

Attracting Business Study Group

Initial Meeting-May 10, 2016

Present: Jan Anderson, Dee Anna, Drew Dawson, Jim Heikes, Cory Kirsch, Aimee Lagerquist, Andrea Lagerquist, Linda Norden, Sabrina Steketee

Not Present: Sally Buckles, Sarah Layng, Ericka Morris, Catherine

Minutes:

1. Future Meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM at City Hall (first choice) or County Courthouse (second choice). Next meeting is June 15, 2016 at 6:30 PM at Boulder City Hall.
2. Sabrina S. will look into the Business Friendly Communities/Department of Commerce/Secretary of State to help gather information on how other rural communities develop and grow and if there are any tools or resources available
3. Drew D. will contact the Department of Agriculture w/Tom Harrington in regard to gathering information and possible future presentation to groups. Discussion on the various options and concerns regarding all of the various possibilities that a meat processing plant could bring ensued. It was decided that we would need more information presented from Department of Agriculture before we began brainstorming or eliminating ideas.
4. Andrea D. will contact the City of Boulder to get a copy of the requirements need to begin a new business in Boulder as well as other city ordinances (in regard to zoning/beautification)
5. Shirley Beck from Phillipsburg was instrumental in spearheading the growth in tourism in Phillipsburg. The marketing study group is looking into contact information and to determine if she can come and visit with our groups.
6. Areas that are already here that could be further discussed/developed for tours or historical destinations: Town of Elkhorn, Town of Comet, Hot Springs. Contact would need to be made with the Heritage Center for accurate information.
7. Weddings at the Jefferson County Recreation Park are reserved about a year out. One area of concern is enough local hospitality (hotel) services. Many of the "over-flow" guests drive to Helena or Butte taking- their business and money with them and out of our local economy. Discussion on hotel/motel occurred.
8. Dee Anna and Jim Heikes presented the idea that they would like to form a volunteer group of residents that would go to each business and discuss different needs (small projects) that the volunteer group could maybe help initiate and help complete. For example: fix up the front of a building, plant flowers, etc. They will also contact the Department of Transportation to determine what is and is not acceptable to put on our Main Street (Montana Highway 69) per state requirements.
9. Signage into and out of Boulder was also discussed. Examples were given in reference to the signage that is erected in Miles City, Montana. It is made out of metal, so the maintenance and upkeep appears minimal.
10. All members are asked to think about why businesses DO NOT COME to Boulder or DO NOT WANT to come to Boulder before the next meeting.