

March 2020

I. HOUSING RECRUITMENT

A. Sidney – Met with the owners of the 960 property on the south side of town and some folks they brought in with them to discuss Carlsbad’s housing needs and available resources.

B. Sidney – Attended a meeting in Hobbs to discuss housing needs with an interested group out of Dallas, alongside other regional representatives. At the meeting, the company representative expressed interest in bringing affordable housing to not only Carlsbad, but also the entire region by placing a manufacturing facility in the area. The homes are made of manufactured 4x8 ft. panels. The first step to moving this project forward is for the company to place four homes in the region. They hope to place one in Carlsbad through a public-private partnership where the city would donate the land to place the first home.

C. Sidney -Set up a meeting with Ray Watson, Scott Williamson, John and myself to discuss the project further and confirm what their needs would be for the first home to be placed.

D. Sidney -I have had an initial meeting with the city to discuss the project and they seem interested and excited about the possibility of an affordable housing development. They requested more information on the structure of the homes and I am waiting for more information from the company to send over.

E. Sidney – John and I attended meetings with Susie Russell, John Garcia of the Home Builders Association, and SE NM regional representatives to discuss housing needs in our areas. I highlighted the need for workforce housing as our top priority. There will be additional meetings in the near future.

F. Sidney – Spoke with Stephanie Lengers of Pecos Vista about current occupancy status and any changes due to COVID-19. Stephanie reported they only had a few units still available of what has been released to them thus far, but there have been a couple current residents reach out to express concern over potential layoffs. They have for the time being extended their sale for the foreseeable future. They should have additional units opening this month.

G. Jeff – With the downturn in the oil industry, several property owners suddenly have rentals available. I have also helped a couple of people worried about being evicted because of COVID-19 and their jobs sending them home in terms of state and federal resources.

II. WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT

A. Jeff –I have been working with the NM Department of Workforce Solutions and the NM Economic Development Department on getting information out to employees and businesses who are being impacted by the COVID-19 situation. There are several programs and tools in place that can offer assistance to people being displaced from their jobs, and for small businesses being impacted by the loss in operating revenue.

B. Sidney – I have been reaching out to local industries trying to speak with their HR or equivalent to offer assistance with any job transition needs. During these discussions, I am trying to gauge whether or not layoffs have already occurred, or may be taking place soon.

C. Sidney – I am taking resumes of any individuals that reach out to me directly so that I may distribute them to entities with openings.

III. AVIATION

IV. EDUCATION

V. OIL, GAS & ALTERNATE ENERGY

A. John – Met with new owners of what was part of 960 LLC property south of the weigh station on National Parks Highway about possible development on their land. Discussed both housing and industrial. They were interested in midstream development and requested more information on the industry in the area.

B. John- Attended a webinar on the proposed new air quality regulations that are going to be coming down from Santa Fe on the oil and gas industry. Apparently, the data from the department on the causation of ozone and methane concentrations in SE New Mexico is slim. When I asked about the influence of Juarez/El Paso metroplex on the ozone concentrations observed at the Carlsbad Caverns test site (which is only possible known source immediately upwind of the sampler), the NMED official answered that they were aware that Juarez significantly affected NM, but “did not have data to tie it to the samplers downwind.” So instead of trying to find the exact cause of the elevated levels of pollutants, they want to ratchet down on the industry here, even if they are not causing the problem. Public comments will be received by the NMED once the actual regulations with specific requirements are made public.

C. John- Had a lunch meeting with officials from Austin-based Brigham Development and Atlas Energy about future projects in our area. They were watching developments in gas industry and were still considering both housing and an energy industry project. They also requested information on CDOD membership.

D. John- Met with Beverly and Nathan with our local Chevron office to discuss how things were going and what we could do to help them. They indicated that their company was doing OK given the circumstances. A couple of weeks later, Chevron announced that they gave over \$60,000 to Eddy County (and over \$200,000 to Permian) for COVID response.

VI. MANUFACTURING

A. John- Continue to meet with representatives from Project Plastic. This month, at their request, I arranged a meeting with the mayor, City Administrator, and the project leaders. They updated the mayor and his staff on their intention to move forward on a project here. They are leaning heavily towards property located near the midstream plants south of Carlsbad and near Loving, NM. They need a minimum of 600 acres near rail and with access to water for startup but they would prefer 1200 to 1500 acres for expansion capabilities. Have provided them with information on area water rights owners, and am compiling information on properties in the area they are looking. This project will employ 600 full time people once constructed.

VII. MEDICAL

A. Jeff – Received an update on the COVID-19 situation from Artesia General Hospital and provided the information to our members as well as on the CDOD social media page(s).

VIII. POTASH

IX. NUCLEAR

A. John- ELEA held a meeting this month in Hobbs City Commission Chambers. NRC is still proceeding with final environmental work. The initial NRC determination is that the ELEA/Holtec facility will have little or no adverse effects on the economy or environment. Public comment period is opened and we should submit a comment this month.

B. Jeff – Once again updated the Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance with materials for a meeting. As stated previously, CDOD is still hosting files for this organization on our website, which is not the best path forward.

X. RETAIL/RESTAURANTS/ENTERTAINMENT/HOSPITALITY

A. Jeff – More work on the haircutting business as they have asked for full market research into the economy. One of their primary concerns is a lack of workforce, specifically citing the oilfield. With the recent downturn in the oil industry, this will lead to more employees for other businesses.

B. Jeff – Spoke with a development group looking at the Carlsbad market for another type of hotel property. They had several questions on the existing climate, and asked for more information. This of course was before the COVID-19 outbreak.

C. Jeff – Demolition of the old Lucy's cantina and Adventure Signs buildings has been underway for a few weeks. New restaurant and possibly some retail will be in the plans for this property.

D. Jeff – Planet Fitness' expansion into Carlsbad is on hold currently due to the COVID-19 situation as their locations have been forced to close for the time being. They indicated that they still fully intend to move forward as soon as life gets back to normal.

E. Jeff – Assisted several local businesses, and chain stores, in getting word out about a change in how they do business during the COVID-19 precautions. Many restaurants have shifted solely to take out ordering, and I have been doing what I can to spread the word to help keep them going.

XI. CASCADES

A. John- The members of the group applied for special financing through the NMTC program with the NMFA. I wrote a letter of support and submitted it to the NMFA. I also contacted John Brooks of the NMFA and spoke to him at length about the project and the community's support for this concept and the community need.

XII. ADMINISTRATION

A. Jeff – Created a COVID-19 resource page specifically aimed at helping businesses and employees on the CDOD website. It includes links to various sites, including the city, county, and state.

B. Jeff – Work continues on the Albertsons property in regards to their parking lot. We have been working with the sign contractor, the electricians, and their general contractor on the new monument LED sign we have received City Lodger's Tax monies for. A new timeline I was given showed an April potential start date.

C. Jeff – A few people have reached out to me for assistance since they have been forced to stop working due to the virus. One lady specifically asked for help in not getting her electricity turned off. I researched Xcel Energy and found that they are working through the crisis with their customers and have said they will not disconnect anyone as long as they call in and speak with them. I passed this onto the lady who asked, and shared it on social media as well.

D. Sidney – I have been corresponding with and providing information to a company that provides furnished corporate housing at three apartment complexes in town. I am currently waiting for new membership forms to be sent over from them, JAKO Corporate Housing.

E. Sidney – Attended webinar on NM EDD COVID-19 Business Loan Guarantee program.

F. Sidney – Spoken with individuals whose businesses or place of work have been impacted by COVID-19 about resources available to them.

G. Sidney – I have assisted a couple different folks on how to use our website to post their available residential listings.

H. John- Right before the Presidential/Gubernatorial orders to work from home hit, Craig and I met with NWP and Sandia to discuss how things were going and what we could do to help more. Paul Shoemaker was gracious enough to provide us with a tour of SNL's Carlsbad facility. The laboratories and equipment were cutting edge and the tour was very informative. Paul was going to get us photos of the facilities to use in our promotional materials for Carlsbad.

I. John- Attended three census meetings with City and County officials to get a jump start on the census. As of the third week in March, Eddy County was slightly ahead of the state average as far as Census forms filled out online at 26% returned. Advertising has been done both online and on radio. Billboards were also approved along the major highways in the county to advertise on as well.

J. John- Have spoken with several members of the business community/CDOD about COVID response and recovery legislation that recently came out of Washington.

K. John- Have attended three webinars regarding the response to the disease and recovery afterwards. Passed along information from various state, federal and national business groups to our membership as well as businesses that have contacted us.

L. John- Submitted a budget request letter to City of Carlsbad for the upcoming FY2021 budget. We requested the same amount as last year, although John Lowe indicated that given the current uncertainty, budget cuts were likely.

M. John- We will be sending out information on the board election this month. Remember that we elect our open Board of Directors spots at May Board of Director's meeting and seat them on at June BOD meeting. The majority of our Board will be elected at the June BOD meeting. The new officers will be seated at the Annual Meeting in late June (third Thursday). The final member of the Executive Committee, our at large member, is elected and announced at the annual meeting.