



BIG * SKY

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Big Sky Chamber Board Meeting Minutes February 13, 2018 | 8:30am

Present: David O'Connor, Sarah Phelps, Brandon Bang, Kevin Germain, Bill Simkins, and Greg Lisk
Not Present: Britt Ide, Ken Lancey
Staff: Candace Carr Strauss, Lori Wetzel, Heather Gottschalk
Call to Order: 8:38am

Public Comment

- Denise Ward presented information about the formation of the Gallatin Forest Partnership (GFP) in response to the planning issues facing the Gallatin National Forest which impacts the community of Big Sky. The comment period for the Forest Service Plan is closing March 5, 2018 before which the GFP will be submitting recommendations and is looking to the Big Sky Chamber for its support. Big Sky Community Organization's Board is supportive. Additional information is available on their website <http://gallatinpartners.org/> and/or individuals were encouraged to contact Denise directly at denisecdwade@gmail.com.
- Ryan Kunz, new General Manager at Lone Mountain Ranch introduced himself and expressed his desire to become more involved in the board.

Approval of Minutes

- A motion to approve the January meeting minutes was made by Sarah and seconded by Brandon. Kevin abstained as he was not present for the January Board meeting. With all in favor the motion passed.

Old Business

Finance Committee Report

- The team is working very diligently on collection of past dues. Lori explained an error that was made in the past when members sign up, her process for remedying this and resolving it for the future.
- A discussion on the process for writing off non-responsive members followed.

Big Sky Chamber Board Discussion

- Board Seat Vacancy; Board Composition and Candidate Applications
 - Executive Committee in its role as Nominating Committee was supposed to meet prior to the February board meeting however, with the Chamber being absent its Director of Membership Sales, it was not possible. Staff is compiling information to develop a more structured board application, evaluation and nomination process to put in place to address the increased desire expressed by community members to participate via board membership.
 - A discussion followed on "Board Source" materials distributed which focused on board leadership and what it means to be a good board member. These materials were submitted for the board to utilize as they continue discussing how best to fill the vacant position and future added board seats.
- Officer Position: Treasurer
 - The need to appoint a new Treasurer was discussed, but a decision was tabled to a future meeting. Lori was asked if she felt comfortable to continue without a Treasurer for the time being. She confirmed that she is with the assistance of Anderson ZurMuehlen in answering questions where necessary, and with the support of the other Finance Committee members.
- Discussion on Resolution to Amend the By-Laws- #Board Members from 9-11

- Approved language for a by-law change is needed for the board to review and approve at the April board meeting to submit it to the membership by May 1st.
- The request to increase the size of the board stems from the work flowing out of the strategic plan, the increase in the number of board committees to address that work and to drive membership expansion. Certain skill sets are not represented by the board at present, such as those of a banker so the idea to increase seats is to bring value to the table, not just add additional seats. This coincides well with the desire to increase the diversity of board composition.
- A discussion continued with David sharing current practices on board elections, including vetting and assessing potential candidates and that as we move forward communicating out how we will do it in the future is important for transparency.
- A motion for Chamber staff to draft by-law amendment language on board composition from” up to 9” to “up to 11 members” and to allow for electronic voting was made by Kevin and seconded by Sarah. With no further discussion the motion passed.

New Business

Big Chamber 2018 Annual Awards & Dinner

- Brandon and Candace proposed hosting the 2018 Annual Awards & Dinner at Buck T-4’s as a way of honoring David as outgoing Board Chair. In response to feedback from last year’s event to not hold it on a weekend, it has been moved to Thursday night. A speaker still needs to be decided upon; if possible try to tie the theme of the talk into strategic goals coming out of the Big Sky Chamber’s strategic planning process.

CEO/Staff Reports

- Candace attended the WACE meeting in Henderson, NV which she felt was enlightening and inspirational as it was a great opportunity to learn from others from the Western region.
- A discussion followed about the growth of Big Sky’s chamber focusing on growing a healthy community which equates to healthy businesses and how that relates to the strategic plan.
- Candace explained about the change in title of the membership director position to the Director of Sales. This position has brought a lot of interest from qualified candidates. The interview process is underway.
- Candace informed the board she will be sitting down with Urgo Hotels, the management company for The Wilson, a Residence Inn by Marriott in early March on a number of topics.
- Candace reminded the board that Resort Tax applications are due April 30th.
- Kevin and David sparked a discussion about the format that those discussions would take and what process the board will use to get to a draft. Sarah proposed a working group email.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Kevin and seconded by Brandon. With all in favor, the motion passed and the board adjourned at 9:38 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heather Gottschalk
Marketing Director

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE BOARD MEETING 9:30am – 11:30am Phase III / Wrap Up of Strategic Planning with Dr. Eric Austin, MSU Burton Wheeler Center