

Economic Recovery Team

Meeting Date: 09/22/2020 10-11AM

**Short Term Economic Recovery:**

 Deanne: Update, fall of 2020 should be busier than 2019. Statistics with extended stays at hotels is about double from pre-COVID. People are on the road travelling and staying longer. Expecting this kind of reaction to be the same for next summer. Hoping for the VISA program to be reinstated by next summer, bringing workers back into town so businesses can operate at more of a full capacity. Chamber will be putting together more data and statistics by the end of summer. CO Tourism board states historical locations were the #1 location for destination travelers. SWCO was getting high exposure, including the filming of employee’s picks, train, Ice Lakes, and Hwy 550. Workshops would be delayed from SWCOCBC, and they have been working one-on-one with businesses instead.

 Jim: 2018 Grand Imperial received a Historic Preservation award from the Governor. Helped bring attention to Silverton and attention to our area.

 Shane: Says we need to work hard to prepare for next summer and better manage some of the issues we had this summer. Concern about damage in the backcountry, wanting to be proactive this winter to prevent more of the same next summer.

 Kim W: Many opportunities coming up to create structures to go into next summer. They’re looking at a long-term issue regarding food and housing assistance. Received 100,000 grant, will hire a bi-lingual COVID educator to communicate and manage while contact tracing etc. 2-year part-time position. Three licensed counselors for mental health impact. Parents who miss work while kids aren’t able to be in school – they will provide assistance if the parents have to miss over a week of work due to COVID. Separate from Becky’s position, another for community relief liaison, 10hrs a week to manage the rent, food, and communications programs. To fund this for the next 2 years and perhaps a longer role with OEM over time. Now that they are back in school, they see how critically important childcare is for our community. Needs to go into the long-term economic piece, because parents have been struggling.

 Laura: Introduces MJ Carroll, Region 9 received funds for disaster assistance and recovery. She’s with SWCODA, with OEM, PH, and economic recovery. Showed us the SJC Landing page, we can change and update with them to be a center for resources. Lots of options for how we can use it. Will meet with Lisa, Deanne, and Heather about possible use.

**Long Term Economic Recovery:**

 Lisa: Travel management plan has been released on the trails project. SJC already approved their part in 2019, but they were waiting on BLM. Silverton Singletrack has been holding off until they had approval, but now will start moving. Looking at next summer beginning to build new trails. To attract different audiences to our community. One in Baker’s park, and they will allow Class 1 e-bikes on that trail. No throttle, that won’t be degrading the trails quickly and they’ll plan ahead for bike and e-bike use. BLM approved a 1.5 connector in Minnie Gulch for motorized single track. Scott F was against this decision as well as the county commissioners, which the BLM denied and ignored. Also, he is concerned about the e-bike approval. Shane feels that enabling beg/intermediate users can misalign with our community values. Aiming toward a upper echelon skillset would bring more to our community, avoiding user conflict.

 Much conversation about identifying the community’s vision, goals, and objectives and how to keep them in line with the local perspective.

**Opportunities Zone Perspective:**

 Lisa: Expecting copies of their work to be around by the end of the week, and a graphic of their plans by the end of the month. Anyone who’s interest to give review and feedback, let her know.