

Gardiner Chamber of Commerce Minutes



Meeting date: **Thursday, August 18 2016 from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM**

Location: Upstairs at the Gardiner Welcome Center

Purpose: Regularly scheduled meeting

Invited Guests: Representatives from National Park Service, Emigrant Neighbors Group, Bear Creek Council, Park County

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.

Sharon Gilbert excused

1.2 Directors /Financial Report

Barbara Shesky 10min.

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

1.3 Approval of Prior Month's Meeting Minutes

Schalene Darr 1min.

Minutes of 7.21.16

Motion to approve -Hal Broadhead, Anna Holloway Second. All in favor -Motion Passes.

Resolution # 8.18.16-01

May Meeting minutes still on hold until a transcriptionist is found.

2. Committee Business

2.1 Yellowstone National Park

Park Service 10 min.

An Evening at the Arch

Judy Knuth Foltz Deputy Chief of Education and Deputy Incident Commander for the event. Event map -2,500 seated in Arch Park. Jumbo-Tron in several locations. Porta-Potties will be set up and Medcor will have a tent. Two Jumbo-Trons in the football field. Two entry points. Need ticket and then you will get a wrist band color coded to the seats. There will be bag checks. Stone street and Main street entry points. ADA parking will be at the School. Golf carts for those that can't walk that far.

Shuttle will be running; the airport will be the main parking for the event. There will be pickup points in Mammoth for Mammoth employees and guests with tickets. The shuttles will start at noon. Event entries will begin at 4pm 2,000 tickets were distributed in town or up at Mammoth. There will be waves of busses moving 600 people at a time. The bus drops will be at YA Mammoth shuttle will drop in front of the Park Street parking lot. The triangle will be closed the Arch will be lighted for the event. At the end of the event, people will be directed onto Old Yellowstone trail and up to the Arch. No camping at the airport. Smoke free event. Open at 4 and the event start at 7. At 6pm there will be music and video from 6-7 from 7-8:30 will be the speakers. The Jumbo-Trons will also act as lighting. The school will not be used for the vent. The school would be for an emergency evacuation necessary. There will be a first aid stand that will act as the lost and found for people and objects. That will be the Medcor tent.

Rodeo grounds- For the local use to park cars There will be small section by the fireworks and fire station that will be an impound lot set up to temporarily place towed cars that have been parked illegally. Livestreaming on Livestream.net and Facebook Live. 50 media- local, regional, national and international. Arch Park will be a seated area the football field, bring a lawn chair.

The weekend is free from Thursday through Sunday so there is also going to be visitors passing through The Arch will be closed but there is no plan to close the 3rd St cut through. The hill above the venue will be closed to foot traffic. 6 substantial vendors 5-6 popcorn ice cream type vendors. Mountain West Holdings will be managing the traffic. Law enforcement and fire services will be in place in addition to the normal contingency. Forest Service will have more personnel due to the expectation of dispersed camping extra Hwy Patrol on Hwy 89. The Trail will be closed to Steven's Creek starting 7pm the night before.

2.2 Properties and Facilities **Schalene Darr 5 min.**

Updates on the Public Restroom Build

Accepted a bid from Bauer Construction starts Nov 15th

We now have a temporary sign for the top of the Visitor Center building that should last about two years. It reads Gardiner Montana in Big letters and in smaller script Visitor Center and Chamber of Commerce. Now people will know that they are in Gardiner, Montana.

2.3 Marketing **Sandy Bierle 5 min.**

Updates on Marketing

Sandy working on the walking map. We are so busy right now but things will transition here in a few weeks.

2.5 Membership **Anna Holloway 5 min**

Updates on Membership

4 new members this week

2.6 CVB

Jean Modesette 5 min

Updates on CVB

Met over the phone with tdg Communications we have the new logo approved. Trying to pull together images begun process of working on webpage layouts.

2.7 Nominating

Hal Broadhead 5 min

Updates on possible future Board members

No update to day

3. Old Business- Action Items

Schalene Darr 10 min

3.1 Non- Compliant memberships review

Decision: After reviewing the facts with the attorney we have decided not to revoke their memberships we strongly recommend they be part of the Community and remit the tax dollars they collect.

Sabina- I disagree Kovash bullies- this is standard operating procedure.

Schalene will talk to them- that they are hurting the community.

This action item is closed.

3.2 Grizzly Bear Hunting

Bear Creek Council 10 min.

Bear Creek Council request that the Chamber take a stand against Grizzly Bear hunting.

No one here from Bear Creek Council ...

Howie Wolke- Big Wild Adventures-He and Marilyn operate a back country hiking company. They go in to the Absaroka Beartooth. He is a hunter-deer and elk, and has very little tolerance for urban people who are anti-hunting but he is very much against hunting grizzly bears. Her feels that the least the Chamber could do is propose a moratorium on hunting Grizzly Bears. He reviews the loss of grizzly bears and would like to see them stay on the endangered species list. The addition of human caused mortality is unacceptable. His guests want to see live grizzlies. The grizzly bear need people to stand up for it, it can't stand up for itself he wants our children and grandchildren and the bears children and grandchildren to have a future. That will not happen if we stay silent. He applauds the Jackson Hole Chamber passing a resolution against grizzly bear hunting. There is only one Greater Yellowstone. The Jackson Hole Chamber president is willing to talk to us.

We have a system of getting a letter submitted, we poll our members, The Jackson Hole Chamber did not poll their members. Jeff—Are there any repercussions to their decision? Their process is nothing like our process. Schalene we represent everyone Schalene we have a lot of people coming to us as a whole we decide even with our process and we get a low response rate. It is a pretty transparent system.

Scott Kremer: Scott doesn't think in the past the we were focused on a common thing. Commerce not about somebody's own agenda. In the late 80s the planned buffalo hunt, the wolf issues, fear of people boycotting us but we see what has actually happen. He doesn't think it will make a difference. He would be against the chamber doing a letter. As we talk about commerce and the event we all came together, we come together in a common thing because I really like the direction the Chamber has taken. Is this really even the forum? The buffalo hunt and the people protesting it -- the bigger the controversy the more people show up.

Schalene Darr -We changed our mission statement. So ecosystem concerns are part of it now- it is our job to review.

Scott Kremer has read the endangered species act this was set up in 1975- we should be celebrating that we brought an animal back from the brink of extinction. This delisting is part of the criteria of the Endangered species act.

Howie Wolke – He disagrees with Scott on some of the statements. Sandy Old Yellowstone trail the bison hunt; some members were/are negatively impacted. It is not black or white it affects someone so it is worth talking about.

Kat Brekken- representing about 980,000 people who are wolf watchers if you were here when 06 was shot there was public outcry. We are at a cross road not previously documented. Yes, we have recovered the bears., She remembers the beggar bears. They have already recognized we have a golden goose here. Her family was a homestead family and would like to see the Chamber see the Grizzly bear is the golden goose. She works in reservations when taking bookings up here- it is not so much the geysers it's the wildlife that people are the most excited about. We saw what happened with Cecil the lion we can talk about all this stuff but this affects our tourism- I see it as a challenge.

Bear Creek Council letter. Board needs time to read the letter and the fact sheet. They will be on the agenda for next month

Decision: Tabled

4 New Business

Schalene Darr 10 min

4.1 Park County Sidewalk Signage Update

Park County and Park Service Parks Frady and Joe Regula

Transitioning out of Phase 1 this area has been turned back over to Park Service and Park County.

There is shared jurisdiction between Park County, Park Service and Law Enforcement. So the Park County Commissioners wanted to make a Park Street policy. The purpose of the sidewalk is for the general public. But sometimes businesses want to set out signs and such. This will require an encroachment permit. They are trying to get ahead of what could potentially be a problem. Everything right now is pretty tasteful and ADA has not been affected. But there have already been some cases regarding things that were causing safety issues. We do not want to be heavy handed we wanted to roll this out to everyone and will be meeting with business owners. Tables, chairs, signs and decorations will just need to be reviewed. We need to keep the sidewalks open. The business owners have done a very good job of self-regulation so far. The business owners and the Chamber shouldn't be the enforcement agency the County should be. The County attorney would ask the business to move the source of the problem. The State has delegated County authority to maintain the public right-of-way. There is a \$50 fee for the encroachment permit. The \$50 is to cover the travel costs. Once a year.

Schalene- they do this in Bozeman.

Park Street is joint private property, county property and federal property. The amount varies in width. Completely optional for those who want to put stuff on the sidewalk.

Scott street is MDOT so there may be a difference between over there and over here.

Parks has already talked to a lot of the people who already have stuff out. Neli and Sandy would like to have them visit as they are on Park Street. The permit will be annual and expire in February each year. This is for temporary encroachments not permanent. No sales on sidewalks if you are on Park Street.

4.2 Market Montana Sept 11th & 12th in Missoula **Schalene Darr 5 min.**

Barb and Schalene will go.

4.3 Asphalt plant and gravel pit **Sabina Strauss 5 min.**

Review member opinion poll regarding taking a stand against the proposal by Riverside Construction and sending the letter to DEQ.

Anna 25 people seems awful small -should we call people individually? Maybe email, newsletter and calls to just letting folks know that email is out there.

Based on procedure, Sabina Strauss-motion that we sign the letter and send to the DEQ to oppose the gravel pit and asphalt plant Sandy Bierle second -no discussion all in favor none opposed motion passes.

Put procedure on the next agenda.

Resolution # 8.18.16-02

5. Public Comment

5 min.

Jerry Ladewig Paradise Valley- Thank you for passing the resolution and sending the letter we appreciate your efforts. We appreciate that you looked at this.

Kat Brekken Regarding Grizzly Bear hunting- You can't get back what you lose.

Regarding heavy industry: growth planning would be helpful and zoning so that no one comes in and tries to do these things.

6. Date of next meeting.

1 min.

September 15th next meeting Sue excused.