

MT. BAKER FOOTHILLS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Meeting – January 17, 2007

Russ Angus, Foothills Chamber
Carole Sharpe, Glacier

Matt Aamot, PDS
Sharon Digby, PDS

Russ led an informal meeting.

OPENING COMMENT SESSIONS

- None.

PRESENTATIONS

East County Update - Matt

- The Foothills Subarea Plan Advisory Committee continues to meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. The public is welcome to attend.
The Advisory Committee recommended creating a “Town Center” overlay designation near the population center of the Columbia Valley/Kendall Urban Growth Area (UGA). The Committee recommended a related policy that supports rezoning to General Commercial or a new Town Center zone that would support commercial, residential and institutional uses.
The Advisory Committee recommended deleting Comprehensive Plan Policy 2AA-13, which stated that the Small Town Commercial (STC) zone in Kendall had to be fully developed before any additional commercial zoning could be established in the UGA.
Tonight, the Advisory Committee will consider population projections and other Comp Plan/Zoning changes for the Columbia Valley/Kendall UGA.
- Aiki Homes: A Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance was issued in December. This Determination was withdrawn in January. Bob Martin says that the applicant is doing additional traffic analysis. He met last week with the applicant and WSDOT to establish the scope and methodology of the study and areas to be studied.
- SC Goshen LLC and Holly and Associates LLC have applied to rezone approximately 80 acres in the Columbia Valley from Rural Forestry to Urban Residential 4 dwellings/acre and from a Long Term Planning Area to a Short Term Planning Area in the Columbia Valley/Kendall UGA.
- The Nextel Cell Tower is still on hold.
- The public hearing with the Hearing Examiner has been postponed again at the request of Secret Harbor.
- Sensor Link in Acme, an electronic assembly business had their application for conditional use permit to expand their nonconforming use approved by the Hearing Examiner.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Marketing – Russ

Russ reported that the Governor is working on increasing tourism money which is expected double next year. This would put Washington in the mid-tier range for tourism dollars in the US.

He said the Welcome Center will also get more money. Russ stated that they hope to get a 4-month contract with the State DOT at the next meeting to find a site for the Center, located somewhere between milepost 22 and 40. The Foothills Chamber has submitted a list of criteria and possible sites. DOT approval of ingress and egress is needed. The economic consultant at the Charles Anderson Architectural firm is helping in the search for additional funding.

Infrastructure –

Nothing to report

Recreation and Trails –
Nothing to report

Sustainability Committee – No chair

Steering Committee –
Nothing to report

Cell Phone – Carole Sharpe

Carole reported that Kim O’Keefe, contract engineer for T Mobile, said they will be breaking ground in a few months for the Deming tower and they are still working with Phil Cloward for the Kendall site location.

Carole also reported that Lou Piotrowski made contact with Anna Ehnmark from Open Access/NAS.com, a Bellingham internet service provider, regarding the potential for high speed internet in the Glacier area. She was interested in the idea, but said the Open Access was unable at this time to provide such service. She mentioned that the Technology Access Group might be a resource to the EDA to provide such service. Anna asked Lou to invite any EDA members who wished to attend the Technology Alliance Group (TAG) luncheon on Friday, January 19, 2007 at noon. She said she would like to come to a future EDA meeting to discuss this topic.

Other Business
No other business.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 21, 2007 at 1:00 pm in the Mt. Baker School District Office.
Submitted by: Sharon Digby