



Gardiner Chamber of Commerce

Meeting date: **Thursday, December 15, 2016 from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM**

Location: Upstairs at the Gardiner Welcome Center

Purpose: Regularly scheduled meeting

Invited Guests: Rick Lampugh & Leo Leckie of the Bear Creek Council

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Gardiner Chamber of Commerce serves our community through developing local tourism while endorsing stewardship of the Yellowstone Ecosystem

Agenda:

1. Chamber Business

1.1. Roll Call & Introductions

Schalene Darr 1 min.

Schalene Darr, Scott Demaree, Anna Holloway, Sue Johnson, Neli Karamfilova, Hal Broadhead, Sandy Bierle, Sharon Gilbert.

Sue Johnson, Sabina Strauss excused, Sandy Bierle and Sharon Gilbert unexcused.

1.2 Directors /Financial Report

Barbara Shesky 5 min.

Update on Office Operations and fiscal year to date budget versus actual.

We saw a 51% increase in walk-ins for the month of November. A 70% increase in emails With regards to the November P&L , our net income was \$1,664.

Job Postings: We have posted the Executive Director's job and are also looking for a part-time marketing manager. We posted the jobs in the newsletter. No applicants yet.

1.3 Approval of Prior Month's Meeting Minutes

Schalene Darr 3 min.

Minutes of November 17, 2016

Hal Broadhead: Motion to approve last month's minutes.

Anna Holloway: second

Discussion- none, all in favor, none opposed, motion passes.

Resolution # 12.15.16-01

2. Committee Business

2.1 Properties and Facilities

Schalene Darr 5 min.

Updates on the Public Restroom Build

Construction going on right now. Concerns regarding project oversight. Next Monday the electric is being shut off for a new panel install. So, the office will be closed. We will not have a public restroom until mid-February.

There is a trailer house parked at the rodeo grounds, no one even bothered to call and ask if it was okay. We don't really know who it belongs to, although the Board has a few ideas.

2.4 Marketing

Sandy Bierle 5 min.

Updates on Marketing

None

2.5 Membership

Anna Holloway 5 min

Updates on Membership

Anna will be working on fixing up the kiosk on Scott St. and creating a new events calendar for the newsletter.

2.6 CVB

Jean Modesette 5 min

Updates on CVB

Reviewed the website launch. We are hosting 4 travel writers/social media influencers in January.

Scott if you have any ideas or see any problems with how the website is functioning, let Barb know.

2.7 Nominating

Hal Broadhead 5 min

Updates on possible future Board members

Trina Smith, Jeff Guengerich, Jim Stark, Sabina Strauss. Hal is still on the fence as to whether he will run again.

We have 4 seats open. Sandy and Scott are terming out.

Ralph Johnson maybe- Edwin Johnson from the audience has thrown in his hat.

3. Old Business- Action Items

3.1 Request by Bear Creek Council

For Board of Directors to poll membership on whether we write a letter to FWP taking a stand against Grizzly Bear hunting.

The letter is read. *(Letter will be on file at the Chamber office. Letter will be emailed to membership if poll is done.)*

Discussion: There are plans of a grizzly bear hunt if they are delisted and it looks like that will happen. The FW wants the revenue. They are making the decision based on revenue as this will bring in a lot of money.

Discussion regarding the science behind both sides.

Scott Demaree: What numbers are enough regarding the population?

Rick L- Bear Creek: There are 750 bears in the GYE but even the scientists disagree about that being an accurate number. Some says that it's maybe is 550. The challenge for the membership is perception. Will the decision sway the public enough to not visit Gardiner? Is this an area that supports nature and the ecosystem?

We don't know how many tags would be allotted. If they'll say every three years one bear, or 15 bears. Right on the border of the park.

The Board agrees to send out the letter with this polling question.

Do you as a member support the Gardiner Chamber of Commerce Board of Director sending a letter to the FWP in opposition to Grizzly Bear Hunting in the Gardiner area.

Yes or No.

Public perception is the question.

Gardiner Chamber Members check your email ad in the newsletter.

2 weeks for the poll to be out we will check protocol.

Follow up email the beginning of the second week.

Decision: Barb will send out the letter with the polling question on Monday.

3.2 FY17 Budget presentation for approval

Schalene Darr 5 min.

Board reviews the proposed budget.

Anna Holloway: looking at newsletter printing costs. She has observed over the past few weeks many newsletters still in the stack at the Market.

We currently print 500 in summer and 400 in fall/winter.

Zondra will drop the number of newsletters being printed to 300.
Scott Demaree: Motion to approve the FY17 Budget.

Anna Holloway: Second

Further discussion: none

All in favor. None opposed.

Motion passes.

Resolution # 12.15.16-02

4. New Business

4.1 Letter to the Steering Committee Schalene Darr 5 min.

Joe Gross has requested that the Gardiner Chamber send a letter to the Gateway Project steering committee regarding the lack of street lighting on Main street and to request that they consider additional lighting as part of the project.

Joe doesn't have a letter- Joe talked to Joe Regula and Parks Frady and he doesn't seem to understand why he needs to submit the letter he wants us to send. He states that the Chamber doesn't do anything.

Schalene Darr: We are willing to help and participate. We are helping our businesses and our community members. But we are not the city government we are not going to write the letter.

You are asking us to take on civil duties.

Hal Broadhead: We just need a suggested text from you, for example We the members of the Gardiner Chamber of Commerce support more lighting on Main street.

Joe does Yellowstone Foundation pay resort tax? Yes

Schalene Darr- Joe get us the letter or we can't move on your request.

4.2 Strategic Planning Session Schalene Darr 5 min.

Date TBD

It is time to move on to forecast in to the next few years. Schalene states that wants the planning session to be attended by the current Board as well as past Executive Committee members.

The Greater Gardiner Community Council (GGCC) is going to do a strategic plan too. Once we each have our plans we should then get together as organizations and see how they can mesh together.

4.3 Annual Meeting of the Members

Schalene Darr 5 min.

Date 01.10.17

The initial location we were hoping for wont work. So, Anna will cater at the Community Center. Barb will reserve.

5. Public Comment

5 min.

Joe Gross who takes care of Park Street? Park Service. Complaints regarding the road.

6. Date of next meeting.

1 min.

The Annual Meeting of the Membership will be January 10, 2017 at 6pm at the Community Center, unless it has been reserved by someone else.