



Gardiner Chamber of Commerce

Meeting date: Thursday, September 17, 2015 Started 12:05PM Ended: 1:45PM

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 Aars unexcused. All others present. Quorum.

Status: Completed

1.2. Director's Report

Barbara Shesky

Update on Office Operations:

Working from Home- I wanted to share with everyone some of the things I've been working on while at home.

I had a conference call with Mona Jamison reviewing the Resort Tax Ordinance- She worked on cleaning up the wording and closing some of the loopholes regarding what is taxed, who is responsible for collecting the tax and the parameters for collecting the tax.

These revisions will be presented to the new Resort Tax Board and they will be the ones in charge of making the resolutions. They have a lot of work ahead of them, there will be bank accounts that need set up, post office boxes reserved and an employee hired so that they can distribute the funds collected this year.

FYI-This last month's bill was over \$2,000 for the work she did.

I am working with Bill Berg to create a candidates forum for those running for the Resort Tax District Board. Richard Parks requested this

I also met with our accountant Cat Moody, there was a problem with Quick Books taking out the right amounts in state taxes – It required a very lengthy phone call with QuickBooks by her employee to get the solution figured out and then they were able to go into my computer and fix it.

I've worked on the budget- setting up the excel spreadsheet- for the budget which has 5 different columns for the different pools of money that we have. It gets tricky because you can't just say-- oh here is all our



income and here are all our projected expenses- and life is good –as you all know each pool of money can only be spent on certain things.

As you know, we report to the Feds on a calendar year basis and that is how QuickBooks is locked in. I spoke with Cat about this and she says that our November to October Chamber FY is an arbitrarily chosen date it has no significance with the government and that changing it would not involve filing any paperwork with the government it would only involve that if we tried to change our tax year, which I do not want to do.

But I would like for you all to keep in mind changing the Chamber year in the near future- it makes things more difficult than they need to be. I looked into our Articles and no vote of the membership would be needed to do this, nor would notification to the Secretary of State need to occur because this would only be a change to the Bylaws and per the Secretary of State – she doesn't need to know about changes that do not impact the Articles; but advance notice / preparation would be needed to stretch out the money an additional two months the first year.

Danny: Bring to full membership at Annual Meeting of the Members in November for a vote.

I am able to monitor the office too with the new security camera setup. Although there seems to be a glitch that kicks me off after about 4 or so hours so I will contact Brandy and Ed about that.

I also proof the newsletter, do the run of the mill stuff like checking emails.

Therefore I would like the Board to consider allowing me to continue this set up in October as well, although I think that it would be best if at that time I work from home on Mondays as Shirley will no longer be in the office after the 30th of September and Zondra will be finishing up the newsletter and delivering on Wednesdays.

I understand that we will need to revisit this again because we need to have the budget discussion regarding staffing in October.

Board Discussion: Inquiry regarding customer service training for staff. Barbara request more direction on what type of training the Board is looking for as the term “Customer Service” is a broad term. Barbara notes that she has been spending additional time on the floor. Barbara will switch from Wednesdays to Mondays out of home because in October Shirley will no longer be working on Wednesdays and that is newsletter wrap-up and delivery day for Zondra.

Director's report continues:

This summer I instated a test run of a new idea/ procedure regarding last minute accommodations availability. We contacted the hotels/ and some of the in town cabin/cottage rentals Monday through Friday to see what the availability was and then sent an email to the test participants. Those participating have been very appreciative and said that it was very helpful- it took the tension out of it I was told by reducing the number of call arounds, I did a poll to see if we should stop doing it Labor Day weekend or continue through the end of September and I was asked to extend it. As expected the months of July and August saw that most rooms were filled by 2:30pm we then had a lull where availability increased up to and including Labor day weekend and then a new jump in filled rooms last week and this week. I plan to expand this service for next summer. This was a last minute idea I had so I want to do a bit more preparation over the winter gathering participants and being as inclusive as possible.

I will be gone to the TAC meeting October 6th and 7th.



Reports

We have officially reached our goal with regards to newsletter income for the year. So each year we are doing better and better but this does not mean that the newsletter is making a profit yet because we need to consider payroll along with paper and ink expenses.

Once again we have had a nice increase in visitation to the Chamber office, as compared to last year 40%

So far we have had 780 visitors as of the 15th of this month compared to 896 for all of last September. Even with the construction right in front of the door.

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.

I met with the accountant last week, We were having trouble with the main account check register (9th handwritten one) matching quick books so Cat came down and used the Quickbooks program to reconcile everything to the bank statements and everything matched up. So now instead of reconciling by hand she has taught me to use the program and I have conferred with Cheryl and from now on I will generate reports in quick books and print out the register from the computer and hand that off to her for verification.

Show examples from binder

Income for August was \$8,819 because we received our first installment of the CVB funds

Expenses totaled were \$8,281.

This is where the vagaries of funding from grants comes into play, while it looks like we had a profit- we did not because of the designations

In September expenses were \$8200. So perhaps there is a pattern to be found here in what our monthly expenditures are.

Working towards a monthly spread starting in December- comparing actual to budget.

Status: Completed

1.4. Approval of prior month's meeting minutes

Daniel Bierschwale

Regarding: August 20, 2015 minutes

Motion to approve: Hall Broadhead

Second: Schalene Darr

Board Discussion: Sabina make correction to the line under Public Comment: "Sabina she would do it." To "Sabina said she would do it **later in September**"

Resolution #: 09.17.2015-01

Vote: All in favor, motion carried.

Status: Completed



Old Business

Scott Demaree

Danny: Last month we had a vibrant discussion regarding Maintenance on Park Street the initial infrastructure is being covered but the long term needs to be covered is watering, plowing garbage removal and trash recycling.

Scott: We need a groundskeeper to make sure everything is up and running. We have been looking for a way to make this happen.

Scott: The MOU doesn't dictate that we have to do it if we don't have the money or we don't have a guaranteed way to pay for it but I am confident we can get that accomplished. It is a little unorthodox to sign off on something when we don't have proven funds. One of the things we have been working on is to make improvements.

Sabina: Did an attorney look it over.

Scott doesn't feel we need to have an attorney look at it.

This is up to us if we want the level of service. They (Park County) are clarifying that they won't (take care of this). Danny feels that they would work with us though.

Scott Demaree makes a motion to approve the MOU presented by Park County regarding the maintenance and upkeep of the new Park Street parking lot area.

Hal Broadhead second

Further Discussion: None

Resolution #: 09.17.2015-02

Vote: All in favor, motion carried.

Status: Completed

3. New Business

Barbara Shesky/10 min

Board discussion and vote regarding the leadership structure for the Gardiner CVB.

3.1. CVB- Committee versus Board

Danny: CVB means Convention and Visitors Bureau this is something that you are allowed to apply for once an RT area is in effect. This year with the submission of our marketing plan to brand the Gardiner Resort Area we received \$28,000 of lodging tax dollars collected in the Community (from the previous year) for marketing Gardiner. .

Barbara: The RFP for the CVB branding process published on August 12 and was also sent out to a list of 10 Branding organizations. We have had 5 acknowledgements and 1 request from the ad in the Chronicle. The deadline for questions was August 24th and I posted our response on the website via the news release option in Chamber Master. The posting on the website is State protocol. the deadline for proposal submission is today, so far we have received 3 proposals. The review will be Monday at 11 am here – This meeting is open to the public. If more than one proposal scores high then on the 28th oral presentations will required of those moving forward in the process. So far we have BrickHouse, Massive and Advantage Strategies.

Through all of the process of creating our new CVB We have had ample direction regarding how we can spend the money we receive and reporting and such, but direction on how we set up the CVB itself has been sparse. We seem to have a lot of leeway.



There seems to be two ways to go about it. One being having a separate Board versus there being a "Committee". I chose to have a Board made up of 3 members. Scott, Jean and Betty Deweese. We started out as a marketing committee pursuing this status so I asked Both Jean and Scott if they would be the CVB Board and they said yes, I also wanted to have a member of the lodging community and Betty accepted as well. We had our first meeting last month after the Chamber Meeting. You all would have received the minutes from this meeting.

But I feel that, perhaps, something is missing in this process. Although there are no written guidelines for this as far as the state is concerned, I think that I would like to have this Chamber Board discuss our tactic and then take an official vote. I chose the Board route because I felt that it would keep things moving forward in a timely manner that is needed. It's easier to wrangle 3 people than it is 9! Also if there are things that need to be voted on it simplifies that process as well.

This CVB Board operates under the Articles and Constitution and Bylaws of the Chamber and I email the minutes to our membership. I also feel that it sounds more official to have there be a CVB Board of Directors.

I am not opposed to a committee mind you, I just chose the route that I thought would function the best. One of the other things that came up in our first meeting was the question of whether or not I should have a vote. I have pondered this and because the CVB operates under the Chamber rules it states in the Chamber Bylaws that I carry no vote as paid staff. While I would like to have a vote because I have been large and in charge of getting this thing off the ground- I would understand if this is not a precedent that the Board wants to set. So I would like the Board to entertain two discussions and votes.

The first being: a Vote by Chamber Board to put the CVB Board in charge of the CVB decisions and spending of funds or at this time or choose the committee route.

The second being a vote as to whether or not I would have a vote on the CVB Board. The other thing that this would then entail would be the acquisition of a 5th person so that we would not have the situation of having our hands tied by a split vote.

If this Board chooses to allow the creation of a CVB Board we should come up with some parameters. I would want to have members of the Chamber Board be on the CVB Board at all times. I would then also like to have the CVB Board set procedures for naming the Board chair, vice chair etc. and a policy for the length of term as a CVB Board member.

Discussion:

Danny: Draft budget comes to the Board for approval in October. There is a need for coordination between the Chamber marketing committee and the CVB so that if the Chamber has a surplus of funds for marketing it work in coordination.

Regarding Barbara voting:

Sabina: I feel that is a dangerous precedent, this is nothing personal towards Barb. For the future she worries.

Scott: table this make this a topic in the December meeting when Committees are formed. If there is a CVB Board then the person needs to be on the Chamber Marketing committee...

Terms of the marketing committee: members can serve on committees. (Regarding Betty being on the CVB Board but not the Marketing Committee).

Danny: let's table this and think about it.

Status: Tabled



3.2. CMG Mining Group Jardine Area/ Sin Nombre Road

Sabina Strauss / 10 min

Sabina will review the meetings that have been attended by her, Barbara and Jean regarding the Crevice Mining Group approach to the Forest Service and The Park County Commissioners regarding several roads.

Meeting with Walt from the Forest Service; County Commissioners Public Meeting in Jardine; Course of Chamber action if any.

Sabina: Two weeks ago we meet with Walt who generously went over 2005 FS map of the Crevice Mountain area, the road system, and property ownerships.

- Last week we went to the Commissioners meeting held on Crevice Mountain where we drove and walked the roads being discussed.

Charles also attended this meeting and so I will rely on Barb, Jean and Charles to chime in anytime I miss something.

- Bottom line: Dr. Michael Werner's intentions are to get a safe year round road access to his property for vehicles bigger than a car.
 - When I asked him to introduce himself, he simply stated his name and told me that if I wanted any more information I'd have to sign a confidentiality agreement.
 - When I looked him up on the internet he appears to have a connection to the Crevice Mining Company out of Butte. Crevice Mining Company has a small mining permit pending with the DEQ in Helena, which means up to 5 acres can be disturbed. He is on record from past commissioners' meeting saying that there will be gold mining on Crevice.
 - He is claiming to represent other property owners with the same intent. When asked who and how many he was representing, again, he would not say.
 - His intent is to have the FS give over Sin Nombre road to the County in exchange for road maintenance from his property to the Bear Creek Bridge.

Although on the surface this is not something the Chamber should concern itself with, the residual fall out of gold mining on Crevice Mountain will be have negative effects on the Jardine/Gardiner communities & tourism.

- One being the road traffic and use by the trucks from the quarry and eventually from the mine. While we do not have an exact number of vehicles we are hearing 10 -100 per day from the mine, and we don't have a number from the quarry. Not to mention that the County does not have the money to maintain the current roads. The Bear Creek Bridge will have to be replaced, what will happen when the mine leaves and our roads are a mess? The traffic, the dust and pollution will be a problem to the tourism properties along the route at the very least, and this will impact the whole community.
 - Then we have the potential of the water and air pollution, wildlife habitat issues...but that is not for us to discuss.
 - The mining company might claim that they will bring in jobs. What they will not say is that they will bring in their employees from out of the area, and most of the money they will earn here, will not be spend here. We already have lot of money earned here that is leaving here every fall with our seasonal workers. That will not help us in building a year round community, because these folks will not be invested in the community in the long term. At least some of our summer workers comeback repeatedly and have some connection to the community.
1. At the very least I recommend that Barb attends all commissioners meetings were this is discussed and gives us monthly updates.



(Actually, I think Barb should attend all commissioners meeting regardless what is on the agenda, but that is a discussion for another time.)

2. Once we have more detailed information we should think about having a conversation with the commissioners on the impact of the gold mine on the communities, tourism & the Gardiner Gateway Project.
3. Ultimately, we should consider asking the membership via a survey what direction we should take on this.

Discussion:

Barb attend all commissioners meetings that have to do with the mine. The Board meet with the Commissioners survey and poll the members of the direction they want them to take.

Public:

Sharon (Subway): great having workers come in to the grocery store or my Subway but what about the visitors trying to visit our quaint community?

Scott: I don't need him to say what he is doing.

Colin Davis (Chico Hot Springs): He is currently fighting Lucky Minerals. (This is a reference to the Emigrant Gulch Exploration currently being sought by the Canadian Company- Lucky Minerals) -- FS and DEQ waiting for their decision. We have a cold water and hot water spring and if that is disrupted I'm out of business we have held meetings. Colin I think you need to reconsider this and the environment. You are marketing and planning a branding based on this land and environment. Opening up to open pits? These people have a lot more power and inroads we need to band together and make statements that it's not wanted.

I have 2 daughters we spend our weekends on the river, we aren't extremist. We have 100 signature of people that don't want them here. They say bringing employment -we have enough jobs and not enough people. They leave the hole, they leave the waste and go. Stillwater is probably the most forthright company I've ever seen.

Colin wants the Chamber to come out and say: "We don't want mining here." He has spoken to Governor Bullock and Bullock asked him- "What does the Chamber say-- the Commissioners?" Colin says they keep waiting to make a stand to see which way the wind blows-- some of our county commissioners are standing up. Bullock was most impressed that there is a petition of a 100 names saying we don't want mining here. There is a property rights issue here but when do property rights supersede other peoples (rights)? You need to be scared. As the chamber you can band together we are opposed to this mine and the Lucky minerals mine.

Judy Freeland (Super 8): All the construction this past year- that has not been fun with all the equipment. We are enduring because we know there is an end. With a mine there is no end. The Park is secure on truck condition limits Gardiner doesn't have the same restrictions on vehicles and how well they are repaired.

Colin: If the mine built out behind of Chico the math is 10 million truckloads if they can mine the whole 2,500 acres.

Jean: I have to agree with Colin. As a Board member I am extremely against it. The general attitude of this guy was disturbing. Not only that the property is 1/4 mile from Yellowstone and is on a downslope.

The small mining permit does not require any EIS. Then proceed to make a big mine?

Danny: I think what needs to happen is either take a stance or not I like the thought to poll the members.

Danny to Colin: what are other Chambers doing?



Colin: We are going to approach the Livingston Chamber. I beg you to poll quickly this is a PR campaign. Someone that wants you to sign a confidentiality agreement? (Reference to Dr. Michael Werner-: CMG-telling Sabina, at the Commissioner's public meeting field trip in Jardine that he would only tell her his name and otherwise she would have to sign a confidentiality agreement) He is not part of our Town or our Community this isn't their home.

Danny: We will become a media target if we do take a stance.

We should get a letter drafted to the membership and see if they want us to take a stance, we will be in the media. (To Sabina) Can you draft something?

Colin: We have a letter draft in process we can share.

The membership polling results will be a majority vote rules. Sabina will work with Colin then distribute the drafted letter to the Board for review. Upon Board acceptance, it will then be sent to the membership for a vote.

Colin: Park County Environmental Council is hosting a luncheon on the 28th in Livingston they are asking Lucky Minerals to go away. . It will be a press luncheon, TV as well. We should not tie it to this particular mine that we should be looking at the entire Northern Range and the Valley.

Chris Lyness: Our property values will plummet.

He wants 24/7 year-round access. Seasonal road May 15 to Jan- it has restrictions and that is why he wants to do a land trade the road is a class C the current class won't allow it.

Our concern is the Commission will be enamored with tax money and the paying for the maintenance.

Cheryl: I don't know how people will feel I don't recall having issues with TVX. I am not saying it is good or bad the only concern I have is the Chamber taking a stand on I don't like your business and I don't want you here should we as a Board as a stand?.

Scott: We have enough reasons.

Chris Lyness: the Board cant but the members can.

Danny: it is more about preservation of a way of life.

Cheryl: I think no one wants a road like that up to Crevice. As a person who lived in this town I can't remember it being that bad.

Chris: Times have changed before town could absorb the miners those miners took town days off and took their money with them.

Hal: I think what we stand on is a value, not against a business. We are for the integrity of the Yellowstone Ecosystem. We don't have to pick out individual businesses, we stand for these things. We would support it if they could come in and not hurt the fish the wildlife and the air but they can't.

Colin: Lucky Minerals bought up hap hazard parcels so that it wouldn't require EIS. They are end running this game doing a small mining claim.

Danny: We put this to next step and maybe frame it towards our values and our mission statement. Greater Yellowstone is not the place for mining we build on what this wonderful landscape provides us.

Schalene: we are in the business to preserve our way of life.



A mine is responsible for maintaining the waste water it is contaminated just like in Colorado they pull out leave the pits and then it fails.

We will put this to the membership.

Thanks- Sabina thanks.

Goal have the letter done and out by the 28th.

Status: Draft a letter to the membership, pass the letter through the Board for approval, poll the membership, proceed from those results.

4. Committee Business

4.3. Gardiner Gateway Project

Daniel Bierschwale

About two or three years ago we started printing up some "Save The Date" cards for the August 25th 2016 NPS centennial. Gardiner Gateway Project Danny reviews the history of the GGP.

We used to have the Yellowstone Music Festival, Brew Fest, Shakespeare in the Park is still ongoing We thought; can we take the retaining wall that is part if the infrastructure and us it for a stage? As part of the efforts wouldn't it be great as a backdrop for the NPS centennial?

As we got more into the process, last year in our budget we allocated \$15,000 from the state grant money to hire an events coordinator. We chose Joanne Gardiner; former Senior VP of Sony Music Production, producer of the Red Ants Pants Festival and the Livingston Hoot. She is here today to tell us about the progress of the Centennial Celebration.

Joanne Gardiner: We met with Danny and Bill, they showed us the Save The Date card and the brochure. We learned about the educational component the historical aspect and about this area and we joined Danny and Bill. We are working together.

In the works: Music by Alison Krauss and the Teton Symphony. We are hoping to use some of the football field. The number of people who could potentially attend is my concern. If we invite 20,000 people and they invite 4 people.... where will we put them all?

Another event is a TV aspect; talking to Ken Burns he is interested in being here that day and bring his footage.

This celebration would be inclusive of all the other national parks as well. Tying into the concept of the more urban environments. For example Pullman, outside of Chicago, it is going to be the newest National Park. There is an interesting component of tying these two areas together.

Goal: To ensure that every Gardiner resident can attend the event. Regarding Alison Krauss- So for example if there is TV program she would only play one song but after the cameras go off then have a full concert. We are going to need a lot of places to put up crews and stagehands and dignitaries we need to let Gardiner know this is coming we have less than 365 days to pull this off. A fully funded free event is what we are shooting for. We are working with the National Park Service and the Montana Office of Tourism.



Is the idea that this will happen elsewhere over? Yep- I think so, we handed out enough cards and talked it up enough that people have got it.

Danny: Joanne and John have been working diligently on this we have paid \$7,500 out and planned to pay the other \$7,500 on 8/25/16. I am asking the Board to free up this money and pay it out now so that they can continue working,

Scott: I vote we give the money to Joanne now.

Jean: I second.

Resolution number 09.17.2015-03

Vote: All in favor motion carried

Status: Completed

5. Public Comment

Gardiner Chamber

Due to the time 1:45pm -the remainder of the items on the agenda have been tabled at this time and will appear on next month's agenda.

Joe Gross: On this mine deal down in Emigrant- if they start drilling then he is done (He motions towards Colin of Chico Hot Springs) and the river will be yellow.

Status: Completed

6. Date Next Meeting

Daniel Bierschwale

The Next Meeting Will Be:

October 22nd at 12pm here in the Visitor's Center.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45pm

Status: Completed

Recording Secretary:

Chairperson:

Date:
