping? Hopefully, after September.

Joanne wants to hire a man from Missoula "Cole Yarborough" who is very knowledgeable about stage setting.

MOU- with Park County: History-Yellowstone National Park and Park County signed a memorandum of understanding with regards to maintenance of Park Street. The Chamber has been approached by Park County with regards to the Chamber taking responsibility for the maintenance of the Parking area.

Danny For years we have paid for trash service on Park Street. Scott -Why? Danny-We don't know why.

Danny thought that due to the letters that came in and previous conversations that we wanted to take service to the next level.

There is no recycling collection in Gardiner 4-Corners has a contract with Xanterra and Xanterra is willing to work with Gardiner to get the recycling hauled away.

Park County asked if we could formalize trash pickup.

Danny assumed that when we went into the budget process that we would continue trash pickup add recycling, snow removal and landscape maintenance He apologizes if he made an incorrect assumption. This MOU is not legally binding and can be terminated with 30 days written notice.



See page 2, section 1. This is what they are requesting that we participate on. Danny assumed that it was our front door that we would want to do that.

Scott are you saying that Park County won't do it? Are you thinking that Park County will not do anything?

Danny- They will make sure that the roads are in good shape but there is doubt as to upkeep on anything else.

Scott- Opinion- I was concerned at the very beginning of this whole thing-- getting the tax (resort) Park County would use this as an opportunity to shed their responsibilities onto Gardiner and this seems like what is happening.

We are giving them a lot of tax money. (Property)

Frankie-- Park County must approve the contractor?? (Reference to the MOU that indicates Park County would "get to approve first" whoever we hired to do the work.

Scott might be more interested if Park County would give us a fund.

Danny doesn't feel that we will have trees if we don't take care of it. Infrastructure ie the Yellowstone Trail road- they haven't fixed yet.

Schalene: We are allowing Park County not to do their job. Gardiner is making things happen and it seems the county is shirking their duty. She feels that we allowing them not to be responsibility we could apply for \$\$ from Resort Tax but again, we are allowing Park County not to do what they are supposed to. The impression has been given now that - if we want trees, recycling and trash collection we (The Chamber) will have to do it.

Scott- so what are they going to do- let trash pile up on the jewel of Park County in front of Yellowstone Park?

Scott would like to talk to some other folks in Park County- Clyde Park- Schalene- but they are incorporated. The City of Livingston does charge for trash and Park County is treating us like an incorporated town.

Danny It would be good to have Parks Frady come here. (Parks Frady is from the Park County Planning Office)

Scott- if we don't agree, what are we going to do? We need to be smart- Schalene -have Parks come to the next meeting.

Frankie- snow removal- have the county do that and have the chamber take over the other things. Look at the Gateway project. What did Park County say then that they would do? Refresh everyone's memory.

Danny still feels that it is outside the scope of what they will do

The Board is directed to take the MOU home and read it over.

Parks Frady will be invited to next month's Board meeting.

Status: Completed



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

Barbara- With regards to the upcoming road work on Scott Street next week. The Chamber has been approached by Riverside construction. They have asked if the vehicles that are inevitably going to need to be towed out of the way can be towed to the Rodeo Grounds. What are the Board's thoughts on this?

Open up discussion

Schalene is also concerned that there is no parking for like 115 cars, she feels that the raft companies are an issue- where are the shuttle busses going to stop -- the locals? Schalene feels that it is an unutilized piece of property. (Rodeo grounds) She does not feel the liability is an issue.

Scott what does the chamber have to lose?

Danny -two different issues- There is a difference between someone getting towed and people parking.

Schalene feels we should do both.

Parking up on Park Street? We need to give them parking options.

We don't want parking at the Market Scott will tow them- no parking at the Kremers either that isn't fair to take their spots.

Nadia from the Flying Pig- Shuttles?

Judy from Super 8 is working with Flying Pig and MDOT.

Nadia-Absolutely need the grounds. They move 130 people a day. Pre-booked trips and scheduling causing issues with guests who have other reservations after a raft trip.

Frankie – we have discussed this before we need to make a decision.

Joe –MDOT should reschedule it to September.

Schalene we need to be proactive- but we can't shuttle folks though.

Frankie – promoting and encourage walking.

Joe the chamber should ask the MDOT to shut this down.

Rita from Riverside Construction—The reason that it is being done now is due to temperature restrictions on paving we are required to follow. Also, we have our own schedule. MDT and Federal Highways we are doing the best we can.

Danny there are so many conflicting views in this town.

Hal- do you know someone who has equipment to do the shuttle?

The Chamber does not have the funds to hire an outside transportation company.

Danny we need to have a point of contact- Schalene will be the point of contact.

Danny I make a motion that through the duration of the MDOT resurfacing project we assist with finding temporary parking solutions at the discretion of the Properties and Facilities committee.

Schalene second.



Danny – Rita when will the work be done out on the grounds

Brian could MDOT have a flagger-?

Hal has some ideas for where to tow the cars. He will look into it after the meeting Schalene and Scott will take on putting signs up for day parking and signs regarding the towing.

All in favor motion passes.

All in favor motion passes.

Resolution # 07-23-15-02

Status: Completed

5. Public Comment

Gardiner Chamber

None

Status: Completed

6. Date Next Meeting

Daniel Bierschwale

Meeting adjourned at 1:20

August 20th noon here.

Status: Completed

Recording Secretary:

Chairperson:

Date:
