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BigSkyRelief.org

Operational Partners Coordination Meeting, No. 9 – 4/21/20

On Tuesday, April 21, the ninth BigSkyRelief.org Operational Partners Coordination Meeting kicked off at 12 p.m. and lasted approximately 20 minutes.

The purpose of the virtual bi-weekly meetings is to consolidate regular updates for the Big Sky Community as well as to identify and coordinate needs.

Big Sky Resort Area District board Chairperson Kevin Germain coordinated the meeting, kicking off the discussion with an emphasis on maintaining social distancing to reinforce increasingly and encouragingly slow-growing numbers of COVID-19 in Gallatin County. Germain also announced to Operational and Funding Partners that meetings will be reduced to once a week, commencing only on Tuesdays.

Updates in order of presentation:

Taylor Rose, Director of Clinical Services & Operations at Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center (BHBSMC):

- Bozeman Health is planning a series of communications regarding a reopening of elective-type services within the system
 - Locally, all BHBSMC services remain open (Well Clinic, Viral Triage Clinic, ER, Pharmacy, Lab, Radiology Imaging)
- Visitor restrictions remain in place; BHBSMC encourages community members to recognize continued facility viability in treating all medical needs; BHBSMC hopes community members will be more confident in accessing the hospital, despite a continued screen of all visitors with questions and a temperature check
- Lone Peak Physical Therapy will resume in-hospital services next week
- BHBSMC reminds community members to remain vigilant and diligent with social distancing measures, largely credited with the lack of burden placed on BHBSMC

Interim Chief Greg Megaard, Big Sky Fire Department (BSFD):

- BSFD received a donation of shields and headgear PPE from Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center
- BSFD encourages the community to remain vigilant and diligent with social distancing measures
- BSFD encourages the community to participate in the upcoming May 5 Special District Elections

Sergeant Brandon Kelley, Gallatin County Sheriff's Office (GCSO):

- GCSO is reporting an increase in thefts, particularly in the Ramshorn View Estates area, and advises extra vigilance; lock your homes and vehicles and call-in any suspicious or unusual behavior; GCSO will follow up on all leads; (406) 582-2100

Sarah Gaither, Program Coordinator of Big Sky Community Food Bank (BSCFB):

- BSCFB will begin publishing sponsorship opportunities; families and specific food items will be available to sponsors
- BSCFB is reporting its clients are feeling supported and secure
- BSCFB is servicing between 35-40 food boxes per week, matching anticipated volume; the rate is higher than that of a typical spring offseason; BSCFB expects those needs to increase over the next weeks

Jean Behr, Executive Director of Women In Action (WIA):

- Through a collaboration by WIA and the Big Sky Community Organization, Ally Wold, a licensed family and marriage therapist, will host a virtual series on mental health issues related to COVID-19; sessions include:
 - 10 a.m., April 22 - Support and ideas for enhancing senior citizen well-being; the discussion is intended for both seniors and caretakers
 - 7 p.m., April 22 - Finances and Unemployment: Managing family dynamics as work roles shift
 - 7 p.m., April 29 - Helpful ideas for those experiencing anxiety, depression, isolation, or those concerned about a loved one
 - More information is available at bscomt.org/events
- The "Chalkable Day of Gratitude" is scheduled for May 2; Big Sky residents will take to their sidewalks to write inspiring quotes, leave messages for neighbors, draw pictures, and to thank frontline workers; WIA encourages community members to show their support through sidewalk chalk, and to share moments of gratitude using the #bigskyRAOK (Big Sky Random Acts of Kindness) hashtag on social media; for questions and more information, contact jean@wiabigsky.org
- Kasey Anderson, a newly appointed licensed clinical professional counselor under WIA, still has appointments available; those sessions will remain free-of-charge for the remainder of April; (406) 551-0949
- Through collaborative efforts by WIA and several local non-profit and community leaders, including the Big Sky community Organization, the Big Sky community has access to the BSCO Community Calendar of virtual events, geared at fostering social interaction despite social distancing; offerings include cooking classes, mental health forums and live events from the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, among others; bscomt.org/events; if there is an opportunity community members would like to see included in the calendar, or a skill community members would like to share with the community, email jean@wiabigsky.org
- WIA advises community members of the recently-opened Bozeman Health Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center at the Gallatin Mental Health Center, open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Bozeman Health services are accessible via The Help Center (dial 211); dial 911 for emergency assistance

David Kack, Coordinator of Big Sky Transportation District (BSTD):

- BSTD rotated into its Shoulder Season Schedule on April 20, with two roundtrips per day between Bozeman and Big Sky, Monday through Friday; Link Express rides will remain fare-free at this time; skylinebus.com/routes-schedules/shoulder-season
- Service in Big Sky remains Demand Response for no more than three healthy passengers at a time; individual rides can be requested for at-risk individuals; (406) 995-2867

Candace Carr Strauss, CEO of Big Sky Chamber of Commerce (BSCC) & Visit Big Sky (VBS):

- Congress is close to passing an additional allocation to fund the Economic Injury Disaster Loans and Advances and Payroll Protection Program Loan programs thanks to bipartisan and bicameral support; negotiations continue and it appears an announcement will arrive in the next two days
- BSCC encourages community members to watch the Big Sky Toastmasters Virtual “Meet the Candidates” for the Special District Elections, commencing on April 21 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.; bigskyelections.com
- BSCC advises non-profit organizations and government entities that FY21 Resort Tax Applications are due on April 30
- BSCC resources continue to be updated and made available at bigskychamber.com/communityupdates and bigskychamber.com/lovelocalrestaurants
- On April 22, in partnership with Anna Rosenberry (Assistant City Manager, City of Bozeman), VBS will launch a Regional Tourism Recovery sub-committee to meet virtually on a weekly basis; the committee will “live” under the Economic Development Resiliency and Recovery Committee that Rosenberry currently oversees within the Emergency Operations Center overseeing Gallatin County and the City of Bozeman during the COVID-19 crisis
- VBS participated in a April 21 call with Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Cam Sholly, where thoughts and potential scenarios for the park’s phased reopening were discussed; no decisions have been made; the definition of “Open” will be defined as time progresses, as a full reopening to pre-COVID-19 conditions is unlikely at this time
- In celebration of the “Spirit of Travel” for National Travel & Tourism Week, spanning May 3-9, VBS will host its 3rd annual Marketing Outlook Meeting virtually on May 7 at 11:30 a.m., where VBS will lead discussion on how to invite visitors back to Big Sky

Ciara Wolfe, CEO of Big Sky Community Organization (BSCO):

- To date, there are 62 local volunteers registered to help, as needed, across five weekly shifts; BSCO has been able to make six matches in the BSCO “Senior Buddy” and at-risk program, which is designed to connect young, healthy individuals with at-risk senior citizens in need of assistance in safely retrieving mail, groceries and other errands; there have been no new requests for matches, and volunteer sign-ups have slowed significantly
- In collaboration with the Gallatin River Task Force, BSCO is helping to organize the Runoff Cleanoff pickup in Big Sky, specifically targeting dog waste; April 24-26; gallatinrivertaskforce.org/events/runoff-cleanoff
- BSCO is awaiting notice from Gallatin County regarding information on the feasibility of cleaning Big Sky’s parks for springtime public use; cleaning efforts would be in addition to current Lone Peak Trail and Gallatin Canyon Trail cleaning efforts
- BSCO advises the community to observe Earth Day on April 22

Dustin Shipman, Superintendent of Big Sky School District (BSSD):

- BSSD continues to manage online and distance learning offerings
- BSSD continues to distribute daily lunches, available in both pickup and delivery options
- Counselors are working individually with students, along with whole-class and small-group sessions
- May 29 is scheduled to be the last day of school
 - Per notice from the Office of Public Instruction, Board of Public Education and the Montana Public Education Center, BSSD should plan to postpone any graduation ceremonies or devise an alternative plan
- BSSD encourages voters to participate in the May 5 Special District Elections; items include:
 - A 1% increase in Resort Tax for community infrastructure needs, namely critical upgrades to Big Sky's wastewater treatment plant
 - The \$23.5 million Big Sky School District bond for critical facility expansions and upgrades; call Superintendent Shipman at (406) 995-4281 for more information on the bond
 - Board elections for four Special Districts, including Big Sky Resort Area District

A cohort of Resource Partners was also invited to the virtual meeting. Those names and organizations included:

Daniel Bierschwale, *Big Sky Resort Area District*

Taylor Middleton & Troy Nedved, *Big Sky Resort*

Matt Kidd, *CrossHarbor Capital Partners*

Kevin Hinkle, *Lone Mountain Land Company*

Hans Williamson, *Yellowstone Club*

Heather Morris, *Moonlight Community Foundation*

Ania Bulis, *Moonlight Community Foundation, Women in Action*

Loren Bough, *Yellowstone Club Community Foundation*

John Haas, *Spanish Peaks Community Foundation*