

GRAND COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes * January 19, 2015
Mountain Parks Electric Board Room - Granby

Board Members Present: Jim Cervenka; Scott Ledin; Jeff Johnston; Mike Loomis; Jennifer Brown; Gary Bumgarner; Gigi Dominguez; Tim Nicklas

Guest: Steph Wall

Staff Present: DiAnn Butler; Larry Banman

New Advisory Committee Members

Gigi Dominguez and Tim Nicklas were introduced as new members of the Advisory Committee. Gigi, owner of Alpine Sun Ski & Sport in Winter Park replaced David Peterson and Tim, Executive Director of the Grand County Historical Association, replaced Joe Pandey. The other new member on the advisory committee, Jeff Miller, replaced Diane Hickman. Miller owns Red Mountain RV Park in Kremmling.

Grand County Economic Development Action Plan

DiAnn reviewed the Grand County Economic Development Action Plan for 2016.

The Disney Way Culture of Customer Centric Training Series

DiAnn indicated the plan is to bring two weeks of training to Grand Lake in the spring and another two weeks of training in the fall. There will be two sessions during each of those two weeks of training, with the possibility of specialized one-day trainings and/or keynote addresses by Bill Capodagli. Currently the price for Grand County residents is \$250 per session. The new Disney Way book, which mentions the progress made with the Grand Lake Center, sold 550 books in the first week of pre-sales. DiAnn is working with the Colorado Office of Economic Development as a potential partner for The Disney Way training.

VISTA Internship

There is a possibility that, with the help of Downtown Colorado Inc., Grand County will be the beneficiary of an Americorps VISTA employee. DiAnn said the plan, at this time, is to have that employee work primarily on Economic Development for the Health Industry Sector of Grand County. The primary focus would be to identify services in the county that may be under-utilized and educate and promote those services to county residents. A secondary focus could be to help collaborate an effort to develop a campus in conjunction with the Middle Park Medical Center in Granby to provide centralized health services.

Grand Enterprise Initiative

This business counseling service that is provided by Patrick Brower is supported by Grand County with a \$45,000 block grant. DiAnn estimated that to be about half of his total budget.

Northwest Colorado Revolving Loan Fund

Anita Cameron, the director for this loan fund, has overseen six successful business loan applications in Grand County.

Communication Reinvention Program

The Office of Economic Development is looking to secure \$18,000 in grant funding with a Rural Business Enterprise Grant from the USDA. Adding that to \$9,000 from DiAnn's budget would provide funding to have 18 businesses participate in a Destination Bootcamp in the fall of 2016. Gigi and Jennifer both attested to the value of the program in their personal businesses.

Youth Engagement

DiAnn continues to work with the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship in Nebraska to develop this program. At this time, it appears the only offering in 2016 may be the junior high entrepreneurship camp.

Economic Development Assistance Grant

DiAnn is working with Tara Hosick from Climax Molybdenum and Rachel Lunney with the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments on securing an EDA grant to start developing an economic development plan in response to the reduction in production at the Henderson Mine/Mill and in anticipation of a closure of that facility in the next 3-5 years.

Broadband Initiative

DiAnn updated the Advisory Committee on a couple of meetings held recently regarding the provision of Broadband services in the county and, specifically, how to access the CAFS II funding that has been given by the federal government to Century Link to address underserved areas. In summary, the committee members wanted to know what has been done to communicate to Century Link which areas in the county are underserved. Frustration was expressed that the process seems to be getting bogged down by items like the definition of "underserved" and the role that Grand County Government should be serving in the process. Frustration was also expressed about the role of the Advisory Committee and how to most effectively communicate to the county commissioners what the committee sees as the economic development issues that should be addressed.

The accomplishments of DiAnn and Larry were noted and appreciated. The programs that have been started are valued and are being operated effectively by staff. Several committee members indicated the best value for the committee may be to identify broader issues like transportation, broadband and affordable housing and to then press the commissioners for action on those items.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for February 16 at 5 p.m. at the Mountain Parks Electric Board Room.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.