

MT. BAKER FOOTHILLS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Meeting – June 15, 2005

Carole MacDonald, Chair, The Inn at Mount Baker
Alan Seid, Cascadia Training & Mediation
Carole Sharpe, Glacier
Lou Piotrowski, Foothills Chamber
Richard Gantman, Mt Baker School Dist
Rob Staveland, Aiki Homes
Joseph Garcia, Mt Baker Trailhead
Anthony Kelley, Kelley Insurance

Sherri Daymon, Small Business Dev. Center
Amy Mower, Maple Falls
Dodd Snodgrass, Port of B'ham
John Carter, Port of B'ham
Judson Greif, Strategies 360
Hal Hart, PDS Director
Matt Aamot, PDS
Sharon Digby, PDS

OPENING COMMENTS

Call to order by Carol at 1:03 pm. Welcome and introductions made.

Open Comment Session

- Tony announced that Tim Demerjian, ice skater, would like to attend the September meeting to discuss plans to build an ice rink.
- Dodd announced that the Port in cooperation with the small towns is sponsoring a downtown revitalization seminar on July 28th at Homestead Farm in Lynden, from 6-19pm
- Joseph encouraged those that can, attend the Hearing for his Lodge at the Hearing Examiners Chambers, June 2, at 1:30.
- Carole announced the Business After Business meeting June 16th at the Inn at Mount Baker from 5-7pm
- Lou passed on a message from Phil Cloward that he has shorthanded at the ranch and hasn't been able to attend meetings.

PRESENTATIONS

Future ... *Faster* Campaign – Judson Greif, Strategies 360

The Future...*Faster* effort is building a broad coalition of communications and high-tech industry leaders, civic groups and other associations, as well as individual Americans who share our belief that in today's choice-filled communications world, consumers, the economy and American innovation are best served by market-driven competition. They oppose the continued regulatory central planning of the communications marketplace that denies consumers their right to select the winners from the growing array of choices available to them. The group supports up-to-date government policies for cable, wireless, wireline, satellite, and Internet companies that promote market-based competition.

Judson has been hired to promote the campaign. He said that Washington is a target state due to being a leader in technology. The goal of the campaign is to have all telecommunications regulated by the same policies. Judson is soliciting participation and comment from the EDA. He will keep EDA update with emails.

East County Update – Matt Amott

- AIKI Homes rezone is proceeding. The Planning Commission hearing date is July 14th at 6:30pm at the Kendall School.
- AIKI Homes has not submitted a subdivision application. Rob said that the application will be turned in to PDS tomorrow.
- PDS plans to hire a consultant for the Foothills Subarea Plan by the end of the year. 1-2 citizens will have input on the consultant but no committee will be formed. Hal stated that the process won't start till after an Assistant Planning and Development Services Director had been hired.
- The Sumas Mt Nextel tower is on hold due to survey problems.

Whatcom County Update – Hal Hart

- First priority is keeping up with the County growth. Whatcom County didn't suffer during the last Puget Sound downturn.
- Reasons for booming growth: Commutes are increasing, in migration seeking quality of life, second and third home, County self promotion.

- There were > 1000 single family home permits last year. The Lake Whatcom moratorium permit stampede will probably increase the permits overall this year by 10%.
- Kremen is putting an emphasis on increasing capacity in PDS and Engineering. For “one-stop shopping” the NW Drive building is being remodeled. Kremen announce a \$16-18 million new building to house all departments related to permitting, possibly located at Smith and Northwest.
- Sixty percent of the County growth is going to urban areas, although the cities are resisting suggested densities.
- A discussion of what the group would like to see in the consultant hired for the Subarea process.

By-Laws – Alan Seid

Tabled till the next meeting – note enough members present.

Cell Phone Tower – Carole Sharpe

See Committee report. Dodd reported that he is working with T-Mobile and Verizon. Verizon is very impressed with the groundswell support. Dodd would be hearing from Verizon within the week. John presented the case for adding the project to the WA-Cert list, adding that being on the list is important to show cell phone committees. Public/private funding was discussed. John presented the strategy that EDA should push the cell phone companies for GIS work on their time, go forward with the idea that the companies need to contribute the capitol, then add the aspect of possible private contributions. The groundwork should be done in the next 3-4 months.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:50 pm.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, September 21, 2005 at 1:00 pm in the Mt. Baker School District Office

Submitted by: Sharon Digby