

Gardiner Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: **Thursday, June 16, 2016 from 12:00 PM to 12:50 PM**

Location: Upstairs at the Gardiner Welcome Center

Purpose: Regularly scheduled meeting



MISSION

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

Agenda:

1. Chamber Business

1.1. Roll Call & Introductions 1min.

Scott Demaree

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

Anna Holloway, Susan Johnson, Schalene Darr excused. Sharon Gilbert unexcused.

1.2 Directors /Financial Report

Barbara Shesky 10min.

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

Reviewed monthly stats. Office is busier than at this time last year. The North Gate is up 21.34% and the Park is up 15.22% over last year. Payroll is high because we had three paychecks in the month of May this will be something that we will be able to take in to consideration with the next budget.

140 active members with courtesy members we have 144 which from what I can tell is the most members that the chamber has ever had. This month we have had Greater Yellowstone Guides and River Source join. It was mentioned by John Brewer, CEO of the Billings Chamber that they actually have the Board approve new memberships before they are accepted. Something for the Board to think about.

Tickets will be available until July 1st for locals after that the remaining tickets will most likely go back into the general distribution.

Ann has had guest saying that they found out about her through the ad in the Yellowstone Journal—still haven't received the bill for it though. Sandy Bierle-We will wait till July 1st to see if it arrives.

Received 33K at the TAC meeting in Butte, Michael is going to take care of getting trademarks and copyrights for us.

Carmen Levick and Carol Crocket will be coming to visit next Friday tentatively at 11am to scope out lodging for the October TAC meeting and to discuss the restroom project.

For the 25th we will have Harry Childs from Yellowstone Park Company and also looking at having a speaker related to WPA artwork come.

Also were approached by the BFC about a table that day we discussed the parameters allowing them to do that. Offered this to Bear Creek Council as well as Nathan Varley is in attendance. The Board would like to see a formal written ask.

2. Committee Business

2.1 Yellowstone National Park Brian Suderman 5 min.

Current events in Yellowstone

Brian unable to attend.

2.2 Gardiner Gateway Project Daniel Bierschwale 5 min.

Updates on the Gateway Project and the Centennial Celebration.

Daniel Bierschwale unable to attend.

2.3 Properties and Facilities Scott Demaree 13min.

Updates on the Public Restroom Build and Rodeo Grounds

Horse workshop at rodeo grounds ask- Andrew Anderson is getting a proposal together to use the rodeo grounds. We are looking at what to charge him per day based on what he is charging.

Rodeo this weekend!

Talking to Rachel Cudmore about dog poop stations at the grounds.

We declined allowing Casey to leave his fireworks stand year round. He can still use the grounds as he has.

Banner along the front of the building we are looking at something more permanent instead.

Restroom Construction Project-We received two bids for the project they are good bids.

Liam Gilbert- Amy from the Rodeo Club and Schalene and Scott met to talk with him regarding his proposal to do work at the Rodeo Grounds for his Eagle pin for Scouts.

2.4 Marketing Sandy Bierle 5 min.

Updates on Marketing

Nothing at this time.

2.5 Membership Anna Holloway 5 min

Updates on Membership

Anna unable to attend- see Directors Report

2.6 CVB Jean Modesette 5 min

Updates on CVB

Jean unable to attend- see Directors Report

2.7 Nominating

Hal Broadhead 5 min

Updates on possible future Board members

We had a great list of people last year so that is a great starting point to see if there is any interest. There are also folks that have taken their year off that may want to throw their hat in the ring.

3. Old Business- Action Items

3.1 Non-compliant Memberships Hearing

Scott Demaree 1 min

Regarding the removal of Jim Kemp's businesses and Myron Kovash's business from the Chamber membership roster.

Decision: Tabled until we can speak to a lawyer.

Waiting to hear from council.

4. Public Comment

5 min.

Nathan Varley, Bear Creek Council-environmental community voice: The Jackson Hole Chamber has taken a stand against Grizzly bear hunting/ delisting. It possible in the near future that the Grizzly Bear will be delisted and a hunting season enacted. Nathan would like to see the Gardiner Chamber take a stand against it.

At the FWP meeting that Nathan attended, the states proposal to manage then is not all that out of line, his main concern is if a lot of famous bears are shot and the impact that it will have on our tourism, like Scarface that was killed last fall and we did not know about it until spring.

The Board recommends that Nathan partner with a Board member.

Sabina Strauss: she would not address delisting rather address the hunting issue.

There are residents that don't want hunting here.

Time for the chamber to poll the members and see how they feel about grizzly bear hunting in the Gardiner Basin.

Scott Demaree-part of the controversy is that there seems to be a strong faction of hunters that think that is stretching the boundaries of Yellowstone.

Sabina will be the point person.

The tribal hunting is a bit helter skelter and we don't know what we can do about that.

Review of procedure to handle Nathan's ask.

Hal Broadhead-Board member work with interested party write a letter to the entity. Draft the letter, the text would review by the Chamber Board and then we would poll the membership.

Myron Kovash-Hunting used to be here and was well know.

Question posed unknown source: Is there any way to limit tribal hunting? Take a stronger stance with Fish and Game?

Kelly Thompson -New to town. With regards to the wolves when #6 was killed remember there were far reaching consequences.

Look at the change and how wildlife watching has taken off as a revenue generator. Protect the economy and the animals.

Sabina Strauss-How do I protect my business compared to Sues business that relies on hunting?

Some would rather see Bears stay safe not be hunted anywhere near Gardiner

Review of the letter to be drafted by Sabina and Nathan will be put on next month's agenda.

Joe Gross- How many bathrooms in the restroom build?

Scott Demaree- The family bathroom will stay. There will be two stalls in the girls and a stall and 2 urinals in the men's room.

Joe suggests we talk to park service about them building a restroom, it is pointed out by Scott Demaree that this was considered and rejected by Park Service years ago.

Joe Gross-Let YA take care of the bathrooms.

Meeting adjourned 12:50pm

5. Date of next meeting.

1 min.

July 21, 2016

Hal Broadhead- excused for this next meeting.