

MT. BAKER FOOTHILLS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Meeting – April 19 , 2006

Carole MacDonald, Chair
Alan Seid, Maple Falls
Joseph Garcia, Mt Baker Trailhead
Phil Cloward, Mt Baker Foothills Chamber
Joseph Heller, Foothills Chamber, BMFC
Carole Sharpe, Glacier
Lou Piotrowski, MB Foothills Chamber
Rob Staveland, Aiki Homes
Jan Eskola, Glacier Water District

Jeff Margolis, Everybody's Store
Norma Otto, Kendall Watch
Russ Angus, Angus and Associates, Inc
Sam Crawford, County Council
Mike McFarland, Whatcom Co Parks & Rec
Roland Middleton, PDS
Matt Aamot, PDS
Sharon Digby, PDS

Call to order by Carole at 1:01PM. Welcome and introductions made.

OPENING COMMENT SESSIONS

- Alan announced he is presenting a free workshop called Your Money or Your Life, April 27th, 2006, 5:30 to 9:00 at the Kulshan Community Land Trust office.
- Mike reported that the Parks and Open Space Comp Plan is in the final stages. The Park Commission will address the proposed Plan tomorrow. From there it goes to the Planning Commission, then the County Council. Community meetings will be scheduled. Possible locations are the Van Zandt Community Hall, the Parks Office on Mt Baker Highway, the Kendall area. The draft document can be found on the County website.

PRESENTATIONS

East County Update – Matt

- The Foothills Subarea Plan Advisory Committee has had two regular meetings and one open house. The Committee discussed the boundaries of the subarea and decided to make a change to include Deming. They are also working on a draft public participation plan. WSDOT made a presentation and some of the issues discussed were: 1. Safety and 2. Bike paths and connections. WTA gave a presentation. The Committee will be reviewing Chapter One and submitting comments to the consultant, Bill Grimes
- Aiki Homes – on hold. Water District 13 has reported that they don't have adequate sewer and that the system would need a significant upgrade to accommodate the development.
- Nextel – on hold
- Secret Harbor – Land disturbance permits (clearing and/or filling) are in process
- Deming Library – The Friends of the Deming Library have submitted a Conditional Use permit to upgrade the library from ~2500 sq ft to ~7500 sq ft.
- At the request of Carole, Joseph gave an update on the Trailhead Lodge. They have demolished houses, disposed of 8 tons of garbage, created a parking lot, working with the bank on financing, exploring the possibility of selling fractional shares, and working on the geothermal network.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Marketing – Russ

Nothing to report.

Infrastructure – Phil

Nothing to report.

Recreation and Trails – Jeff

1. Jeff reported that the Van Zandt Hall park has been spiffed up – the courts are polished. The radio station was derailed by the Health Dept requirement for a new septic system. However, there is new and renewed energy for the project. They need to raise \$15,000 to \$20,000 for the system. KAVZ will have tourist, safety and emergency benefits. If successful, they could expand and reach the whole eastern County. Jeff requests names and addresses of potential donors for their fundraising efforts. 2. The new County bicycle map is available at Everybody's Store. It is printed on Tyvek (waterproof) and retails for \$7.95.

Lou asked about the Mt Baker Club work on the Maple Falls to Glacier trail. Mike responded that there are regular work projects. The goal is to put the corridor completely through, however, there are issues to deal with such as private property, easements and structures.

Carole reported that there is a ? summit in May or June at which Rich James of the Olympic Discovery Trail will be a participant.

Sustainability Committee – Alan

They are waiting for a clear charge from the Steering Committee. Thought of the Month: Apply the Golden Rule to future generations.

Steering Committee – Carole

The Committee has met three times. They are working on the big picture, deciding what the process is going to be.

Cell Phone – Carole

Carole reports that Dodd has been in contact with Kim O’Keefe, the contractor hired by T-Mobile. Radio repeater towers have been found and they are looking into using these towers. So far towers are planned for Deming, Sumas Mountain and Mt Baker. Dodd has invited Kim to come to the May meeting. T-Mobile is hoping to have two towers on line in 2006 and 1-2 towers more in 2007. Glacier coverage will happen later in the process.

Pandemic Flu Task Force – Lou

The four work groups – Infrastructure and Organizational Contingency Planning, Legal and Ethical Considerations, Medical Care, and Social and Economic Support met in March. Lou is on the Social and Economic Work Group. He mentioned three areas of concern: economic core issues, food and shelter and psychological and emotional well-being. Lou said the work group discussed “do-ables” – neighborhood campaigns, private health practioners/community healers meetings, and emergency preparedness for individual homes.

Jeff contributed that one of the most do-able tasks is stockpiling food and growing a garden. Individuals need to think about toiletries, hygiene, cooking fuels, etc. He stressed it is important to cultivate strong neighborhoods and friends.

Phil is on the Infrastructure Work Group. He mentioned:

- Incident command centers
- Municipalities have done some planning, but the need is for the County as a whole
- Need to cross train personnel for water systems
- Alternate fuels (propane won’t be delivered)
- Maintain electricity grid is key
- Quarantine will be important tool.
- The Cold War handouts of the sixties are a good source of information
- Be positive and aware
- You may have to go it alone
- 18 months is a minimum

North Fork Community Resource Center – Jeff

Jeff suggested pulling the item from the agenda in the absence of Rick Gantman and Tony Kelley. The County will be making a decision on the location of the Center in two weeks, so it is not necessary to table the discussion till the next meeting.

Other Business

Norma reported that Kendall Watch is pushing forward on issues. The focus in on clean-up efforts. They are working on becoming a non-profit in order to apply for funding for youth programs. The area has major social issues and has been difficult to educate and change. The core group is taking the summer off due to burn out.

Deputy Cliff Langley will continue to live in the area till September. Norma has requested another resident deputy, but there have been no volunteers. Cliff will still have the area as his “beat”.

After a discussion about the problem of litter/garbage dumping, Sam suggested contacting the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. He also said that someone from the foothills should get on the Committee as an advocate for the foothills area.

Jeff brought up the subject of the abortion sign in front of a church on Mt Baker Highway in what appears to be the highway right of way. This is a scenic highway. Jeff encouraged those who felt the sign was out of compliance with signage laws so contact Todd Harrison, Assistant Regional Director of WSDOT.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:40 pm.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, May 17, 2006 at 1:00 pm in the Mt. Baker School District Office

Submitted by: Sharon Digby