

MT. BAKER FOOTHILLS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Meeting – June 21, 2006

Alan Seid, Maple Falls
Carole Sharpe, Glacier
Lou Piotrowski, MB Foothills Chamber
Jeff Margolis, Everybody's Store
Rose Lathrop, Aiki Homes
Jan Eskola, Glacier Water District

Anthony Kelley, NF Comm Res Center Assoc
Dodd Snodgrass, Port of B'ham
Michael McFarlane, Parks and Rec
Joyce Sappington
Matt Aamot, PDS
Sharon Digby, PDS

Call to order by Alan. Welcome and introductions made.

OPENING COMMENT SESSIONS

- Tony announced that donations from the Sumas business members totaled \$181,500 in matching funds for the parks expansion.
- Tony shared that work has begun on a new pipeline from Sumas to Burlington. There are 100 people employed now and will be 300 employees at the peak of operations. This is generating a lot of business for the County.
- Tony cautioned that if individuals sit on a board of a non-profit organization to be sure the organization carries directors and officers insurance.

PRESENTATIONS

North Fork Community Resource Center – Mike McFarlane

Mike said that three projects are taking place on the East Acme Farm: 1. Pipeline project (pig launcher), 2. a salmon enhancement project and 3. flood improvement project. Mike also stated that the County has approved working cooperatively with the National Forest Service to fund a bridge in the Razerhorn area for cross country skiing.

Lou asked about the Parks master plan. Mike responded that it will go to the printers next week and that they are in the process of scheduling for a Planning Commission meeting. The plan will probably be on-line in late July or early August.

The North Fork Community Resource Center was approved two meetings ago by the County Council. Parks is now working on the design phase. There will be an evening public informational meeting on July 13th at the Kendall Elementary School. Mike said that grant applications are pending and he will have a better feel for funding in the Spring. Mike Russell of Facilities Management will oversee the construction. Parks will help coordinate. The County Executive will appoint a steering committee after July 13th. The intent is to have the facility under the jurisdiction of Parks.

Other Discussion

Dodd announced that the best place to see the Bellingham fireworks is from the shipping terminal, however, you need a free ticket. Call Dodd and he will set aside tickets.

Tony said that the Sumas Community Days will be June 24th. Fireworks will be at 10:30pm at the rodeo ground.

Jeff announced that on July 2nd there will be an old time social at the Josh Vander Yacht Park in Van Zandt, from 3-9pm. A potluck is at 6pm, there will be informational booths, free hotdogs and lemonade. Acmenormous is on July 3rd and the Acme Parade is July 4th. They are looking for volunteers to put together 500,000 bottle rockets at the Hill Farm on Potter Road.

Alan said that the old Kendall grocery store recently reopened. They have groceries, hardware, ATM machine, Subway sandwiches and wireless internet.

Foothills Holiday Event - Joyce

Joyce Sappington and Becca Schwartz are planning a Christmas holiday event in the Foothills. They would like to see it become an annual activity. They are in the talking phase trying to find interested people. They tentatively are planning on Silver Lake Park for the location. The event would include food, vendors, kids activities, and entertainment. The tentative date is December 9th. It was suggested to Joyce that she come to the EDA with specific

requests; there were not enough members present for the EDA to endorse the event. Joyce asked people to contact her at sappi.42@earthlink.com.

East County Update – Matt

- The Foothills vision week is completed. There were about 175 participants, including advisory committee members. Studio Cascade transcribed the comments which are available on the County website. The consultant in conjunction with the advisory committee will be developing a questionnaire this summer. There will be a two-day Kendall small town design workshop on September 15 and 16 and policy workshop on October 14th. Other issues the committee is dealing with include population estimates.
- Aiki Homes – on hold
- Nextel – on hold
- Secret Harbor – no building permit has been submitted
- Deming Library – the staff report is being worked on and will go before the Hearing Examiner in August.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Marketing – Russ

Nothing to report, not present.

Infrastructure – Phil

Nothing to report, not present.

Recreation and Trails – Jeff

Jeff shared that it has been 8-9 years since the Chain of Trails idea and bicycling has become a significant part of the community. Bellingham and the County are linking bikeways now. The Plan is slowly continuing. Tony shared that he has recently been biking the Bellingham/Fairhaven paths and finds them very enjoyable. However, he felt he was taking his life in his hands when he rode his bike from his house north of the Columbia Valley to the Kendall Elementary School. Not only that there wasn't any place to lock his bike at the school. A discussion ensued about biking in the Columbia Valley. Tony suggested a bike lane/facilities project be something the EDA takes on. He gave an example of the Pullman, WA to Moscow, ID bike path and said they did it right. Jeff said if the committee wants to revisit a bike trail in Kendall area, he could get COG and the Bike-Ped Committee to meet again. Jeff will talk to Ellen.

Sustainability Committee – Alan

Nothing to report.

Steering Committee – Carole

Alan announced he will be stepping down from the committee and as facilitator next fall.

Pandemic Flu Task Force – Lou

Lou reported that the task force has finished it's work. A report will be written June-September and will be available in September. He handed out a Unified Area Command chart and said that the break through in the system is the addition of the Community Support box. Lou thinks that this addition and the message to get to know and communicate with your neighbors are the most important part of the task force. He encourages people to get their updates from two sources, the Center for Disease Control and the World Health Organization. Don't look to other websites, they tend to be commercially motivated. As of 2 weeks ago the bird flu has not passed from human to human.

Jeff said he had copies of a survival list or you could get one from Marvin Wolf at the County Sheriffs office.

Alan mentioned that the US Senate is now having hearings on "peak oil". The term Peak Oil refers the maximum rate of the production of oil in any area under consideration, recognizing that it is a finite natural resource, subject to depletion. Reaching peak oil means the end of cheap oil and business/life as we know it. Alan mentions this in light of disaster preparedness.

Other Business

Jan said that if there is going to be a solstice rave party it will be on Saturday. She didn't write a letter to the Whatcom Land Trust, because she is working with them on this problem.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, September 20th, 2006 at 1:00 pm in the Mt. Baker School District Office.

Submitted by: Sharon Digby