



BIG * SKY

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Big Sky Chamber Board Meeting Minutes **Tuesday, May 8, 2018 | 8:30am**

Present: David O'Connor, Sarah Phelps, Britt Ide, Kevin Germain, Bill Simkins, Scott Johnson, Brandon Bang and Greg Lisk

Not Present: Ken Lancey

Staff: Candace Carr Strauss, Lori Wetzel, Caitlin Lundin, RJ Klotz

Public:

Call to Order: 8:35am

Public Comment

- No public comment

Approval of Minutes

- A motion to approve the April meeting minutes was made by Sarah and seconded by Britt. With all in favor the motion passed.

Finance Committee Report

- Everything is on track to finish the FY18 fiscal year utilizing all allocated monies for designated projects. The admin monies have all been spent.
- The Accounts Payable bucket appears high, but it will clear out as Lori has sent notices to any member that is later than 30 days passed due. RJ will follow up with a phone call.

Old Business

TCP – New Landlord; Rent increase effective July 1st

- The new landlord for the Chamber offices and VBS/VIC is Michael Schreiner. He, along with a collection of other investors, were motivated to buy the property in order to preserve Big Sky's front door.
- He has already begun making improvements to the property and has sat down with Candace to learn about vision that the Chamber/VBS/Gateway Fdn had for the land. It is unclear what will be done with the property going forward or what other businesses might be moved in, but at a minimum, the Chamber/VBS are involved in the conversation.
- Beginning July 1st rent is \$4,500 up from \$3,000, and the lease is still month-to-month.

BSRAD Resort Tax FY19 Applications

- Visit Big Sky and The Corner Property (TCP)
 - VBS submitted two FY19 Resort Tax applications. One with \$600,000 designated towards the purchase and/or improvement of TCP and one without. At Q&A, VBS will tell the Resort Tax Board which application is to be considered. A discussion around the VBS monies dedicated to TCP from FY18 ensued.
- Big Sky Community Housing Trust (BSCHT)
 - The Meadowview Subdivision has been approved for 52 units. If the BSCHT can buy it, HRDC would own it and deed restrict it. The money that that HRDC is asking for would be to purchase the land and does not include construction costs.

Transportation – TIGER Grant Celebration – Thursday, May 17th

- National Infrastructure Week Event in conjunction with the Montana Chamber and Montana Infrastructure Coalition state-wide tour promoting the importance of infrastructure investment.
- David Kack has arranged for three Skyline buses to pick people up at Fire Pit Park after a brief speech and take them down to the location of the future pedestrian tunnel. From there, people will parade back up MT Hwy 64 to highlight the road improvement portion of the grant and then finish up with a block party celebration on Town Center Ave.
- A press release will be sent out statewide for this event and, moving forward, we plan to participate annually in National Infrastructure Week and make it a franchise for the Chamber.

Big Sky Chamber By-Laws Discussion

- PROPOSED By-law Amendments to update Mission, increase the number of board members from up to 9 to up to 11, and to allow for electronic voting.
- A new Mission statement for the Chamber came as a direct result of the strategic planning process over the winter with Dr. Eric Austin and accompanies the new strategic plan – *Elevate Big Sky 2023*.
- A motion to approve the amendments in order to submit them to our membership was made by Britt and seconded by Kevin. With all in favor the motion passed.

2018 Black Diamond Awards Dinner & Annual Members' Meeting – Tuesday, June 26th

- The event will take place at Buck's T-4 to honor Dave as the outgoing board chair. NorthWestern Energy, Urgo Hotels and Yellowstone Club have stepped up to be Sustainability Sponsors (\$2,500) for the dinner.
- The awards are important to this community. Board members were asked to help encourage nominations. The final decision for the awards will be made by the board.
- A keynote speaker is still needed. Various names were discussed but the ultimate goal is to have someone speak to the strategic priorities of the organization such as infrastructure or telecommunications or even someone from the film commission as Big Sky continues to benefit from increasingly being used as a filming location for commercials.
- The regulations for inviting elected officials as guests to the event will be vetted, and if possible, invitations extended on the board's behalf.

Energy – Mid-mountain Substation Update

- A new group has been formed – Big Sky Substation Exploratory Team – with the facilitation of Dr. Eric Austin to further flush out questions and concerns of the community related to the location for the mid-mountain substation. Two site options, three different technologies and three different price points have emerged.
- At the end of the day, NorthWestern Energy is going to make the final decision. There is no denying that a new substation is needed in the community however a conditional use permit is required hence the need for an inclusive process to get whatever site selected approved.
- At present, it is a subdivision/homeowner issue, but in the future, the Chamber may be asked to take a stand on the choice of location.

New Business**Telecommunications Task Force**

- The first meeting of the Telecommunications Task Force was held on Tuesday, June 5th to brainstorm goals for the group and to make suggestions on additional committee members outside the board. Yellowstone Club has done a great job with their telecommunications, so they have been tapped as a resource. Andrew Blessing, IT manager for BSSD #72 read an article about the task force in the paper and requested to join.

Next steps are fact gathering and gap analysis. The Task Force is reaching out to 3 Rivers, Blackfoot Communications, the Bozeman Fiber Initiative and NorthWestern Energy.

Staff Reports

Membership Report

- In the last month, 3 members dropped and 3 joined. One of the dropped memberships was for a business that was being sold. Once the new membership levels and benefits are adopted, RJ will be hitting the ground hard to encourage renewals and to recruit new members.
- The Membership Committee will be convened to assist.

CEO Report

- All the FY19 Resort Tax applications and TAC marketing plans were submitted on time.
- Strategic planning for both organizations is also complete providing road maps for the next five years.
- Candace will attend the Planning Coordination Committee in Bozeman which was formed following a study conducted by Sanderson Stewart on the Gallatin Triangle formed by the coming together of Bozeman, Belgrade and the Four Corners area. As integral business partners in the growth and success of the Gallatin Corridor, Candace will attend the meeting on behalf of the Chamber to listen and learn.

Executive Session

A motion to move to Executive Session at 10:50am was made by Sarah and seconded by Britt. With all in favor, the motion passed, and the board went into Executive Session. At 11:02 am Britt made a motion to come out of Executive Session which was seconded by Sarah. With all in favor, the motion passed.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Sarah and seconded by Britt. With all in favor, the motion passed, and the board adjourned at 11:03 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Caitlin Lundin