

Economic Recovery Committee Meeting

May 22, 2020

10:00 am-12 pm

In attendance: Carrie Andrew, Anton Benitez, Richard Betts, Mike Bordogna, Todd Brown, Barbara Bynum, Dan Caton, Pete DeLuca, Dirk DePagter, John Duncan, Ray Farnsworth, Grace Franklin, Kate Jones, Ross Herzog, Kris Holstrom, Wendy J. Hampton, Dan Jansen, Bill Jensen, Larry Mallard, Michael Martelon, Kim Montgomery, Kieffer Parrino, Matt Skinner, Sean Stogner, Bonnie Watson, David Averill, Landon Ogilvie, Meehan Fee, and Courtney McClary and public

- Welcome from Bill Jensen
- New Industry Representatives
- COVID update & Commissioner & Town Meetings
 - Mike Bordogna:
 - Welcoming visitors back at limited capacity on June 1 after 'safer at home' order ends
 - 360 hand sanitizers and 21 thousand disposable mask have been donated and are being distributed throughout the town in hopes to help safely re-open businesses.
 - High country passes are still closed but clearing of snow has begun.
 - Working with Telluride Arts to make visually appealing signage with messaging.
 - Transitioning from emergency messaging to long term recovery messaging.
 - Friday- business lending discussion talking about low interest loans for business communities and how we can assist businesses
 - The rights mesa recovery group- meets Tuesdays on zoom. Look on Norwood town website for details.
- Jurisdictional Updates
 - Town of Telluride-Todd Brown
 - Town Council will discuss providing additional outdoor space for retail and restaurants at Tuesday's special meeting.
 - Waiting on state liquor licensing information.
 - Mountain Village- Dan Caton
 - Gondola was open for graduation
 - Yesterday additional furniture for the plaza was ordered
 - Everything should be in place by first week of July
 - Ordering umbrella heaters next week
 - Delivery assistance- in contact with Postmates
 - Currently distributing PPE to businesses, face masks and info on how to order more on their own.
 - Montrose- Barbara Bynum

- Opening restaurants, gyms, and churches at 30% capacity
- Everything else in Montrose is following state guidelines.
- Movie theatres closed except the drive in.
- Probably cancelling 4th of July but no set plan yet.
- Montrose hospital: currently have a lot of capacity. No COVID positive cases in the hospital for almost a week. The extra 30 beds set up at the school have never been used.
- Montrose Battelle System Facility to clean N95 masks is ready. For more info visit: battelle.org
- Norwood Mayor- Kieffer Parrino
 - County has stayed in alliance with the state.
- Norwood Chamber- Carrie Andrew
 - Encouraging our folks to spend their money in rights mesa.
- County- Kris Holstrom
 - Telluride farmer's market will start June 5th and only have food and medicine vendors. Working on social distancing protocols and limiting numbers.
 - Mountain Village Famer's Market will open 3rd week of June.
- Mike and Bill: Not bringing in a 2nd homeowner representative because they are part of the community not an industry.
- Industry Segment Updates
 - Lodging Update- Larry
 - Group of lodgers (33/34) working on a proposal for 5 weeks. Presenting it to county commissioners today.
 - Hotels are currently closed to public- using facilities for 14-day quarantine for anyone who left the county and came back or visitors/2nd homeowners.
 - Hoping for relaxation on private property rentals ordinances.
 - Requesting to open up on June 1 to start training staff on new practices at limited capacity.
 - Pushing consistent messaging.
 - Let's get all housekeepers trained and certified.
 - Restaurant Update- Ray Farnsworth
 - To-go food seems to be going well and slightly profitable for some.
 - Strongly support outdoor seating.
 - Cleaning, disinfecting, seating design.
 - Retail Update- Wendy Basham
 - Emphasized we need guests to survive.
 - Weddings- Wendy Hampton
 - Drafted a letter to send to all clients for 2020.
 - Wedding industry is wiped out for this season. Maybe a few elopements but nothing else.
 - Arts Community- Kate Jones

- Artist designed public service announcements to get county messaging out. 5 visual artists commissioned for this first round and 1 performing arts piece for social.
- Ambient arts- instead of bringing big crowds, bring the art.
- Working on getting money to musicians and getting musicians on our stages not to draw crowds but to get music and arts to the people.
- Discussion of art booths around town to offset the lack of arts at the Farmer's Market.
- Outdoor Activities- John Duncan
 - Focused on training guides on guide protocols to keep guides and customers safe.
 - Putting together a letter to guests explaining all precautions and new ways.
 - Not getting any direction from the state which is frustrating.
- Events-Meehan Fee
 - Sending out letters to relay messaging and informing clients- information will be similar to restaurants and lodging.
 - We want to make sure it's a joyous experience because these are the people that come back to visit and/or buy homes.
- Festivals- Courtney McClary
 - Jazz and Blues and Brews are not yet cancelled.
 - Film Festival is waiting for updated numbers to see how they can proceed.
- Public Transportation- David Averill
 - Running at ½ or ¼ capacity for all transportation depending on size of bus.
- Private Transportation-Landon
 - Taking temperatures for all drivers since beginning of march
- Retail and rental-Sean Stogner
 - SOP is being reviewed by health department today.
 - Safety and sanitary procedures for rentals.
 - With festivals being cancelled we will see an increase in activities but main concern is safety to employees and guests.
- Air- Matt Skinner
 - Denver Air Connection will start up in June into TEX 3x a week.
 - Airlines have started to see an uptick on reservations.
 - Recognize the important of drive market.
 - Expect a bump in private air.
 - Winter schedule is live.
- Grace Franklin
 - States protocol will determine how SMC moves forward
 - 22 confirmed positive COVID cases since beginning
 - No major effects from loosening orders but there is a lag in data of about 2 to 3 weeks.

- We need to make small steps forward but hold safety as top priority
 - We have received feedback that 14-day quarantine is no longer reasonable so I think is reasonable so we will consider removing this in upcoming PHO
 - Group sizes most likely WILL NOT go above 50-75 people for duration of summer. The next step could be allowing groups of 25.
- Mike Bordogna
 - Montrose Hospital has good capacity but we still need to consider that we have a lot of elderly people in our population
 - Grace's power point presentation with health data is on SMC website
- Richard Betts
 - Tents in front of med center act as a respiratory unit. This works in summer but presents challenges in winter. We are looking at alternative for winter.
 - Antibody testing is now available that gives results in 20 min time frame. It's a finger prick test. This could possibly be incorporated into testing regimen for businesses.
 - PCR-saliva test or nose swab has a 3-day turnaround time. Rapid testing is much quicker but only 80% accurate. Combination of the two is being considered.
- Dirk DePagter
 - We need a clear understanding of what SMC regulations are for our guests and second homeowners.
 - Please clearly outline how SMC regulations differ from the states
 - Give industry groups as much notice as possible
 - What is determining factor for restaurant capacity-social distancing or group gathering limitations?
- Grace Franklin
 - Capacity vs. group size is currently unclear per state restaurant guideline right now. decision will be made on Monday.
 - There will be a tab on the SMC website that outlines what protocol guests need to follow while visiting
 - SMC guidelines will match states as closely as possible

Public Comment

Bob Franzese (Black Bear Trading/Turquoise Gallery)

- Opposed to publicly funded organization like Telluride Arts competing with a private business

Mike Bordogna

Telluride Arts is only assisting with public signage and PSA's so there should be no conflict with a private business

Kate Jones

Aware of Bobs concerns with Telluride Arts being a competitor but do not view Telluride Arts as a competitor. Other galleries do not share this view. Telluride Arts tries to support artists at all levels in careers so they become successful and are represented by galleries.

Doug Tuelle

- 2nd homeowners should be welcomed to the area and then move to short term rentals
- There are reports of dispersed camping in the area. USFS should shut down dispersed camping and encourage guests to use established camp grounds in West End

Mike Bordogna

- We have been in contact with USFS to get campgrounds open in compliance with state
- There will be a letter signed by mayors of both town and county commissioners in Sunday's paper welcoming 2nd homeowners