

THURSDAYS IN ALMONT
Nonprofit Networking Meetings for the Gunnison Valley
What Is The One Valley Prosperity Project?
Presenter, Cathie Pagano – Gunnison County Planner

Key Takeaways
Summarized by Maryo Ewell

- The One Valley Prosperity Project – OVPP – is a grassroots process aimed at answering the question, What Is Prosperity for Everyone Here?
- Nearly 1200 individuals have been engaged – via meetings, interviews, and more. The process and key documents to date are here: <http://www.onevalleyprosperity.com/>
- Things we all can make use of right now:
 - The State of the Valley Report (posted at the above site) includes some seriously concerning statistics for us to reference in our individual and joint planning
 - A definition of Prosperity: “Prosperity is the opportunity to provide for ourselves in a meaningful and fulfilling way. However, we can only be a prosperous community if we achieve the delicate balance between providing the need for economic opportunity with protecting our other community values --the very reasons we love living here.”
 - 8 values we share – no matter who we are. These can/should guide our individual and joint planning (including local government planning):
 - A Good Life
 - A Caring Community
 - Connected to Nature
 - An Engaged Community
 - Family Friendly
 - A Healthy and Active Lifestyle
 - A Learning Community
 - A Secure Community
- Four action planning teams engaging about 100 people have been working on plans for Basic Needs/Health; Housing; Sustainable Tourism; Economic Diversity. They are being incorporated into a draft plan, ready within the next couple of weeks for public comment. It will be posted on the website above, and there will be public meetings to comment.
- Pam facilitated a thrilling conversation about how nonprofits can respond. Key ideas:
 - While we are all super-busy, we need not consider responding to this as “one more thing to do.” In fact, there are many opportunities to both meet our missions and – by collaborating – create a value added piece we could never have done otherwise.
 - Collaboration can offer creative – and often super cost-effective – ways of serving your constituents better at times than you could do yourself
 - No matter who you are, there’s a place for the nonprofit organizations to move the prosperity of the Valley as a whole forward. Examples were identified: eg, the Gunnison Arts Center served as a gallery where Habitat’s Tiny Houses contest winners could be exhibited to the public. Many more examples were brainstormed.
 - Danielle (Mountain Roots) offered to create a kind of Gunnison Marketplace for nonprofits to float ideas and find possible partners
 - The key is to ask ourselves, as we think about our programming: does this fit in with the overall Valley strategy of prosperity? Could we collaborative with someone here to create a Valley value-added component of this program – as well as serving the constituency defined in our mission?