



## Big Sky Chamber Board Meeting Minutes Tuesday, August 14, 2018 | 8:30am

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- Present:** Kevin Germain, Bill Simkins, Ken Lancey, David O'Connor, Greg Lisk and Britt Ide (Via phone for Executive Session only)
- Absent:** Scott Johnson, Brandon Bang
- Staff:** Candace Carr Strauss, Lori Wetzel, Caitlin Lundin, and RJ Klotz. Emilie McGee and Nicole Hom attended briefly to introduce themselves to the board.
- Public:** Carrie Bishop, Rainbow Ranch and Frank Acito, Yellowstone Club
- Call to Order:** 8:34am

### Public Comment

- Frank Acito attended the meeting to seek approval for his appointment to the board as a Yellowstone Club replacement after Sarah Phelps' resignation.
- Carrie Bishop, the General Manager of Rainbow Ranch, attended the meeting to introduce herself and to express interest in increasing her support and presence in the community.

### Approval of Minutes

- A motion to approve the July meeting minutes was made by Greg and seconded by Bill. With all in favor the motion passed.

### Finance Committee Report

- Regarding the revenue column for the Chamber budget, the initial number is lower than in previous years because the monies that come through for the CVB are now that Visit Big Sky is the fiscal sponsor for the MT Lodging Facility Use Tax monies.
- The Chamber shows negative income currently due to the lag on administrative reimbursement from Resort Tax for the VBS administrative expenses due via the management agreement.
- Lori and RJ are working on clearing out the outstanding accounts receivable. "Inactive" memberships have been cleared out and outstanding membership payments have been called to share the new and updated membership benefits with them.

### New Business

#### Board Appointment | Chair Discussion

- A motioned to approve the appointment of Frank Acito to the board on the recommendation of the Nominating Committee was made by David and seconded by Kevin. After a quick discussion on Frank's background as the new CFO at Yellowstone Club and his career in hospitality development and with HOAs, his nomination was approved with all in favor.

### Old Business – *How the Big Sky Chamber is working to ELEVATE BIG SKY 2023*

#### Advocacy: VOICE of Big Sky Business

- MT Chamber – Endorsement of Envision 2026  
Candace has not been able to speak with Webb Brown from the Montana Chamber to express the board's concerns about endorsing the *Envision 2026* plan.
- MT Infrastructure Coalition

The Chamber renewed its Montana Infrastructure Coalition Membership. The information provided during Legislative Session is invaluable.

- UofM – BBER’s 2019 Economic Outlook Seminars’ Theme: Affordable Housing  
For the 2018 BBER Economic Outlook Seminar, the Big Sky Chamber hosted a livestream of the event in Bozeman at the Lone Peak Cinema. For 2019, there is an opportunity to have the live event in Big Sky as part of the 9 city tour around the state. This year’s theme is Affordable Housing and we are at the center of that, but hosting comes with a three year commitment. We don’t know what the themes for the second two years will be. Tickets are \$90/pp which includes lunch (groups of 5+ receive a discount). Big Sky would then be represented in statewide marketing efforts. An additional sponsorship by the local market is required in the \$3,000 range potentially. Full details and the final costs of participation will be brought to the board at next month’s meeting.

### **Creating a Positive Business Climate**

- Montana Nonprofit Association (MNA) Board Trainings
- Through Candace’s past relationship with MNA, the Chamber will be bringing an MNA led Nonprofit Board Development training to Big Sky for existing board members from 8am-12noon on Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. All Big Sky Chamber Board members are encouraged to attend. In addition, a NextGen Board Development | YP Board Training will be offered from 4-6pm to Big Sky Chamber Young Professionals as a pilot workshop to assist MNA in developing their board training for Young Professionals looking to join nonprofit boards but who have no experience.

### **Local Governance Facilitation**

- Outcome of Dan Clark’s Presentation to Resort Tax Board  
The Resort Tax will host a strategic planning session on September 7<sup>th</sup> in order to help them evaluate their role in the community and whether that is one of a leader or a participant. Dan Clark recommended that they take on a leadership role after his research earlier in the year. The idea of a strategic plan for the community is an idea separate from the idea of local governance, but it is felt by some that the conversations are getting blended too often around incorporation. Issues over the course of the past year that needed a unified voice included the process to cite the NorthWestern Energy mid-mountain substation, sustainable water solutions committee forum, the most recent Resort Tax Allocations, etc. A community strategic plan and priorities to then guide funding is needed.
- Eggs & Issues/Joint County Commission Meeting: NEW DATE – Wed, Nov 14<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am-12:30pm  
We are working with Madison and Gallatin County to get approval of this date for Eggs & Issues and the Joint County Commission Meeting that will work for everyone. Dax Schieffer from Voices of MT Tourism has agreed to talk about the economic impact of tourism on our local and state economy which is a timely with the potential increase in the Bed Tax being looked at once again in the upcoming legislative session as a way to increase revenue to the general fund.

### **Encouraging Community Infrastructure Investment**

- Energy – Mid-mountain Substation: Rainham Site/ Low Profile Technology  
After several community meetings and discussions, the Rainham site has been selected as the mid-mountain substation location that NorthWestern Energy will use when applying for a conditional use permit. This site and the technology that they will use will be very non-intrusive. A motion to write a letter of support for this permit was made by David and seconded by Kevin. With all in favor, the motion passed. The Chamber would also like to send a letter of thanks to Bob Rowe and the team at NWE thanking them for their hard work and investment in our community.
- Telecommunications Task Force  
The last meeting had to be rescheduled so there are no updates.

- Sustainability – Vail 1<sup>st</sup> Mountain IDEAL Sustainable Destination per the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC)  
This is an FYI for the board to be familiar with as there are members of the Big Sky community who believe it should work toward this designation. The Gallatin River Taskforce and Montana Land Reliance had an intern for the summer who began research on this effort. Candace is scheduled to sit down with them in the month ahead.

#### **How YOU as a Big Sky Chamber Board Member Can Help**

- Big Sky Chamber “Fore-o-6 Golf Tournament” – Thursday, September 13, 2018  
We are working on selling the sponsorships and teams for this event and ask that the board help in spreading the word. The tournament is a membership recruitment event. It was shared that First Security Bank signed on as the event’s first ever Presenting Sponsor along with Bozeman Audi who will be offering the chance to win a new electric vehicle with a hole in one.
- SELL-SELL-SELL: Thank You Notes/Calls
- We also ask the board for their help with our prospect list for businesses that should be the focus of a membership drive for the \$1,500 level. Do you as a board member have and insights or contacts in these businesses that you can give us.

#### **Staff Report**

- Membership Update – 10 new members / 3 dropped in the past month, but nothing alarming on our end. Accounts receivable is down 50%.
- Skyline’s request for a budget of \$100,000 is being examined by the Gallatin County Commissioners with the possibility of them not funding it. A motion to write a letter of support for the Skyline Bus System was made by Ken and seconded by David. The idea of needing more letters written in support of the bus from our community was discussed. With all in favor, the motion passed.

#### **Executive Session**

A motion to move to Executive Session at 9:43 am was made by David and seconded by Kevin. With all in favor, the motion passed, and the board went into Executive Session. At 10:15 am Ken made a motion to come out of Executive Session which was seconded by Kevin. With all in favor, the motion passed.

A motion to nominate Scott Johnson as the Chair of the Board pending his formal acceptance of the role was made by Kevin which was seconded by Frank. Scott was unable to attend this meeting but had expressed his interest in the chair position in writing to other board members prior to this discussion. With all in favor, the motion passed.

#### **Non-Agenda Items**

The Board noticed Geyser Whitewater putting into the Gallatin River with rafters from The Corner Property parking lot. The landlord gave permission to Geyser to do so. To safeguard the Big Sky Chamber and VBS, Candace asked the question about liability issues should there be a for example a car accident with people coming into the Visitor Information Center and/or rafters, and the Board said it was not an issue of concern. The landlord and vendor would be responsible so no action was needed.

#### **Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by Kevin and seconded by Ken. With all in favor, the motion passed, and the board adjourned at 10:26 am.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Caitlin Lundin