

IP4G Consultant Recommendations

Public recommendations following the August 24, 2026 Cascade Chamber Community Conversation

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This is a public-facing summary of IP4G consultant observations and recommendations. It complements the Community Conversation Public Summary. These recommendations are not a community vote, a statistically representative survey, or an adopted decision of the Chamber Board.

What the consultants observed

Approximately 35 people attended. The consultants viewed this as a meaningful cross-section of engaged community members, while recognizing that one meeting cannot represent every business or resident. Participants showed strong investment in Cascade, and the room generally maintained constructive energy despite some underlying tension.

Several discussion groups expressed an appetite for the Chamber to place greater emphasis on supporting local businesses. Community events were most clearly connected to the Chamber mission when they create measurable value for businesses and can be delivered without exceeding the organization's financial and volunteer capacity.

Recommended direction

1. Clarify and simplify the Chamber mission.

Develop a shorter, business-centered mission statement that gives the Board a practical test for priorities. The consultants suggested considering whether the statement should end after the phrase "business climate," then reviewing the remaining language for current relevance. Any formal change should follow the Chamber's bylaws and required approval process.

2. Re-center work on business and member value.

Protect core business-support functions—including connection, promotion, advocacy, information and capacity building. Evaluate events by whether they advance these functions and distribute benefits fairly among the businesses and members supporting the Chamber.

3. Build a stronger evidence base.

Gather current input from business leaders and residents before making long-term commitments. For Thunder Mountain Days, document attendance, visitor origin, local spending, business participation, costs, revenue, volunteer hours, public-safety demands and who receives the economic benefit.

4. Strengthen partnerships and role clarity.

Work with the City, County, public-safety partners, businesses and community groups through defined responsibilities, written expectations and direct communication. Specific grievances are more likely to be resolved through focused conversations than in broad public forums.

5. Confirm governance and financial controls.

Review the bylaws, checking-account authority and related financial policies to ensure that current practices are clear, documented and compliant. Correct any gaps identified through that review.

6. Set decision points before committing to events.

Before committing Chamber funds or contracts, establish the required funding, partners, volunteer capacity, owner and deadline. If the conditions are not met, reduce the scope, transfer responsibility or do not proceed.

Suggested 90-day sequence

Timing	Priority actions	Intended result
First 30 days	Review bylaws and financial controls; prepare a shorter mission draft; schedule focused stakeholder conversations.	Clear governance issues and a shared starting point.
Days 31–60	Define a business/resident listening and data plan; scope a Thunder Mountain Days economic-impact review; adopt event decision criteria.	Comparable evidence for mission and event choices.
Days 61–90	Decide the Chamber’s event role and any partnership structure; publish responsibilities, funding thresholds and deadlines.	A sustainable, transparent operating model.

PUBLIC COMMITMENT

The Board’s responsibility is to use community input, current financial information, mission fit and real capacity together. Future decisions—and the reasons for them—should be communicated publicly after the Board completes its review.