

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, April 18, 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, Anna Holloway, Edwin Johnson, Leslie Everett, Trina Smith, Mike Keller, Mike Skelton

Absent: Neli Karamfilova

1.2 Approval of Prior Month's Meeting Minutes

Minutes from March

Motion to approve by Leslie. Mike Skelton seconds. Motion passes.

2. Committee Updates

2.1 Yellowstone National Park – Mary Wilson- North District Ranger

Roads open to West Yellowstone and Old Faithful tomorrow, April 19. Delays up to 30 minutes are possible in the construction area between Mammoth Hot Springs and Norris Geyser Basin. Visitors should expect substantial potholes, limited facilities to eat, and significant snow on the Norris Geyser Basin boardwalks. The first bison calf of the season was reported on Tuesday, April 16; visitors are reminded to be cautious of protective mothers. Saturday April 20 is a fee-free day in honor of National Park Week. Bears have been spotted in the Mammoth area. An updated Yellowstone Pledge video is available online. The park roads report can be reached at 307-344-211.

2.2 US Forest Service – Mike Thom – District Ranger Forest Service

The annual forest plan meeting will take place from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Gardiner Community Center. The plan will outline the direction for the next 20 years of the Gallatin National Forest

and will be one of the last opportunities for the public to comment. The IBMP Bison Meeting takes place next Thursday from 8 am to 7 pm and is open to the public. A field trip to sites associated with the IBMP will take place on Wednesday but may not be open to the public. Carcass management will be one of the main topics at the meeting. Eagle Creek and Palmer roads will open on May 16. Tom Miner opens June 1. Campground hosts will be present at the National Forest campgrounds a few days before Memorial Day.

2.3 Marketing Report/Director's Report – Neala Siegle

Director's Report: The executive director made an offer of employment to Terese Petcoff, who accepted and will be joining the Chamber as our full-time office manager on April 29. The MOTBD grant opportunity for nonprofit events is due May 1—the board approved writing a letter on behalf of the Gardiner Brewfest and Shakespeare in the Parks joint event in July.

The Chamber is gearing up for the summer season and still in search of one full or part-time Visitor Information Specialist (advertising for the position is ongoing). Susie Shimmin and Tom from Montana Whitewater are interested in filling the open board seat – Neala will follow-up with both to see if they can attend the May meeting. Jeff and Neala need to double check on the process for filling the vacant seat.

Marketing Report: Gardiner received the 2019 Marketing Campaign of the Year Award from the Montana Office of Tourism and Business Development (MOTBD). Visitor guides are in the office and ready for distribution.

4. Outstanding Business

4.1 FY20 Marketing Plan/Budget Presentation & Approval

Neala presented the FY20 marketing plan and budget—this year's plan focuses on increased online advertising, a shoulder season fam tour, a larger emphasis on metrics tracking, and better distribution of the Gardiner visitor guide. *Mike Skelton made a motion to pass the FY20 budget. Edwin seconds. Motion passes.*

4.2 Properties & Facilities Repairs

The peeling texture on the front of the Gardiner building needs to be addressed. Mike Skelton and several other board members suggested Jim Roberts from Hired Hand LLC as a potential contractor for the job. Jerry Carh was the original owner of the building and may have more information if needed. Jeff will do a quick training with Chamber staff on operation of the flag poles. Neala to follow-up with Sue Johnson to call a meeting about her vision for the rodeo grounds.

6. Public Comment

Ron and Dave from Industrial Towel – The Livingston-based company is excited to begin serving the Gardiner area with 70+ years of expertise. Services include dry cleaning, floor mats, bar towels, uniforms, shop towels, mop heads, etc. The team looks forward to bringing a more local, environmentally conscious laundry service to Gardiner businesses this summer.

7. Date of Next Meeting

May 16, 2019, 12pm-1pm