

MT. BAKER FOOTHILLS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Meeting – January 18, 2006

Carole MacDonald, Chair, The Inn at Mount Baker
Phil Cloward, Mt Baker Foothills Chamber
Tony Kelley, Mt Baker Foothills Chamber
Joseph Heller, Foothills Chamber, BMFC
Carole Sharpe, Glacier
Lou Piotrowski, MB Foothills Chamber
Doug Smith, Port of B'ham Commissioner
Linda Burpee, Deming
Will Munsell, Deming
Thom McLaughlin, Deming
Betty Ann Abeid, Deming
Cliff Langley, Whatcom County Sheriff's Dept

Norma Otto, Kendall Watch
Don Zimmer, Secret Harbor Board Member
Brian Carroll, Secret Harbor President
Ron Heller, Secret harbor Board Member
Sherri Daymon, SBDC
Dodd Snodgrass, Port of B'ham
Carolyn Casey, Port of B'ham
Rose Lathrop, Aiki Homes
Richard Gantman, MBSD Superintendent
Debbie Haddad
Matt Aamot, PDS
Sharon Digby, PDS

Call to order by Carole at 1:04 pm. Welcome and introductions made.

OPENING COMMENT SESSIONS

- Tony distributed the annual report from the North Fork Community Resource Center Assoc.
- Sherry Daymon, Small Business Development Center: SBDC services are free and confidential to small business owners and managers in Whatcom, Skagit and Island Counties. The program is funded by Western Washington University's College of Business and Economics, the Small Business Administration, the Port of Bellingham, the Cities of Bellingham and Sumas, and through community and client donations. There are 2 satellite offices in the east county – Deming Library and the Foothills Chamber of Commerce business center.
- Joseph H. announced that the County Council approved Phase 1 for the Foothills Subarea Plan and adopted a committee.
- Lou said that he, Phil, and Alan have been asked to participate on a pandemic influenza task force. The task force will meet for four months and will put together a plan. He will provide more details at the next EDA meeting.
- Rick added that the school district is also part of the task force.
- Cliff passed out applications to a citizens academy sponsored by the Sheriff's Office. The academy gives citizens insight into the workings of the Sheriff's Department. Ten weeks, 25 people, Wednesdays 6-9PM, March 13-May 15. Cliff also announced he would answer any questions about an incident at the Mt Baker banked slalom event.
- Carole M reported on the walking tour with Dan Burden that she participated in at Kendall. Dan Burden's Walking Livability Audit was hosted and funded by the Community Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG). Information is posted on the Chamber and EDA websites.
- Phil reported that Sierra Pacific purchased 145,000 acres of Crown Pacific lands. They will be building a mill in Skagit County that will provide 200 jobs.

PRESENTATIONS

Secret Harbor – Brian Carroll

It is the mission of Secret Harbor to provide a broad spectrum of services and programs to support the growth and success of children, youth and families in the most effective and least restrictive settings available.

Brian, President of Secret Harbor, gave a background report on Secret Harbor, and summarized the process to date for the purchase of land on Mosquito Lake Road to relocate the Secret Harbor facilities. They are currently working closely with Planning and Development Services.

Waterfront Park – Carolyn Casey, Port of Bellingham

Carolyn gave a presentation on the history of the waterfront project. She stressed that it is a county-wide project. She discussed the four design proposals. Doug Smith, Port Commissioner, will have a Coffee with a Commissioner meeting on February 22nd at Carol's Girls Café at 7:30 AM.

T-Mobile – Dodd Snodgrass

The T-Mobile representative did not attend the meeting. Dodd will follow up to see if he can attend the March meeting.

North Fork Community Resource Center – Roland

- Roland had nothing to report on the Resource Center.
- He reported that in response to an outright burning ban in UGAs starting in 2007, the County is working to establish a small, pilot, Clean Green Station site in Kendall. The station would be similar to the existing facility on Woburn Street in Bellingham. This will be a joint effort between the fire department, Whatcom County Solid Waste and Whatcom County Environmental Health.

East County Update – Matt

- The County Council has confirmed the Foothills Subarea Plan Advisory Committee members. The first meeting is March 8th, 3-5 PM at the Mt Baker High School District office. Rick said he would be available to the committee on behalf of the school district as needed.
- The Council approved the Studio Cascade consultant contract for Phase 1 of the Foothills Subarea plan. The County is still looking for funds for Phase 2.
- Aiki Homes – still waiting for information
- Nextel tower – still on hold
- Planning Commissioners are proposing limiting building permits over the next 20 years. They propose using adopted population-increase figures and dividing that by 20 to obtain the number of permits that will be allowed each year.
- Two Council members are proposing downzoning in Rural areas – R5A/R10A, etc. to Agriculture, or 1 dwelling per 20 acres. They also proposed an interim moratorium on subdivision in Rural areas. They introduced the moratorium ordinance on February 14th, which may be voted on in 2 weeks.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**Infrastructure – Phil**

Nothing to report.

Recreation – Jeff

Nothing to report.

Steering Committee – Alan, Carole

The Steering Committee met February 6th. They have established the first Monday of the month as the committee meeting date.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:34 pm.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, March 15, 2006 at 1:00 pm in the Mt. Baker School District Office

Submitted by: Sharon Digby