AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: Gunnison Chamber of Commerce Update

Action Requested: Discussion

Parties to the Agreement:

Term Begins: **Term Ends:** **Grant Contract #:**

Summary:

Gunnison Chamber of Commerce Update

Fiscal Impact:

Submitted by: Liz Mense **Submitter's Email Address:** EMense@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review: ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by: Discharge Date:

County Attorney Review: ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reveiwed by: Discharge Date: Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes ○ No ○

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirnie Discharge Date: 11/21/2019

○ Consent Agenda ○ Regular Agenda ○ Worksession Time Allotted: 20

Agenda Date: 11/26/2019

Revised April 2015

November 19, 2018
To the Attention of:
Gunnison County Commissioners
From:
Gunnison Country Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center

The Gunnison Country Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and staff thank you, County Commissioners, for your continued support, financial and otherwise, of the Chamber and its mission.

"I just wanted to send you a brief note of thanks for your gracious assistance regarding our visit to the Gunnison area. Your genuine concern and consummate professionalism were as touching as it was surprising. It seems that you are blessed enough to live among a whole community of decent, open and kind people. The experience of interacting first with you, then with everyone we've met in your town was truly exceptional and honestly heartwarming. We will never forget how wonderful Gunnison is, and we only regret that we could not spend more time there." Michelle O'Brien, Table for Two

The above correspondence is a clear example of how the Gunnison Chamber of Commerce Visitor Services provides for guests to our neighborhood. The chamber accomplishes great things for our community and for those who visit our community. The chamber staff assist many people during the course of a day – week - month. It is satisfying when we receive the feedback such as the above. We have a guest register in the center and it is great fun to read the comments left while viewing the scope of where visitors come from – everywhere!

During May through September, and this year, the first two weeks of October, the chamber was open 7 days a week between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. During 2019, this schedule has provided 11 employment opportunities for area residents. The chamber is now open Monday through Friday with a 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. schedule and greatly reduced staff. Summer is definitely the Gunnison season! This season's Information Specialists who represented our valley are a diverse and talented group.
Jeanene Nelson, Kathy Carr, Melva Barton, Sandy Jackson, Paige Stewart, Bev Jordi, Kathy Seitz, Yvette Whitley, Jeannie Miller, Jody Colman, MJ Schauer
I have shared this with you all before and I will say it again, I am blessed to work with such great community folks who bring with them passion of place and pride in the job they perform for our County. What we do at the chamber/visitor center is joy. They are wonderful ambassadors to our neighborhood and we hope each one returns for 2020. The chamber could not staff and operate without the financial help of both the City of Gunnison and Gunnison County.

Here is a snapshot of year to date of folks who have stopped at the center. This does not include the many phone and email inquiries as well as the many information packages we mail out throughout the year. In 2019 we also interacted with several thousand others in person during Ride the Rockies stays along with New Student Orientation on Western's campus and Hunter Hospitality greetings.

Visitor numbers to date 2019 10,948

January	183
February	146
March	235
April	354
May	714
June	1681
July	2842
August	2100
September	1865
October	705
November	123

A typical September day at the center.

Most people who stop by the Visitor Center are looking for printed publications to take with them. In 2019 the chamber reprinted the Gunnison County Day Hiking Guide and the Gunnison Basin Public Lands Camping & Day Use Map to have available as handouts. In 2020, my wish list for printed publications includes a re-print of the day hiking guide, a Gunnison Area 4-Wheel Drive map, and a good printed Gunnison street map with Gunnison County on the flip side. Currently these projects are penciled in for the 2020 budget.

We are grateful for the funding granted by the county through the Local Marketing District and ask that the Commissioners consider on-going funding of this amazing resource – *our* Visitor Services.

Some of the chamber 2019 activities have included:

- 2nd Annual Gunni Gras – Mardi Gras Gunnison Style
- Free Winter Seminars on Marketing
- 11 Business After Hours Networking Events
- Hosted Ride the Rockies for two days/nights in Gunnison
- 2nd Annual 4th of July Fun 5K Run in collaboration with Western Athletics
- New Student Parent Orientation Information table
- Community Resource Event held on Campus in September
- Annual Trick or Treat
- Free Fall seminars
- Transitioning the Small Business Development Center Satellite office to the chamber and coming up Holiday Greenback Exchange and Night of Lights

I am happy to provide any other information that you might wish to review.

Respectfully,
Celeste Helminski
Director
Gunnison Country Chamber of Commerce