



Gardiner Chamber of Commerce

Meeting date: 8/20/15 Started: 12:02pm Ended: 1:38pm

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.

Frankie unexcused. Jean Modesette and Sandy Bierle excused.

Status: Completed

1.2. Director's Report

Barbara Shesky

Update on Office Operations:

Visitor Center Use has continued to rise

See report: Sabina will help break out Newsletter expense Scott we are catching up to some of the other gateways we are staying ahead of the curve comparative to last year.

The free WIFI provided by Yellowstone Media Designs has been a big hit.

Unfortunately, John was not able to stay through the period he was hired for. I contacted Paul Helfrich last week to see if he could cover the last two weeks I had planned for the 5-8 position.

Newsletter: \$231.45 but the first deposit in August was for 608.40 so we have made the income.

TIIP grant application is still being reviewed by MTOT- it will probably be another month before we know the answer.

Bill Berg: (With regards to) Sean Becker he knew him from the Park -Sean is now responsible for MTOT so he thinks that they will make it work and we will get the grant.

Resort Tax District Formation

I am working closely with Mona the lawyer for the Resort tax District and Board formations. We had a bit of scare last week when it was noted that not one person had submitted a petition to be on the Board. Today is the last day to get a petition in. There are 5 seats that need to be filled. As of Monday afternoon 6 residents



had submitted their petitions and had them accepted as valid: Greg Dalling, Wade Laubach, Brandy Nichols, Amy Dawson, Brad Harbach and Rebecca Demaree (Donald Clark had been listed at the meeting I later found out I had been given incorrect information so for accuracy sake I have changed it to Rebecca Demaree).

Travertine Quarry

Jean and I met with representatives of the Little Shell Tribe last week. Gerald Gray Tribal Chairman and Michael Gray Tribe member and marketing. They are the new owners of the Travertine Quarry in partnership with a man named Mike Adkins. They plan to reopen it to quarrying activities. Their stated purpose of the meeting was for them to begin introducing themselves to the Community and ask for any advice on how they should go about doing that. I told them that the first thing they needed to do was to put an ad in the newsletter explaining their plans, pointing out how they are planning to operate the quarry. Mr. Adkins was a bit perturbed when I asked about chemical use not once but twice. I told him that I know nothing of mining and if they wanted me to, that they needed to explain to me how they were planning to operate... Initially they had called it a Travertine mine but I think that they realized that calling it a mine brought up negative connotations and by the end of the meeting they were calling it a quarry, I also told them that many of the concerns I would voice would probably be concerns of the community and that if they wanted to avoid the rumor mill they should be prepared to put this information out there ahead of it.

From our understanding, it is a low- impact activity. They stated that there will be no use of chemicals, or explosives. They will be using saws to cut the travertine out in slabs. They did give a rather Broad estimate on the number of trucks that would be coming from the mine on a daily basis estimating between 10 and 40. They did say that they will not do convoys of trucks that the trucks would come down singly or in pairs. Initially we were told that the activity would begin next month but I received a letter from them indicating that equipment delivery issues would delay that date and any information to be put in the newsletter.

In addition to the quarry activity update, they made a generous offer to donate a slab of travertine for a new Welcome to Gardiner sign. I told them that I would pass this information along-- Danny and Parks I imagine that Park County would need to be involved and maybe MDT for the sign placement so I am going to need your assistance on who and how we make this donation come to fruition.

Sabina: Where is the quarry? It is right above Gardiner above the rise it is the trail head for Little Trail creek. Betty Deweese, Mark Miller, Peggy Stone and Forest service residents live up there.

Donation- Danny: mining and quarrying is a hot topic, we will want to consider whether we want to take this donation so we need to think about this. They would need to bring a formal proposal to the Board.

I also told them that a community meet and greet would also be of help to them and told them that they could either hold it at the Community Center or that we had the space now to provide. They would just need to make an ask and then plan a date. In addition to the travertine donation they would also like to create a walking trail up to the quarry with wayside signage explain the history of Travertine, the Quarry and their tribe. They seemed to be hinting at perhaps us getting involved in a public meeting to make this happen and I basically told them that however they chose to get their input they could do public scoping sessions or do an invite meeting with business owners etc. Once again Mr. Adkins seemed to want to take issue with the options I gave asking why it wouldn't be a public meeting for everyone and I put the ball in his court telling him that I was giving them options on how they could hold their meetings- that it was up to them. I did not offer Chamber assistance in any way. They also touched on the housing issue here in Gardiner as to where these workers would live. Mr. Adkins brought up the idea of incorporation and that we, the Chamber, should be pursuing that to get more housing and I informed him that at this time this was not something that the



Chamber would pursue. That it was a touchy subject and that we now have the Greater Gardiner Community Council addressing the housing issue and that any initiation of Incorporation, should it be pursued, would most likely be better handled by that organization or a separate citizen's action group. We then showed them the downstairs of the Visitor Center, the plans for the gateway project and the public restrooms. They also mentioned joining the Chamber and I gave them an application and told them the benefits associated with Chamber membership.

The revision to the Mission statement in the Articles of Incorporation was accepted by State.

Now that we have changed to the organizations mission statement to state that stewardship of the Yellowstone Ecosystem is part of our mission, I would like the Board provide me with clear direction

The catalyst to this ask is 2 fold:

First: Lucky Minerals Inc. trying to do exploratory mining in the valley and asking for a categorical exclusion from NEPA and the EIS/ process.

The second came up again just this week at the Commissioners meeting- there is a group called Crevice Mountain Mining that is trying to work a deal between the Forest Service and Park County to have the County take over a seasonal Forest Service road "Si Nombre Cutoff Road" From what was said in the meeting, the reason this group wants the County to take over the road is because by having the County and the Forest Service do this deal this company can then avoid going through the required NEPA process for changing the Forest Service's Travel Plan for the area. While I did ask for clarification on what type of mine this would be, the man did not appear to want to share that information at that time- he said his place on the agenda wasn't about a mine but about the road. The Commissioners acquiesced, but Clint also told me that they had had 3 meetings regarding this ask and that I could get those minutes, Parks and Clint both directed me to fill out a Public information request which I did. One thing is that the man did state is that once this road is in that they would be applying for exploratory drill permits. Parks is here today and while he can't speak to any mining activity he told me he is willing to explain the road deal they are trying to garner.

There is a public meeting scheduled to go up to the Mine on September 9th at 2pm meeting at the Jardine bridge area. Apparently 4 wheel drive or ATV will be needed.

Plus, Article 4 section 6 of our articles of incorporation states "to advocate for laws and regulations that will support, promote and encourage a vibrant business community." Since we just updated the Mission statement to focus on tourism promotion and Yellowstone Ecosystem stewardship, I would like the Board to entertain a discussion on what that means when things come up. I need to know how I should proceed.

Danny: Focus on tourism promotion.

Scott: Bring in the info so that the Board can all hear it.

Sabina: It would not be up to Barbara to submit comment letters if the Chamber wants to, it would be up to a Board member to bring a letter to the Board to discuss.

Danny: Don't go seeking issues on the GYC website. Bring stuff that comes across your desk.

Sabina: it is a fine line we are now talking a quarry and two mines if the mine at Emigrant happens what happens to our rafting companies and fishing guides? I am not sure.

Danny: We sent a letter regarding the Emigrant mine asking for it to go through the EIS process. Bring info Full Board discussion decide to take or not take action. It would also be helpful to have someone from our



business sector that might be affected be invited to a meeting. But we don't want to have it divert us from our focus on marketing, more visitors and economic value.

Sabina: Hate to promote tourism while having mining operations and trucks.

Rodeo Club Profit

They made \$1, 000.00 this year. Barb R.: Did they mention the bucking chutes and new bleachers are long-term investments?

No.

Barbara -Request to work 1 day a week from home

Sabina: I make a motion to let Barb work on Wednesdays from Home until the next Board meeting as a trial period with an increase of an additional hour a week in floor time at the Visitor Center and Customer Service training with employees.

Schalene Second—

Discussion:

If it opens up time and makes for happier employees...

Hal: It takes trust and a way to monitor the work.

Bill- generally this method is performance driven. We have 7 employees that all work from home in their jammies- requires trust and a self-motivated employee and the work has to lend itself to it computer work.

All in favor- opposed none -motion passes.

Resolution# 08.20.15.01

Status: Completed

1.3. Treasurer's Report

Cheryl Hoppe

Budget meeting of executive committee for FY16 to take place in the next month.

Status: Complete

1.4. Approval of prior month's meeting minutes

Daniel Bierschwale

Regarding: 7.23.15 minutes

Hal Schalene All in favor Sabina abstain motion passes

Hal: Motion to approve the meeting minutes from 07.23.15.

Second: Schalene- All in favor motion passes.

Resolution #: 08.20.15.02

Status: Complete



4. Committee Business

4.1. Yellowstone National Park

Brian Suderman

Update on YNP

Brian was unable to attend this meeting

Status: Completed

4.3. Gardiner Gateway Project

Daniel Bierschwale

Monday afternoon meetings still ongoing. Curb is being laid and it looks very nice they are doing milling on the parking lot. Wrapped up at the school, pouring sidewalks next week. MDOT project on the North end is pretty wrapped up. Chip seal on town stretch most likely will not happen till next year.

Centennial update- He and Bill had a good meeting with Joanne and some of the state reps they are going to have more of a statewide participation. Danny will invite Joanne Gardner to next month's meeting. Things are moving along nicely. The Teton Symphony and Allison Krauss are on board for the event.

Proposed maintenance MOU with Park County: We are trying to achieve a higher level of service. Trees, snow removal etc., we did build it into the budget for this year but did not use the money. We asked Parks Frady from the County Planning Office to come to tell us how Park County operates.

Danny; Use of Resort tax operating account. 10% operations fund -Danny says it is our front door and he feels that the Parking lot is our front door. We invited Parks to discuss this.

Scott: Why isn't Park County funding this out of Park County funds? What level of service is Park County willing to do?

Parks Frady: When we initially scoped this project it did not include watering the trees; that idea came out at the public meetings. So with the County it is easy to get money to get a capital improvement but it is difficult to continue asking for maintenance funds. Parks and Park County met with Business owners.

Danny: Trash has always been the responsibility of the Chamber for better or worse. Xanterra also is working outside their normal scope on order to provide recycling. There is no curbside pickup in Gardiner. Xanterra is offering to contract an employee to go around and pick up the recycling.

Schalene: Where are the garbage cans going to be?

Parks F: 3 locations- basically in the Parking area. 3 cans.

Scott: The amount of trash is going to increase.

Schalene: I had guests come into the restaurant that said they had to take their trash from their rental to the Green Boxes. I think that this is something we need to take care of it.



Danny: The reason we are at this is in the past we have had letters come in that say there is trash blowing around here. We need public trash receptacles in Gardiner. Why does it fall on the Chamber? We are getting the letters and the only other entity it would be the Community Council. I feel that our facility needs to be as attractive as possible.

Scott I am all for increased levels of service. I struggle on us footing the bill. Parks are you here to offer any changes to this MOU that would put more onus on Park County?

Parks: Park County won't plow, remove trash, or turn on water for the trees. The effort of this project came from Gardiner. Park County won't maintain sidewalks. Park County had to enter in the MOU with the National Park Service to do the match for the FLAP grant.

Schalene: Unless we become incorporated, unless we start charging it won't happen.

Scott: So either the Chamber or Park County has to make an ask (of the Resort tax) but we have no guarantee that we will get the money. Scott the RT funds on hand are for this building we have to operate and maintain.

Two issues: How are we going to get the money to pay for this? And is Park County using this tax to skirt investing the community?

Sabina: we can rewrite this MOU.

Scott: Well how? They don't want to give us anything.

Danny: We all want this we just need to figure out how to make it happen.

Barbara Reed: Isn't this Park Service property?

Yes that is why there is this MOU.

Barbara Read: Why can't Yellowstone National Park be brought into this solution?

It is not their responsibility any more there is an MOU.

Barbara Read: it doesn't seem that it would be overtaxing them.

YNP skirted their responsibilities and now Park County is to Scott it is not relevant that we paid the trash removal before.

Hal: I don't think YNP or Parks and the County are trying to take anything away from us. Its snow removal, trash, landscaping and irrigation.

Sabina: we have already done trash.

Scott: what would you like to see happen? Scott doesn't want the money to go to this. So Park County would give us the plow but not run it we would have to hire someone.

Parks: you get to define the level of service you don't have to plow or shovel if you want to you can.

Parks is under the impression that it is a service that the business owners want here on Park Street. He remembers the conversations with business owners.



Should businesses on the street help pay? To separate the two and say we don't need to work hand in hand isn't realistic.

Parks: The priorities are the arterial stuff like school routes for plowing could they swoop through the parking lot. Parks can't say yes to that there would be no guarantee.

It is covered by the RT fund.

Our operations fund is for this building.

Scott: I would like to wordsmith a few things on it, things like Park County approving the contractor.

Parks: we can change that.

Sabina: We should have the attorney look at this with regarding contractors.

Danny: this is not a legally binding document.

Scott wants it looked at too with regards to liability if someone slips and falls.

Danny: Scott can you spear head this?

Scott work together with Schalene and Barb to hammer this out. We want this to happen to improve our town.

Scott: Parks please keep in mind as a Board member of the Chamber I would hope that Park County doesn't look at the Resort Tax as a slush fund to skirt their responsibility.

Danny: Parks you are trying to repair decades of bad blood.

Scott: we will be pushing and pulling back because of that.

Danny it is not ideal.

Schalene it is about all of us working together.

Danny I am sorry this is difficult. Parks, Thank you for coming down. Parks will come down to the next meeting or meet with the committee.

Status: Pending

Nominating Committee

Cheryl Hoppe

Sandy, Frankie, Scott and Schalene finishing first term and eligible to run for a second term. Scott is in an odd situation – he replaced someone so he can run for a second term but only serve one year. So Cheryl needs to know if Scott and Schalene are planning to run again.

Scott will run again, Schalene- yes she will run. Cheryl in another 4-6 weeks it will be better to talk to people Chris Lyness may be interested.

Status: Completed



Gardiner Chamber

5. Public Comment

Bill Berg: The Governor’s office has asked us to draft a letter to send to the Whitehouse. It would be great if the Chamber and the Community Council send their own letter.

Northern Rocky Mountain Economic Development Division (NREDD) - I am on their Board they have formed Montana High-Tech.

Greg Gianforte the founder of Right Now Tech is running for Governor.

High Tech Business Alliance - They would like to have a BBQ here. They think that high tech is going to be a big economy boost. The potential for low impact non- extractive business to be added to Gardiner’s economy with the Fiber Optic that has been laid here to town. They will pick up the tab. They think Tech will take over both tourism and Agriculture as Montana’s leading economic drivers. Stable decent paying jobs with benefits. We could have the BBQ here.

Sabina she would do it later in September.

It will be the last week of September Barb would send out an email to the members and place a newsletter ad or two.

Do the 18th here at the Visitor Center? Danny will run point. Bill will get Barb the info. to send an email out and put ads in the newsletter.

Status: Completed

6. Date Next Meeting

Daniel Bierschwale

The Next Meeting Will Be:

September 17th, 2015.

Meeting adjourned at 1:38pm -- budgeting and staffing will be discussed at the next meeting.

Status: Completed

Recording Secretary:

Chairperson:

Date:
