

Regular Meeting Minutes | Tuesday, February 11, 2020 | 7:00 a.m.

Windsor Hotel | Del Norte

Attendees: Gary Sabrowski, Karla Shriver, Traci Holmes, Marty Asplin, Tom Monaco, Jim Clare, Linda Burnett, Linda Robinson, Jason Medina, Bernadette Martinez, Pam Bricker, Dan Hicks, Jim Kynor, Shon Davis, Lyndsie Ferrell, Susan Beeghly, Gene Glover, Tricia Slater, Suzanne Bothell, Mike Hurst, Gene Farish, T.J. Brown, and Bonnie Asplin.

Call to Order 7:13 by Secretary/Treasurer, Traci Holmes

- I. **Present Agenda:** M/S for approval with addition by Karla Shriver/Gene Glover; approved
- II. **Minutes of the January 14, 2020 meeting:** M/S for approval as presented by Jim Clare/Gary Sabrowski; approved.
- III. **Director's Report:**
 - a. Marty reported that Bonnie did a Saguache Sales Tax Grant for Ski Hi Regional events and Conference Center.
 - b. Worked on URGED Annual Dinner logistics with Rio Grande Club
 - c. LONE OEDIT Code of Ethics signed, submitted, and awaiting approval
 - d. Meeting with Friends of Ski Hi Park – Regional Complex
 - e. 2019 Annual URGED Report to Investment Members.
 - f. Attended the Rio Grande County BOCC meetings – vote on Ski Hi Complex

IV. **Program:**

Tom Monaco, Rural Opportunity Representative, Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), facilitated Round Table Discussions and Review of Survey Results from the URGED 2020-2021 Strategic Planning and Goal Setting Survey. Tom went over the economic strengths, challenges, and opportunities within the San Luis Valley. In a power point presentation, he took each category and asked for input from the members. Some of the strengths discussed were recreational opportunities, agriculture, broadband internet, TSJC and ASU, and the low cost of living. Another strength is In the San Luis Valley the six counties work together towards a common goal. Some of the challenges included skilled labor, transportation, and the need for affordable housing. The need to find ways to speed-up permitting/application process was also discussed. It was suggested that it would be beneficial for URGED to consider hosting educational seminars for the general public on abatement and asbestos removal. This would help utilize some of the abandoned buildings in the Valley. Some of the opportunities discussed were outdoor adventure tourism and recreation, low cost of real estate, and the new Ski Hi Complex project. Trinidad State has certificate programs for people to learn trades. It was noted how the strengths, challenges and opportunities complemented each other. Further discussions will take place to consider projects and educational meetings to stimulate growth in the Valley.

Presentation of check for \$25,000 from Del Norte Bank to the Friends of Ski Hi Park as a donation to the new Ski Hi Regional Events and Conference Center.

- V. **Next Meeting:** March 10, 2020, at the Windsor Hotel, with Andrew Atchley – DOLA Division of Housing: Roll-out of the new DOLA Program for Rural Housing
- VI. **Adjourn:** at 8:18

Respectfully submitted, Linda Robinson