

**GREATER RIFLE IMPROVEMENT TEAM  
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

Tuesday May 12, 2020

\*Noon\* City Hall Conference Room

A regular meeting of the GRIT advisory board, held remotely utilizing video call, is called to order at 12:05 p.m.

**Present at Roll Call:** Garrick Frontella, Helen Rogers, Evin Sartin, Tanya Doose, Samm Young.

**Also Present:** Kim Burner, Quiriat Portuguez, and Katie Mackley.

Kristine Llacuna arrives late.

APRIL'S MINUTES: Helen Rogers motions to approve the minutes from April and Tanya Doose seconds the motion. The motion carries and the minutes from April are approved.

Partner Group Updates:

**EDC-**

Katie Mackley speaks for the EDC, which is currently working on an emergency revolving loan program in partnership with GRIT and the City of Rifle to help small businesses access necessary funds. City Council designated \$100,000.00 to be distributed in \$2,000.00 loan increments to use for operating expenses. The loans will be forgiven if the business provides proof of the funds being used for expenses provided in the application within 6 months of the loan origination date. There have already been 45 applications and 30 approved and funds distributed. Expectation is that restaurants will be allowed to open by June with limitations. The E.D.C. extends big 'Thank You' to local banks for helping in the endeavor of loans processing and for looking out for local businesses.

**DDA-**

Helen Rogers speaks for the D.D.A. and she inquires on the status of the outdoor seating capacity. Katie Mackley verifies that outdoor seating is still in the works. Outdoor seating is considered 'dine-in' and the Health Department would be the only enforcers of the variance limits. The City of Rifle is hard at work finding funds to help businesses with outdoor seating expenses. Helen comments that she is excited to build more parklet's downtown.

The staff at Micro Plastics has been working on a banner project for Rifle High School Seniors using the D.D.A. banner polls. There is also a Senior Parade planned to celebrate the graduation. The D.D.A. is also working on plans for 2020's Rifle Farmer's Market. More details will be forthcoming as they are confirmed.

**THE CHAMBER-**

Tanya Doose speaks for The Chamber. She comments that the county commissioners are pushing to have the variance open at 25% capacity. There will be a virtual Town Hall meeting held through Facebook Live and ZOOM. Tanya Doose refers to The Chamber website for the meeting details.

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**WESTERN ADVENTURE WEEKEND-**

A decision on this event must be made by June's meeting. If the event will move forward, there will need to be ideas on how to make it work. A street concert may not be happening, due to the limits on gatherings. Some kind of "Create your own adventure" virtual event could be planned utilizing a hash tag to connect people. The Mountain Bike race put on by R.A.M.B.O. will have some parameters, but is a very popular and well received event.

**Other updates:**

The July 3<sup>rd</sup> holiday event is dependent on fire restrictions and social distancing guidelines.

There is a drive-in movie event being discussed by Deborah Adams at the G.A.R.C.O. Fair Grounds. This would be in partnership with The Brenden Theatre. Fund raising is in the works, as well as, a possible grant request. Kim Burner asks the board if they would support this grant request. The GRIT board is unanimously on board. Helen Rogers is in support but mentions that G.A.R.C.O. should also fund this event.

The Garfield County Fair Board will discuss and vote on how to proceed with the Fair at a special meeting May, 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Rifle Heritage Center:**

The Heritage Center grant for heating and cooling units which would allow for year round operation is a continuing discussion. The Rifle Heritage Board is not willing to purchase a building with extensive operations and maintenance needs. Further discussion on the grant is tabled for the next G.R.I.T. meeting.

**The Rifle Bridge:**

Helen Rogers inquires what the status of the historic structure assessments is. Kim Burner replies that Jeff Johnson has submitted the documentation and it will continue to move forward, but clarifies that the bridge is owned by the county and not the city meaning the process is slower than normal especially with everyone's energies and focus being on COVID-19.

**Meeting adjourns at 12:52. P.M.**