

# Gardiner Chamber of Commerce

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

Meeting date: **Thursday, July,20 2017 from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM**

Location: Upstairs at the Gardiner Welcome Center

Purpose: Regularly Scheduled Meeting

## **Agenda:**

- 1. Chamber Business** **Schalene Darr 3 mins.**  
Meeting Called to Order 12:00

### **1.1. Roll Call & Introductions**

Schalene Darr, Sabina Strauss, Jeff Guengerich, Anna Holloway, Edwin Johnson, Jim Stark, Trina Smith

Excused Absent: Neli Karamfilova, Sue Johnson

### **1.2 Approval of Prior Month's Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from June 2017

Jeff moves for Approval, Anna Seconds. No discussion. Minutes Approved

## **2. Committee Business** **10 mins.**

### **2.1 Yellowstone National Park**

Beth Taylor representing NPS. Park numbers are second highest in history, slight decline from last year but continuing to grow. New Grand Prismatic Overlook is open parking lot has been filling to capacity daily and the park requested we not begin any advertising of the new trail until September.

## **2.2 Properties and Facilities**

### *Restroom Closure Update*

We have not been able to lock bathrooms at night due to lack of staffing. The family restroom is being locked during non-operating hours by summer staff and then opened in the mornings by Tom. We have not had any other incidence of vandalism and so will continue to leave the restrooms open and monitor them.

### *Firework Follow Up*

YVI submitted formal complaint and demand for repayment of losses regarding the use of fireworks at the rodeo grounds. Claiming losses due to noise complaints and needing to refund guest. Letter also reiterates continued concerns for fire safety in the area. YVI not in attendance. Beth Casey in attendance to speak in defense of Casey and the fireworks stand-pointed out that Fourth of July is a known entity. Concern was expressed about setting precedence of the Chamber being a place to seek reimbursement for any disgruntled guest, consensus that refunding is at the discretion of the business owner. Continued allowance of fireworks at the rodeo grounds not currently up for discussion as there will be a new board next year and that decision will be at their discretion. Will seek out legal counsel to draft a formal response to the letter.

## **2.3 CVB**

Neala- See attached report of analytics. CVB working on selecting film teams for promotional video. Also beginning discussions with Lynn Chan to commission a new Gardiner walking map for next summer.

## **2.4 Director's Report**

Loren- See attached report. Numbers of park visitors down slightly but seeing uptick in visitors in the Chamber, this is largely due to the bathrooms. Would like to get door counter to see how the space is utilized at the end of the day.

## **3. Yellowstone River Wild and Scenic Designation**

**20mins**

Charles Drimal, presenting on what the wild and scenic designation means. Representative from Montanans for Healthy Rivers and Greater Yellowstone Coalition. See attached information packets. Yellowstone corridor (town stretch through Yankee Jim) and Bear Creek have been proposed by citizens for a wild and scenic designation. Designation maintains free flowing river, prohibits large scale dams. Does not inhibit development on river corridor. Does not affect private land rights or recreation.

## **4. Updates to Policy and Procedure Manual**

*Due to time constraints will be discussed at the next meeting*

## **5. Public Comment**

**1 min.**

Joe Josephson from the Greater Yellowstone Coalition in attendance, urging members to continue to engage with the proposed mining in Jardine and Paradise Valley. Provided update about Crevice Mountain Lodge, group has been denied but small claims approved and will be starting this summer.

## **6. Date of next meeting.**

August 17, 2017