

# 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, June 21st, 2018 from 12:00PM to 1:00PM**

Location: Gardiner Chamber of Commerce

Purpose: Regularly Scheduled Meeting

## **Agenda:**

- 1. Chamber Business** **5 mins**
  - 1.1. Roll Call & Introductions**

Jeff Guengerich, Sabina Strauss, Trina Smith, Edwin Johnson, Neli Karamfilova, Mike Keller, Kristin Nunn

Absent: Jim Stark, Anna Holloway

- 1.2 Approval of Prior Month's Meeting Minutes**  
Minutes from May 2018

## **2. Committee Updates-Part 1**

### **2.1 Yellowstone National Park**

*Joe Holden- Mammoth Subdistrict Ranger*

Busiest May on record in the Park and early June numbers are also looking to break records. Have already been several elk and bison incidences in the park already and NPS would like us to continue helping to push safety messaging to visitors. Two incidences involved park employees. Commercial vehicle inspections will be happening in the next week. Yellowstone Forever announced \$5.9 million donation to the park to assist with projects including but not limited to native fish restoration, wildlife safety, and YCC program. Summer visitation survey is about to go underway being conducted by ITRR. Tablets will be handed out to visitors that will prompt the visitor to answer questions to determine transportation issues in the park. Drop sights for the tablets will be in the North Entrance area. Chamber asked Jon to look into the NPS stats reported for May 2018 at the North Entrance, report displaying we are

down 35% from last year which seems inaccurate. Also requested Jon look into picnic tables for Arch Park and follow up for how we can get weeding done on Park Street turn.

### **3. Yellowstone Hot Springs Presentation**

*Susie Shimmin & Martine Griffiths*

Present Phase I of the new Yellowstone Hot Springs, slated to have a soft opening this August. Has been a large project in the works for over a year, will include large outdoor cold and hot ADA accessible pools, reflexology walkway, parking for approx. 100 cars, conference spaces, picnic area, temporary meet and greet center (to be expanded in future phases). The historic 'Plunge' building will be restored. They have employee housing in place and will be looking at employing approximately 14 workers at peak season. Hoping to work closely with community and take advantage of cross promotion opportunities. See attached for more information.

### **4. Committee Updates-Part 2**

#### **4.1 CVB/Marketing**

*Neala Fugere*

*See Attached*

Sabina suggested an open house to unveil the fall and winter promotional videos, introduce Neala as the marketing director, and highlight marketing efforts at the Chamber.

#### **4.2 Directors Report**

*Loren Barrett*

*Mid Year Financial Snapshot-* Budget is on track for 2018. Have had a slightly higher intake of newsletter ads largely attributed to now having our ability to accept credit cards. Have not seen any revenue generated from banner ads yet, initial pricing was to high, will be running a special summer rate to see if we can generate more interest.

*Resort Tax Grants Update-*Loren has started the permitting process with Park County and has put in calls to set a timeline for the Arch Park Stage electricity project. We have received the final proofs of the trash can wraps and those should be installed by the end of July.

#### **4.3 Properties and Facilities**

Need to focus on fixing flag pole, Jeff to work with Mike. Need quotes for a contractor to fix peeling paint. Back hallway lights in historic hallway not working, possible wiring issue to address.

### **5. Follow Up Fireworks Proposal**

Casey will not be doing a finale this year for fireworks just allowing monitored space for community to shoot off fireworks. Need to follow-up with Anna about brush clearing for the day of the 4th. Need to find security officer to patrol rodeo grounds and ensure no one sets off fireworks after 11pm. Edwin suggested if everything goes well this year to approve it for an extended lease. Kristin mentioned that could help us be more intentional about our 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration as a designated event. The group agreed we could discuss at the August meeting after we assess the success of this year. Loren and Jeff will work on contacting a monitor/security person.

### **6. Public Comment**

Joe Gross asked for the board to look at town infrastructure, especially the lights at Arch Park.

Grizzly hunt: Sabina reminded the group that members were polled in December, 2016. The proposal came from Bear Creek Council. A vote went out and the results were 77% in favor supporting a letter against the grizzly bear hunt, though the response rate was low (49

respondents). Due to employee transition the letter was never sent. The poll needs to be on record. Loren followed up with fish and wildlife and the trophy hunt is not happening in Montana, nor is it on the table for the next year. Based on the current state of the issue, two years later, the Chamber's stance was this subject is a non-issue at this time.

Sabina reminded the group Bear Creek Council and the Northern Plains Council are putting on a local food challenge in August likely to be posted at the Yellowstone Basin Inn. The local food challenge is a month-long event that encourages people to buy and eat locally produced products.

**7. Date of Next Meeting**  
**July 19th, 2018**