

Salida Business Alliance Minutes 10-7-21

Attendance:

Vickie Sue Vigil	Mountain Mail	Nicole Balaun	Su Casa
Donna Cole	Kaleidoscope Toys	Ami Hooper	Dandelion Creative Srv
Bob & Katie Grether	The Mixing Bowl	Mandy Paschall	School Board Candidate
Brooke Gilmore	Ark Valley Voice	Jodi Breckenridge Petit	School Board Candidate
Jeanne Herrick Stare	Salida Sunrise Rotary	Scarlett Massine	Rotary Club of Salida
Lori Roberts	Salida Chamber		

Start Time: 8:35am

Vickie Sue: Called the meeting to order and said she will be leading the meeting while Angel is gone to Minnesota

Vickie Sue: Update on Parade of Lights – parade, fireworks and Holiday Park will all be happening on the Friday after Thanksgiving, November 26. Santa will be on the firetruck in the parade, but he will not greet the children after the parade. He will not be at Santa’s house at all during the holidays, but he may walk around downtown on weekends in December. Allie is creating a background scene to be placed on the stage at Riverside Park for families to do a photo op. There will be a mailbox in which the kids can leave their letters to Santa. We are requesting approximately \$500 to \$1000 from the SBA budget to pay for Parade of Lights and these other items for the holidays. Scarlett made a motion to approve this expenditure, Katie Grether seconded the motion and it was approved by the membership.

Ami Hooper: Owns Dandelion Creative Services in Villa Grove, a marketing and graphic design company. She has been in contact with Deborah Fields and wanted to check out our organization. She has lots of printing and graphic design experience. She will talk to the Mountain Mail to do an article about her business.

Mandy Paschall: She’s running for a seat on the Salida School Board. She has 3 kids in school and does not work outside the home. She has been a member of the accountability committee. Her background is in nursing. She’s lived in Salida 3 years and believes in quality education. There are a total of 7 school board members and 6 need to be filled. Two seats are unopposed and 1 seat has no candidate running so the board will have to appoint someone. All Salida residents will vote for candidates in all the districts, no matter which district they live in.

Jodi Breckenridge Petit: She is the current Vice President of the School Board. She has three adult boys. She believes in person instruction is best for the kids, parents and businesses. She has worked with CMC to offer more trades and certificate programs through the high school. They are getting grants for equipment for CNA and welding programs. She has a broad vision and is in it for the long run. She has been working on good contracts for all employees and how to increase salaries. There are budget issues including Tabor limits and the state is trying to have local governments provide more of the funding. Chaffee County will have a 1 mil increase on property tax to fund schools. They do provide good health insurance, personal days, retirement and counseling. Enrollment is up over last year. The middle school needs more room which might be handled by moving some students to Crest Academy or the Montessori school. Poncha Springs is growing so they are looking at purchasing land to possibly build a school. Workforce housing is another big problem they are working on and they are looking at putting some kind of housing on the property adjacent to the Don’t Go Nuts property.

Scarlett: Asked if it was possible to use some of the marijuana tax money for teacher salaries. That money is used for specific purposes and teacher salaries is not one of them.

Lori: The Chamber hosted a luncheon for Governor Polis on September 24 at the new skate park. He wanted to see the skate park and the pool. Several school board members were there and thought it was a good round table meeting. Derek Scott, a professional skateboarder, performed for the governor and then lots of kids swarmed the skatepark.

Brewers Rend was successful, sold out 1200 tickets and 120 Previous tickets. They are going to try to do the event in the fall again next year, but the Guild has other events in the fall. The Chamber applied to do Wine Fest on Aug 13 next year, in conjunction with Jazz Fest.

Katie Grether: They have hearing from lots of residents that they would prefer F Street open before Halloween. Vickie Sue indicated that it is a City decision, so they will talk to the City Administrator. Lori from the Chamber has been hearing similar complaints. Katie also mentioned that Starpoint need employees and a director. The facility is not open to consumers now because they don't have enough help.

Nicole: Su Casa will be hosting the drive thru food drive on November 13 from 11am to 1pm at the intersection of 3rd and F. The food goes to the Presbyterian Church. You can drop off food at Su Casa anytime the week before. Their new slogan is "helping is so easy".

Pumpkin Patch is October 8-10 and 15-17 at Hutchison Homestead. You have to make reservations online.

Posters are available at the Mountain Mail to invite trick or treaters to your business on Halloween from 3-5pm. Nobody knew if Thriller is going to be performed again this year on F Street.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30am