

Salida Business Alliance Minutes

9.2.21

Attendance

Allie Stevens	Monarch Mountain	Nicole Balaun	Su casa
Miriam Lina Gonzales	City of salida	Adriane Kuhn	Little Red Tricycle
Angel Rowel	Discovery Pass	Michael Varnum	City of Salida
Vickie Sue Vigil	Mountain Mail	Donna Cole	Kal Toys
Jeanne Herrick-Stare	Sunrise Rotary	Marilyn Laverty	Community Center

Start Time: 8:35

- Angel: Let's call the meeting to order. Lucky ducky race was super successful.
- Jeanne: \$11,500 for scholarships and more for community grants. There were 16 community booths for non-profits. They covered all sorts of organizations. Monarch Community Outreach was there, nicest people!
- Angel: Miriam do you want to give an updated from the city?
- Miriam: We're working on the application for Open Doors, which will place folks in open rooms around the county. It's coming along really well and were hoping to bring it to council. \$2 mil grant for Oak Street for repairs. Sonia's Garden and the skate park opened. Lots of kids at the skate park.
- Michael: There is a school crossing and sidewalks. We just purchased land over there for a new fire station and were hoping the old building will become an artist space. We had a government meeting about the city's climate action plan. The opening of the plaza/F street will be the Monday after Halloween.
- Angel: F street is getting a little grimy, so we're looking into power washing.
- Nicole: I thought the city does that in the spring or fall?
- Angel: I think they may have an employee shortage so they may have to contract it out. Hopefully, that happen sooner than later.
- Michael: They are working on a plan for the old skate park. They hired an architect and will have a public meeting to discuss. They want to build some kind of gateway to that area. They set up different goals which would include a performance space. There are people saying they want to keep the park that was claimed to be in "disrepair."
- Lori: Good morning, two things. Brewers Rendezvous is happening and going well on Oct 2nd. Working on a cancellation policy just in case. This is a 21+ event. Focused on safety. All volunteers are vaccinated. 1200 people. We will refund tickets if event is cancelled. I had a meeting with the guild, and there are some beer events that are cancelling last minute. Those are primary indoor events. We have worked really hard to promote a safe and fun event. Second, we're switching up Business after hours on Thursday Sep 16 from 5-7 (\$7). It will be at Split Happens. We'll be doing ribbon cuttings at BAH. Hopefully, we get a good turn out and people like the changes. Our membership stayed relatively consistent through the pandemic.
- Michael: The Vaqueros have been having a hard time finding places to host BAH. The other reason for the Brewers tickets is that we think people aren't buying because they are afraid we'll cancel.
- Angel: We're doing the e-waste event on September 11th and if you're interested in volunteering for a 2-hour shift, let me know. This is small appliances only at the fairgrounds. GARNA turned our signage in Spanish. I anticipate it moving a lot smoother than last time. Calendars are in! Ornaments are on their way. Being delivered to Su Casa. Let's talk about Halloween. We have these flyers to put in your window if they are participating.
- Marilyn: Khen is doing their party at the Steamplant.
- Donna: What is the official time?
- Angel: Does 4-6 feel right?
- Addrian: I've seen little kids, not school ages out earlier, maybe we should do 3-5?
- VS: The thriller dance usually doesn't start until dark.
- Angel: Lets change it to 3-5pm.
- Nicole: Let's get a digital copy out there.
- Adriane: I'd like to talk about getting more business involved.
- Angel: Some of it comes down to bandwidth, what are we putting our attention and time into and what should we focus on.
- Adriane: I talked to people at Free the Monkey and they weren't sure what this group was all about. We should try to get business more involved.

Angel: I love having the street closed for Halloween.

Donna: We have to consider who is going to organize it.

Adriene: It seem like Halloween might be a good time to welcome locals back downtown.

Angel: Maybe there is another organization that may want to pick it up.

Marylin: There are some people who decorate and we can get people involved.

Angel: We did give that a go for Christmas.

VS: Parade of lights is a go for the parade with social distancing messaging. As far as Santa: no Santa house. The house is so small, and children are not vaccinated. No party at the Steamplant. They want us to avoid inside congregation. No hot cholcolate from Rotary. We have a white newspaper box and we can encourage letters from Santa. Her idea is to have Santa on stage behind plexiglass. There are still tons of unknowns.

Angel: Can we put Santa on the firetruck and have him wave? OR maybe his driving around at different times.

VS: Santa and children is a public health nightmare.

Michael: I think the truck should just take him back to the station and be gone.

Adriane: Can we base it off what the school is doing?

VS: I think Andrea is open.

Angel: Becky Grey from chaffee county housing authority is presenting to Poncha springs to use the fairgrounds as a temporary housing RV space. They are looking for our support. Do we want to stand up and say we support? I tossed out the idea of using this as trial for the new units. They have to be employed in the county.

Michael: We have more than an employee housing problem. We also have an issue with people that don't have homes at all. We have a number of restaurants closing because of workforce issues.

Nicole: We should be sensitive to business closing by choice, or by force.

Marilyn: I'm a volunteer here at the community center. I've been documenting what they've been doing and how much it cost. This facility cost \$50,000 just to open the door. There are 5 full time volunteers to run the programs. This is a \$500,000 operation and so we should probably look at grants to employ these people. As a center we do good work, and this is the first time the board is telling me their story and it's over whelming. I'm planning on writing these grants. The need is there.

Angel: Let's adjourn.

End: 9:43