

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: **Wednesday, February 21, 2019 from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM**

Location: Gardiner Chamber of Commerce

Purpose: Regularly Scheduled Meeting

Agenda:

1. Chamber Business

1.1. Roll Call & Introductions

Jeff Guengerich, Trina Smith, Mike Keller, Anna Holloway, Edwin Johnson, Mike Skelton,

***Excused Absent:** Jim Stark, Leslie Everett, Neli Karamfilova*

1.2 Approval of Prior Month's Meeting Minutes

Minutes from January 2019

Motion by Trina Smith, Second by Mike Skelton. No discussion. Minutes approved

2. Glacier-Yellowstone Charity Bike Ride

Chris Desborough & Bob Copeland

See attached flyer. Chris will be biking from Glacier to Gardiner in June to help raise money for the Gardiner Gateway Hose Company. He has requested the Chamber help spread the word on his campaign (GoFundMe) especially to businesses that might be interested in sponsoring his ride. His goal is to raise \$5000. Bob reported that the Fire Department would earmark the money to purchase a thermal imaging camera that allows one to see thermal outlines in smoke and the dark. This purchase could be a life saver not only for fires but in car accidents where they must locate people thrown from the car in the dark. Chamber will help spread the word and will continue to be in touch with Chris as the date gets closer.

3. Committee Updates

3.1 Yellowstone National Park

Mary Wilson- North District Ranger

Park Service has released a new winter travel video that highlights Gardiner. The Chamber has shared it on our social media platforms. They are also working on updating the YNPS website, new homepage features can be seen the first week of March and they welcome feedback. 2019 Youth Corps applications are currently open, they will hire 60 youth to work on restoration projects throughout the Park. Anyone interested should apply by March 1. YNPS is searching for comments on the concession employee housing, comment period is still open. 2018 overall park visitation was down .04% from 2017, making it the 3rd busiest year on record. General reminder that roads close starting March 1 with the closure of the east entrance and the road from Mammoth to Norris closes March 3. Steamboat continues to go off a regular interval and they are anticipating increased traffic in the Norris Geyser Basin as a result. They ask that the VIC advise people to come early or late and be prepared to have to make adjustments as needed for parking if they wish to view that basin.

3.2 US Forest Service

Mike Thom- District Ranger Forest Service

The Forest Service is currently grooming Bear Creek and will be out there this weekend grooming in preparation for the Jardine Ski Run. They are currently working in conjunction with the Montana Preservation Alliance to update and restore the OTO Ranch. MPA has provided interpretation materials, which we will stock at the visitor center as well. Forest Service has also installed some new interpretive signs on the property and begun maintenance of the roof. The long-term goal is the space will be utilized for youth education.

3.3 Marketing Report

Neala Fugere- Director of Marketing

See attached report

3.4 Directors Report

We have two new members who joined this February- Yellowstone's Wild World and Greater Yellowstone Coalition. The application for the 2019 VIC grant, to fund summer staffing has been submitted. The Chamber hosted a logo design workshop and had ten businesses turn out. The overall response was very positive, and we will invite the MSU bookstore back at the end of March to run a follow up session.

4. Outstanding Business

4.1 Joe Gross Memorial

At the annual meeting we received suggestions for four potential memorial ideas to honor Joe Gross; picnic tables at Arch Park; a street light on Main Street; a bench on Park Street; or hosting a community cleanup day. After discussion the board would like to see a budget drawn up for placing two picnic tables (one of which being ADA accessible) with a memorial plaque in Arch Park. Loren will pull together budget for next meeting.

4.2 2019 Operating Budget

Vote for approval

4.3 Resort Tax Board Letter of Support Request

Senate Bill No. 241

5. Executive Director Position and Restructuring

Loren will be resigning as Executive Director as of April 1st. The executive committee has been working with Chamber staff to discuss the transition. We will be restructuring the job of Executive Director and shifting the job of Marketing Director to an office manager position. The Executive Committee is currently in conversation with Neala about taking on the role of Executive Director. Hiring a director requires an official vote by the board and we will likely request this vote via email in the next few weeks.

6. Public Comment

Sabina Strauss- Sabina came to report on the Successful Gardiner meeting. They have begun surveying members of the community and gathering data on what community members want to see for a future vision. The new website is live, and surveys can be accessed online. They are also working to schedule a community workshop in May to establish next steps.

7. Date of Next Meeting

March 21, 2018, 12pm-1pm