

CUSP Committee Meeting – Business and Economic Climate

Jan 8, 2020

Idaho Falls Public Library, Meeting Room 2

Present: Dana Kirkham, Chair; McKenzie Willmore, Doug Webster, Michelle Covert, Dana Briggs, Alison, Dan Barrick, Brennan Summers, Chris Lee

Next meeting: Weds Feb 19th, 5:30p Idaho Falls Public Library

Minutes

6:32p Call to order, quorum present

1. CUSP Kick-off recap, reintroductions.

- Why are we here? Expectations. Not just deliver a list of problems, offer solutions. Data backed, well thought out, accessible to the average person, not just City Council. Identify what is a problem vs a symptom.

2. Review & data sharing recap

- Review of County demographics and statistics.

3. Topic discussions

- Working toward three questions for the committee to address
 - Is there a sufficient workforce?
 - Attraction and retention of people?
 - Small business development – why or why not?
 - Do we have the infrastructure in place to accommodate new businesses? Where are we with capacity with sewer, water, etc? Law enforcement, emergency services, city services?
 - Are we marketing correctly? (tourism – people – business)
 - Entrepreneurialism – do they have the resources, environment
 - Public/private partnerships
 - Regional approach – are we leveraging our surrounding assets?
 - Is the business community active and well organized? What is the support for new businesses?
 - Transportation – where is the accountability and who makes the decisions?
- Need for economic assessment. (*I missed who Dana was going to ask for further statistical info?*)
- Comparison areas – Ammon, region surround the study area: 14 counties, similarly sized urban area elsewhere in the state: Twin Falls, similarly sized rural area: Magic Valley
- Three questions for the committee to address?
 1. Is the current infrastructure and planned infrastructure sufficient for possible growth?
 - a. How can we influence development to attract residential and commercial diversity to attract and retain the next generation of the workforce?
 - b. Policy
 2. Are we effectively marketing our strengths to attract and retain the next generation workforce?
 - a. Policy
 3. Are we fostering a business environment that is supportive of each phase of business development?
 - a. Policy

8:00pm Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Lee