

**Mt. Baker Foothills
Economic Development Association**

Meeting – June 20, 2007

Phil Cloward, Foothills Chamber
Jeff Margolis, Everybody's Store
Carole Sharpe, Glacier
Rebecca Boonstra, Citizens of Columbia Valley
Michael McFarlane, Parks Department

Jan Eskola, Glacier Water District
Russ Angus, Foothills Chamber
Matt Aamot, PDS
Pam Brown, PDS

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

OPENING COMMENT SESSION

- Rebecca Boonstra, representing Citizens of Columbia Valley, reported that Re-Use Works will have a free pick-up for appliances scheduled for Saturday, June 30, 2007 from 12:00 noon until 3:00 p.m. at the Peaceful Valley Clubhouse. Re-Use Works will accept working and non-working washers, dryers, ranges, refrigerators, freezers, hot water tanks, and microwaves. Please contact Jaymeey at (360) 599-3319 for further information.

Rebecca also reported that the May 23rd event, "Local Living Economy" went well. Sustainable Connections Executive Director, Michelle Long was in attendance as was Pete Kremen, Whatcom County Executive.

- Jan Eskola said that she is assisting Michael with Colstra Company, with the administrative permit requirement of contacting property owners within a 1,000 foot radius.
- Michael McFarlane, representing Whatcom County Parks, handed out an invitation to the community to attend the South Fort Park Planning and Visioning Sessions.

A critical function during the development of a park master plan is to gather citizen and stakeholder ideas and needs. Parks administration will solicit, gather, investigate and incorporate these shared ideas to formulate park goal, priorities and future park elements which reflect both short and long term desires of the citizens of Whatcom County.

The site consists of three separate parcels totaling 603 acres- the Nessel Farm and homestead, the Overby Farm and the East Acme Farm. All three tracts border, and are heavily influenced by the South Fork of the Nooksack River. The East Acme Farm has frontage along Mosquito Lake Road and is located ½ mile east of Acme. The sites are rich in history and have a diversity of environments.

The two visioning sessions will be held:

Thursday, July 12, 2007 from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Bellingham Senior Activity Center, 315 Halleck Street, Bellingham.

Monday, July 16, 2007 from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. at Whatcom County Parks & Recreation Headquarters, 3373 Mt. Baker Hwy, Bellingham.

Suggestions can be emailed to parks@co.whatcom.wa.us Subject Line: South Fork Park or contact William Brozy @ 360-733-2900.

- Jeff Margolis and Michael McFarlane discussed some property located south of the river in Acme. Jeff said that piece of property should be open for public access. Michael McFarlane said that County Flood owns some portion of land in that area and because the land was purchased with money from specific funds that there are restrictions on how the land can be used. Phil suggested that Public Works representatives be invited to the visioning sessions.
- Jeff Margolis asked what if anything was being done to prepare for the Olympics in 2010.

East County Update – Matt

- The Foothills Subarea Plan Advisory Committee is currently working on industrial land policies and economic policies.
- 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. The applicant has not yet resubmitted the traffic study.
- The RF to UR4, 80-acre Rezone has not yet been scheduled for Planning Commission hearing. The planner that has been assigned that rezone is Gary Davis.
- 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.
- School Impact fee ordinance- It is anticipated that the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in July.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Marketing –Russ

No report.

Infrastructure –Phil

- Phil reported that Cascade Natural Gas is looking into expanding the natural gas line. The Bishop Road transfer station can tap into a natural gas line. Phil also reported that there are a number of active road projects in the East County including putting guardrails in places along Highway 9. Jeff commented that putting those guardrails is contributing to the big trucks not staying in their lane.

Recreation and Trails – Jeff Margolis

- KAVZ 102.5 will hold a Blue Moon Potluck and an iPod shuffle community fund raiser on June 30, 2007 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Van Zandt. KAVZ has raised approximately 25% of the needed funds. The funds will be used to for restroom facilities and also for work on a septic field.
- EDA members and guests discussed the Whatcom County Parks trails system. The Foothills Subarea Plan committee had heard public comment that was not in favor of Whatcom County Parks trails systems. Michael responded that notices

were sent to property owners in which private property owners were encroaching into County property. There was also discussion that a couple of property owners abutting the trails system had had break-ins. Michael McFarlane said the he knew of 1 instance of burglary but didn't see how the trails system had played a part in that.

Sustainability Committee –

No Chair

Steering Committee –

No report.

Ad-hoc Committee Reports

Cell Phone – Carole Sharpe

Phil continues to work on getting the path to the tower cut down from 6 miles to 1.5 miles. Phil commented that the person that he worked with at DNR is no longer there and the ones that are there now are of a different mind set. The tower is on State land and there may be a problem with regard to an easement. Phil said that property owners seem to be agreeable to granting easements for the cell phone utility.

Other Business

No other business.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 P.M. Submitted by Pam Brown

NEXT MEETING

September 20, 2007