

Economic Recovery Team

Meeting Date: 10/27/2020 10-11AM

Public Meeting

**Short Term Economic Recovery:**

**Summer recap:**

Willy: feeling good about how everything turned out despite COVID. Our restaurants using the street locations was successful. Our Emergency Management Team was quick to respond and did well at the beginning of the pandemic.

Deanne: October may have been a record month. All the way until Ice Fire began. Hotels full and buying locally was utilized by the fire teams as well. Cannot become complacent, winter is coming, and we’ll need to keep up our diligence. John, upped projections for October, and we far succeeded those numbers. Becky is working to keep our COVID reporting accurate.

John R.: Thanks to the ERT team for the fire, Jim, Bruce, Becky, Deanne, etc. We took a proactive stance by closing the town for 2 months, and we have proven that doing so got us ahead of the rest of the state. Our closure, the food banks, the diligence all worked in our benefits. The way our community came together, the grants we were able to obtain, we bought 42,000 masks plus sanitizer to help protect our community. Eliminating the excuse of not having or getting a mask, helped keep COVID at bay. Consider street scaping in the future with how successful they were regardless if COVID still lingers. Great way that we completed high school graduation with a parade and kids riding the ladder truck.

Becky: Happy with our success so far but is concerned about the fall and what is yet to come.

Kim: Some of the successes this summer were from people getting ready for disasters over the past 10 years. Something we need to continue to prepare for future problems too.

**Areas for Improvement:**

Willy/Scott: Lack of employees was the biggest issue this summer. For example, Fetch’s had double the business with half the employees. Brings up the housing issue and finding housing/rentals for workforce. Difficulty with daycare. People work ½-¾ of their day just to pay for their daycare, plus their closure this year. Mask issues, people who get ugly. Political stress from visitors who come from different beliefs and made it hard to deal with them. The trails and backcountry were over utilized. With the Ice Fire, Ice Lakes is much less of an issue right now, but its possible we need to go to a RSVP system for both Ice Lakes and South Mineral Campground. 350-385k vehicles on the Alpine Loop. Sheriff’s department were busy with town issues and understaffed leaving the trails to the visitors. No mag chloride for budget but dust this year was outrageous. No monsoons made it much worse. Public bathroom problems on Greene Street.

Shane: There’s part of our community focused on tourism, but there’s much more focused on the remote sustainable members. Feels we need to see how to support the residents equally as the tourists.

 John: Also need to include and support our senior population as well. And don’t let your guard down.

Deanne: Communication needs to be better with the senior and Spanish speaking population. They do have the new resource and employee for this purpose, but its working. The visitor center is a physical hub for emergency communication. Getting that communication out they need to improve. Symbols/signage important to draw the attention of visitors. She’ll work on making a template for communication plan too.

 Becky would still like to put together a community mask for handing out. Also, she it thankful for the support her department has been given from the commissioners, the town, everybody.

Kim: Workloads are extremely high, even now, with the volunteers and everyone is still responding to the COVID pandemic.

**2020-2021 Winter Season:**

Willy numbers are bumping up with COVID, we may be in for a bumpy ride.

Andy: State ski area specific guidance with 2 step approval process including the PH department and the State COPHD. Silverton Mtn helped drafting the guidance the state is using. They are putting together a plan that meets or exceeds the state guidance. Closing tent, check-in outdoors, suspend liquor sales, mask requirements in public spaces, measure related to isolation for symptoms, screening of the base every day with thermometers, screening of guests before they show up/are admitted. Very protected and all-encompassing plan. Shuttle bus will be reduced capacity, regardless if a group has to wait for the rest of their group. Also distancing on the bus from the front area and the staff.

Lisa: Kendall – Base lodge and restrooms closed, no rentals, only online sales, season pass holders can have reservation free skiing and make reservations for non-season pass holders. Limiting and spacing lift lines. Pricing out ecommerce piece for ticket and rsvp sales. They will be open, but different than previous seasons. Anticipating much larger crowds this winter & recreation. New groomer will assist in keeping trails ready for visitors also.

Becky: Our area and terrain is set up for success. Biggest problem they see is when the staff do things like fraternize together or don’t protect each other, passing the virus between them and taking out the whole work crew.

Willy: Even if there is a vaccine, it could be 3rd quarter 2021 before they have some normalcy. Mask/social distancing will need to stay vigilant.

Jim: Train is healthy and working hard to get locomotive ready for May 1 opening in spring. Diesel – 2 are already ready to go. They will be able to pull 7-9 cars, but it will be the best way for them to traverse the valley with dry spells and be vigilant. Now running at 50% about 700-1000 passengers. They are losing a lot of money at those numbers, so it is not sustainable. Working with the governor’s office to up their ability to make it possible to operate at higher capacity. Bridge is repaired and ready to operate and the USFS allowed them to do some more fire mitigation.

 Willy considers working with GOCO to work on trails down there too.

 **Other:**

 CO Relief Fund:

Kim: Silverton groups received 100k for food support through the collaborative grant. 100-200k is what she thinks we should go out for again. Partnership between Chamber/KMRA/Silverton Mtn for 100k for employee support when they’re sick, changes for COVID this winter. Then the county + a couple other partners could propose for another 100k to attempt to fix the issues like bathrooms on Greene, replenishing backstock, expanded impact – workforce housing. School/PH/Town are out of it, but with some thought they can partner together and try. Time sensitive – needs to happen by early November. Can’t be used for construction. Can be used to study impacts/ information gathering from the impact of visitors.

 Kim: Still putting the rest of their money from the first 100k they received into supporting families who have to stay home with sick kids, rent assistance, and food assistance. They have a group checking in to ensure they’re spending where it’s needed the most. She will put together a zoom meeting just for planning for this next week.

 Quality of Life Survey:

 Scott wants to hear what the community wants. Lisa confirms that they have not disseminated the data received in those surveys yet. Shane is on the committee. He says they are getting state forecasting and Lisa A. to learn where we’ve been in the past. Did a training with CO DOLA to direct them in moving forward. Next meeting of the Master Plan Committee is to talk about scope. He believes the QOL information will go to the public for feedback just like the master planning process.

 Daycare:

 Darlene: Problem with the daycare. Wants to see if there is a way for the town/grants to support daycare for employees. When kids don’t have daycare, parents aren’t at work. Big problem. Willy considers there may be funds in one of the grants to assist this.

 Ready Grants:

 Town: John, funds will pay for an employee/executive director for SJDA. They are deciding which way is best to best gain support there. 15-18 months of pay. Need this position to bring businesses back to town, new and year-round economies, determine Silverton’s needs.

 County: Willy 133k in partnership with MSI to do a business plan to create a sustainable innovation and technology center. To bring in professional assistance and get this facility on the ground. Could bring in jobs and be very positive thing for our area.