

MT. BAKER FOOTHILLS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Meeting – May 16, 2007

Carole MacDonald, Chair
Phil Cloward, Foothills Chamber
Jeff Margolis, Everybody's Store
Carole Sharpe, Glacier
Rebecca Boonstra, Citizens of Columbia Valley

Russ Angus, Foothills Chamber
Jan Eskola, Glacier Water District
Vel Massie
Joseph Garcia
Matt Aamot, PDS
Pam Brown, PDS

Meeting called to order at 1:00 by Carole. Welcome and introductions made.

OPENING COMMENT SESSION

- Rebecca Boonstra, representing Citizens of Columbia Valley, reported that the Friends of the North Fork Community Library gave a presentation to her group which included Joan Airoidi and Georgina Head. Rebecca also reported the following upcoming events:
 - CITIZENS OF COLUMBIA VALLEY Economic Development Event co-sponsored by the Mount Baker Foothills Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with Sustainable Connections - the event will focus on promoting a "Local Living Economy" in the Foothills and showcase local businesses. Please join us at the SHUKSAN GOLF CLUB at 1500 E. Axton Road from 6:30 - 8:30 pm for appetizers and a unique networking opportunity. For more info please check your e-mail for a special invitation to our members and the business community in the Mount Baker Foothills or see our article in the May 11-24 2007 edition of the Foothills Gazette.
 - PUBLIC MEETING - Assistant State Attorney General, Greg Overstreet will hold a public meeting to discuss OPEN GOVERNMENT and PUBLIC RECORDS at the Kendall Elementary School from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. MEMBERS are encouraged to take advantage of the valuable opportunity that Mr. Overstreet has provided to our community and turn out to hear his presentation and ask questions. Mr. Overstreet will be accompanied by Hal Schloman from the Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts, who will also be available to answer questions.

East County Update – Matt

- Matt gave a general announcement as the news that PDS director Hal Hart and PDS assistant director Dennis Rhodes had both submitted their resignations.m.
- At the last meeting on April 4, 2007, the Advisory Committee worked on policies for the subarea plan and this will continue at tonight's meeting as well as at 2 all-day meetings to be held on April 23rd and May 7th. Also, the committee previously prioritized projects, but there were ties, so they will do some tie-breaking at tonight's meeting.
- Aiki Homes – There was a joint meeting between the County, WSDOT, and the applicant. The County and WSDOT agree that the traffic study needs to be based on the ITE (Institute of Transportation Engineers) manual. Basically, that the applicant's study was undercounting traffic. So the applicant will be revising and resubmitting the traffic study.
- The RF to UR4, 80-acre Rezone has to be scheduled for Planning Commission hearing.

- Sensor Link, 1975 Valley Highway – The Hearing examiner approved a 9,800 square feet expansion of an electronics assemble business in the Acme area. In January this decision was appealed by neighbors. On April 10, 2007 the County Council remanded it to the Hearing Examiner because the site is within an alluvial fan and apparently, this was not considered in the Hearing Examiner’s decision.
- The County is working on a school impact fee ordinance which will go to Planning Commission for a work session on May 10th. The current concept is to have a framework ordinance that school districts could plug into if they wanted to have impact fees.
- Evergreen Water & Sewer District, Shoreline Permit (SCH06-00012) – The Hearing Examiner is holding a hearing this afternoon on a shoreline permit to replace an existing 4-inch water main that crossed Kendall Creek with a new 10-inch water main, parallel to Kendall Highway.
- Matt then distributed copies of the County Code text that defines Light Impact Industrial.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Marketing –Russ

- Russ reported that he went by Whatcom County Health Department and picked up some paperwork addressing the latest septic implementation that became effective April 2, 2007. The Health Department will first be reviewing septic systems that are in areas that have Estuaries. The committee had discussion as to the Health Department inspection schedule for various systems and the type of systems that will now be allowed under the April 2nd update. Russ stated that systems built before 1995 may begin to run into some problems.

Infrastructure –Phil

- The previous discussion with regard to Light Industrial and the role of BWEDA were the topics he wanted to address at today’s meeting. Phil also mentioned that there is a Bill before the Washington State Legislature which will require catalytic converters on engines like lawn mowers and generators that previously were not required. Should the Bill pass the cost of these types of engines are sure to increase.

Recreation and Trails – Jeff Margolis

- KAVZ radio station is now on the air from 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm daily. It can be heard at 102.5. There will be a celebration Dessert Potluck held on April 28th at 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- Jeff reported that a proposal to allow Segways and electric-motor foot scooters on the trail system was rejected by the city’s Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.
- Jeff also reported that Washington State consumers pay a state tax of \$0.43 per gallon of gasoline. Of that \$0.43 cents, 75% is given to the Tribes to use for transportation purposes. Jeff suggested that this committee give some thought to setting up conversations with the local Tribes and asking them to contribute a part of that money to a local trail system.

Sustainability Committee –

No Chair

Steering Committee –

No Chair

Ad-hoc Committee Reports

Cell Phone – Carole Sharpe

- Carole Sharpe stated that Dodd and Phil have a plan for a shorter route, approximately 1.5 miles. Phil stated that once the snow melts he will be making a trip to the site. The land that the tower is on belongs to DNR.

Other Business

None

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 P.M.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, May 16, 2007, **1:00 - 3:00 P.M.**, in the Mt. Baker School District Office.

Submitted by: Pam Brown