

Gardiner Resort Area District
Minutes of Regular Meeting - 9/13/16

Chair Demaree called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. All members present, including the administrative manager and the following members of the public: Ken Ballagh, Linda Ballagh, Zondra Skertich, Ilona Popper, Doug MacCartney, Peggy Reich, Laura Williams, Roger Keaton, Jessi Gerdes and Anne Foster.

Secretary Parks presented the amended (one correction) minutes for the August 2nd meeting, and moved for approval; seconded by Director Laubach. All voted in favor.

Treasurer Parks presented a financial report on the District's current status with the operating budget. He cautioned that while approximately (\$200,000) may still be collected, at the end of the season, the three-week river closure, affecting many businesses, may cause this number to be lower. He also pointed out the District's legal fees will continue to be significant and that the District may need to consider changing their operating budget. Chair Demaree mentioned that this year will include two appropriation cycles, which will be more expensive to the District. The following year, the District will operate on their desired cycle of one appropriation cycle per year.

Chair Demaree recapped the fall meeting dates and the appropriation dates that are upcoming. October 11th will be the next regular meeting. October 31st is the deadline for all applications. November 15th will be the application Q&A session, with appropriations being decided upon at the December 13th meeting. This will allow the recipients time throughout the winter to work on their projects.

Chair Demaree reported on Old Business, including the Welcoming Committee that Director Laubach and Director Dawson are working on; as well as her communications with attorney on the updated Montana code regarding elections for the District. Elections will be moved to the May school board statewide elections, thus extending some members of the board terms. Chair Demaree and the attorney will continue to work on language in the ordinance regarding what is taxed etc.

Treasurer Parks reported on New Business which includes some bills to be paid; he will work with Chair Demaree to get those checks signed and paid out.

Chair Demaree opened the discussion up to public comments. The District is interested to hear from the public regarding their thoughts on how the District is operating thus far. The following is a list of topics identified/discussed by community members:

- Doug MacCartney asked for an update on the ongoing lawsuit concerning the tax
- Ilona Popper asked for a clarification on the District's legal fees and had several questions regarding the appropriation process
- Roger Keaton suggested that communication be improved between the District and the public
- Zondra Skertich thanked the District for appropriating funds to both "small and large" entities
- Laura Williams seconded that thank you and suggested that each entity applying for funds provide an "executive summary" of their project
- Jessi Gerdes requested the application packet be updated and that the various entities interested last year receive an email notifying them of the updates
- Roger Keaton asked whether the District had a "master plan" to prioritize needed projects. He also presented to the District some wording changes for the ordinance, especially pertaining to the "goods and services" and "luxuries" language

Several members of the board participated in these discussions and clarified their limited role as a tax district and as elected officials. Chair Demaree provided an update on the lawsuit; Assistant Chair Dalling spoke to the Districts' attorney and her expertise/knowledge on resort taxes; Directors Dawson and Laubach spoke to improving communication with the public and the challenges associated with this; Secretary Parks spoke to the challenges associated with organizing all the Gardiner entities together to draft a "master plan". Chair Demaree and Secretary Parks both reiterated what role the District could and couldn't play in this process.

Director Dawson moved, Secretary Parks seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM. All voted in favor. The next meeting will be held at the Gardiner Chamber office on October 11th at 7:00 PM. The public was thanked for their interest and attendance at the meeting.