

ATTRACTING BUSINESSES

August 17, 2017

Present:

Drew Dawson	Jim Heikes
Dee Anna	Mary Rochelle
Andrea Dolezal	Catherine Willemarck
Tom Harrington	Aimee Lagerquist
Jim Heikes	Dee Anna

Next Meeting: September 21, 2016, Boulder City Hall

Following discussion, the committee agreed the following are among the important priorities to attract new business to Boulder:

- Beautification of the city – main street and throughout the community
- Hotel/motel facilities. Because of the proximity to Butte and Helena, Boulder could be a primary convention location, but that would be dependent on additional lodging facilities
- Tax incentives to attract new business – or perhaps to keep existing businesses
- Streamlined local government paperwork processes for new businesses – to clearly delineate requirements and to comply with them. The paperwork should be coordinated between the city and county, should be specific to the industry and should not be redundant. And, there should be an enhanced attitude of customer service toward new businesses
- A microbrewery, combined with local growing of hops, would be an excellent local business and a great way of attracting other businesses
- Additional family housing
- High speed internet

- Paved roads/sidewalks and curbs
- City infrastructure (roads, water and sewer) to all incorporated areas.

The committee felt that an **inventory of existing vacant buildings** would be useful information to businesses interested in locating in Boulder. There was continued discussion of **value added** agriculture including beef production in Boulder and other utilization of locally produced materials.

Tom Harrington mentioned that the trip to Phillipsburg will be on September 27th. This generated discussion of having trips to Elkhorn or patterning some of Boulder after Elkhorn...bringing Elkhorn downtown. The potential of having trips, originating in Boulder, to other historical sites in the area was discussed. This might include other area ghost towns, the Hot Springs and other attractions. The Heritage Center may have some ideas. The idea of Boulder being a “hub” for day trips to other areas was discussed by the marketing committee also.

Aimee reported on some of the services and facilities available at the Fairgrounds including camping and the potential of restoring the train. She will provide more detailed information on camping that can be included on the WEB data that is now being gathered about Boulder businesses.

There were no volunteers to serve as committee chairperson.

The next committee meeting will be on September 21 at 6:30 pm at the Boulder City Hall. At the next meeting, we will agree on one or two priorities on which the committee will focus its attention for the immediate future. This may evolve after the Master Plan is finalized and the Resource Assessment is completed.