

# Gardiner Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: **Thursday, July 21, 2016 from 12:01 PM to 1:15 PM**

Location: Upstairs at the Gardiner Welcome Center

Purpose: Regularly scheduled meeting

Invited Guests: Charles Drimal, Nathan Varley



## Agenda:

### 1. Chamber Business

#### 1.1. Roll Call & Introductions

**Schalene Darr 1min.**

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

Sandy Bierle excused, Anna called to say she would be late- stuck in Bozeman getting car repaired. Neli running late.

#### 1.2 Directors /Financial Report

**Barbara Shesky 10min.**

Update on office operations and fiscal year to date budget versus actual.

The Visitor Center comment book was stolen- this was very disappointing. The book had wonderful comments about the town and about the frontline staff at the Visitor Center.

Letter from Joyce Queckborner regarding dust and maintenance of the alleys in Gardiner. We should let her know this is out of our wheelhouse and direct her towards the Community Council

An unused can of bear spray was donated to us by a visitor thought it would be nice for the for Board and Staff to check out and use when going hiking- Sabina concerned about liability. We will give it to Zondra.

There will be music at the Chamber Tuesday evening.

Barbara will participate in a call survey on Monday for the MTOTBD brand evaluation.

Board would like Barbara to advocate for tourism and tell them we like the brand pillars, keep them the same. The brand is successful.

Survey from MDOT- state transportation issues -Schalene will assist Barbara in answering these questions as it is an online survey.

Some big ticket lost and found Items have been brought to the Visitor Center, a video tripod and a spotting scope. We ran ads regarding these items but no one has claimed them. It is decided to set the spotting scope up here for visitors to use. A policy will be worked on regarding the disposal of the other items.

The Chamber will publish a special edition of the newsletter for August 25<sup>th</sup>. entitled Wonderland. Excerpts from 1918 and 1919 editions of the newsletter, historic photos and copy will appear in the edition. It will be created with a historic look.

Newsletter delivery route- The newsletter delivery route has grown too large. Moving forward delivery will be based on numbers distributed. The Chamber office will increase the number available on hand at the office, and a notice will be placed in the newsletter. Keep an eye on feedback.

The Chamber had opened a Pay Pal account several years ago when the Chamber created the horse drive event. The account has since been inactive. We will close it.

### **1.3 Approval of prior month's meeting minutes**

#### **Meeting minutes from June 16, 2016**

Motion to approve the Minutes-Hal Broadhead

Sue Johnson- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sabina abstain all in favor motion passes.

Resolution# 07.21.16-01

Minutes from the May 19, 2016 meeting still on hold until they can be transcribed from the voice tapes by an outside service.

## **2. Committee Business**

### **2.1 Yellowstone National Park Brian Suderman 5 min.**

Current events in Yellowstone Brian Suderman- unable to attend.

### **2.2 Gardiner Gateway Project Daniel Bierschwale 8 min.**

Updates on the Gateway Project and the Centennial Celebration.

Danny Bierschwale-Unable to attend

### **2.3 Properties and Facilities Schalene Darr 5 min.**

Updates on the Public Restroom Build

The Public restroom project is back underway. We have signed with Bauer Construction. The project will begin November 15<sup>th</sup>. They will be working on another project at the same time here in the area. They have 120 days to complete the project, but think it will be done sooner.

Scott Demaree Banner we have a temporary banner for the building it is about \$500 dollars. It should last two years but the hope is that next year we can make an ask of the RT for permanent signage. We will have a new logo that can be incorporated into the permanent one but we thought we should have something this year it will be done next week or so. We need something that says Gardiner Montana.

July 4<sup>th</sup> and the fireworks stand

A member was concerned about some debris there. Casey is here, he did pick up the stuff there may have been some paper that blew over the fence.

People kind of overwhelmed Casey, they showed up sooner than he thought they would and his help didn't show up at all. He thinks that it went well, he had some good feedback from the town.

Casey would like to know if he can keep the building at the grounds permanently. We don't want to set a precedent by allowing it at this time. We don't really have a plan for the property. Casey is wondering if he can keep it there until we do decide and if not he will move it. The difference for him versus other businesses is it is the only place that he can do his business here in town.

Scott Demaree- There are advantages to having him there -it is safer.

Discussion of the pros and cons

Casey has moved to town permanently. It can stay there for the time being. Casey hurt his back he will get the odds and ends out of there as soon as he can.

**2.4 Marketing Sandy Bierle 5 min.**

Updates on Marketing

Sandy unable to attend

**2.5 Membership Anna Holloway 5 min**

Updates on Membership

Anna unable to attend

**2.6 CVB Jean Modesette 5 min**

Updates on CVB

Jean gives over view of what a CVB is allotted funds from the bed tax.

Received notice from Department of Revenue that we will be receiving an additional \$6,000 as we collected more than was projected. \$33K now K39K marketing budget for the first time not having to scrape and scramble.

We earmarked the money into Opportunity funding as a placeholder.

Some of the ideas for use are Digital advertising, trip Advisor ads, Face Book ads

Photography sites or magazines, Promote Romantic Getaways in winter

Skiing, snowshoeing, dog sledding.

Letter to the businesses that Mike drafted went out.

Reminder that the TAC meeting will be held Oct 3 and 4<sup>th</sup> we are looking at the Big Rock Inn for the lodging. Planning to rent Arch Park and Have a BBQ and Music there.

Currently working with TDG on Logo revamp and table tent creation should have examples to choose from the last week of July.

Launch Plan: we will launch the Facebook rename and the new website at the same time we will be changing the names to “visitgardinermt.com”. The website url has been purchased, Mike Bento is in the process of copyrighting our tag line and the Facebook page will become “Visit Gardiner Montana”.

With the additional funds we are going to look into purchasing a camera BNH Photo in New York or Adorama we will need video capability, a case, tripod and memory cards

Not one activities member responded to a request for photos. We were blessed with photos from Chris Hoff for use in the table tents and on Facebook.

**2.7 Nominating Hal Broadhead 5 min**

Updates on possible future Board members

Getting some interest from some folks, his big push for this will be October and November. Extend the invite to those people that have been off the required year.

**3. Old Business- Action Items**

**3.1 Noncompliant Members**

Decision: Tabled while lawyer reviews the documents we sent

**4. New Business**

**4.1 Sabina Strauss & Nathan Varley Bear Creek Council 10 min**

Chamber member request from Bear Creek Council for the Gardiner Chamber of Commerce to proceed to poll members in regards to taking a stand against Grizzly Bear Delisting by the Federal Government.

Nathan is not here and no one from Bear Creek Council. So the ask is going to be regarding trophy hunting. We need a better defined ask from the Council.

Decision: tabled until we receive a formal ask.

**4.2 Charles Drimal Greater Yellowstone Coalition 10 min**

Request by Greater Yellowstone Coalition for the Chamber to send Barbara to Big Sky to join the business community in the region in a roundtable discussion on future Wild & Scenic River protections in the area with Senator Daines. The meeting will be proposed for a time in September or October in Big Sky when Senator Daines is available. -

Charles Drimal is with us from the GYC regarding the Wild and Scenic Rivers act. They are building support for these designations and they appreciate the Chamber being on board for this for two years.

A roundtable discussion with Senator Daines in Big Sky this fall is in the works.

A copy of the letter to Senator Daines is passed around regarding future designations of wild and scenic rivers.

Hal Broadhead: would we be as well represented by Barb or would a member rafting business be better?

Charles: Rob Trotter is part of the roundtable he feels that Barbara's representation would be helpful. Lone Mountain Ranch is the host for the discussion.

It will be an hour meeting so travel time and travel expenses.

The Board agrees that Barbara should go. Charles will come back once the date is set The Board will wait till confirmation of the date and then put on the agenda for a vote.

Decision: tabled

## 5. Public Comment

5 min.

Bob Parker: He represents a group of property and business owners trying to stop the gravel pit and asphalt plant from happening in the Paradise Valley. Carol Reed is here as a Chamber member also Jeff Ladawig and Dennis Riley in attendance. They feel it is a horrible place for an asphalt plant and gravel pit. The property in question is in the most densely populated area of the valley, on an archaeological site and across for Emigrant Peak it is going to impact people, member business a B&B as well as Wild Flour Bakery- really got to beat this thing we are here to ask the Gardiner Chamber to help us.

**We** will see big trucks coming through Gardiner to the park. We are looking at air and water pollution.

The plant would be just north of the Wiki- Up; Martha Drysdale's property line. It will be visible to anyone traveling. The operation will be less than 100 feet of the highway.

We don't know about the potential for water pollution they say they will stop 12 feet above the water line.

Sue Johnson- Is Brogans out of Gravel?

We don't know DEQ doesn't take that into consideration.

This is where you may help-- there is no provision in the open cut mining law to take into account the effects on the economy. DEQ doesn't care.

Anyone sightseeing will not stay there. The asphalt plant, they say they, will run 24 hours a day it is to maximize their profits if they get park road projects. The permit will be for 20 years. They will cut into the hillside and leave it that way with a couple of piles to hide it there will be a shaker possibly a crusher and an asphalt plant.

The shaker and the asphalt plant have permits already the DEQ doesn't give any consideration to where it will be used. 3,000 people a day travel the road.

We have till August 21<sup>st</sup> to get comments in just because they don't take economy comments doesn't mean they shouldn't be sent. That information needs to be in before the 21<sup>st</sup> or it can't be introduced if there is a lawsuit.

Hal: Encourage members to write letters or have these folks make a draft letter that members could sign.

Handouts left. They will send an electronic copy.

They don't own the property the property deal will not go through until Riverside gets the permit.

DEQ can't deny this permit.

They have to identify deficiencies and generate negative publicity against Riverside.

President Theodore Roosevelt stayed at the Bothel Home there are artifacts there..

Read the EPA reports regarding asphalt plants carcinogens which will be blowing through the area. The river and 4 ponds an artesian springs and Big Creek are right there and drain into the Yellowstone. Fishing industry impacts?

Has anyone contacted anyone in the Park? Jim Evanoff he said that there is a meeting today with folks in the park and he is going to make the case against this.

Barbara Shesky- Don't forget the results of our branding process and numbers from Prospera's Economic study that included Park County Economy

Hal Broadhead - The DEQ doesn't have to take in to considering economy but the Park Service does. Get Park service to say "you can't use that gravel here" the Park does respond to public input.

We will send information out to all the members.

So if the Chamber could write a letter of opposition to is that would add additional pressure other than the individual businesses.

Hal Broadhead- We have a process. We need a letter that goes to the members and poll question. We support the pristine quality of this area we speak towards that; air quality, to promote tourism and consider the environment.

Also, think about the gateway to the Parkview shed and soundscape are all factors. Send both hardcopy and emails to the Park Service-POB 168.

This will be on next month's agenda- this gravel pit is going in because Park county doesn't have zoning—If there was zoning and said no mining in this corridor or no heavy industry in this corridor please think about this there is an election coming up.

Mardelle Moore- run a race track in the winter people will come to play the ponies. Need a parking lot and a liquor license.

Joe Gross: Parking for the Centennial- commissioners don't agree.

**6. Date of next meeting.**

**1 min.**

August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 12noon at the Visitor Center.