

**MOUNT BAKER FOOTHILLS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**

Meeting Date: **September 19, 2007**

Location: **Mount Baker School District – District Office. Deming, WA**

Carole MacDonald
Jeff Margolis, Everybody's Store
Carole Sharpe, Glacier
Rebecca Boonstra, Citizens of Columbia Valley
Kevin Hault, WWU

Jan Eskola, Glacier Water District
Vel Massie
Matt Aamot, PDS
Penny Harrison, PDS

Call to order: 1:00 PM by Carole MacDonald.

Welcome and introductions made.

OPENING COMMENT SESSION

- No announcements or comments.

EAST COUNTY UPDATE – MATT

- Foothills Subarea Plan Advisory Committee: A preliminary draft Foothills Subarea Plan was issued in August 2007. CD's are available at County Planning or the plan can be found on the Whatcom County website at: <http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/pds/planning/index.jsp>. A meeting will be held on September 19, 2007 to review the draft including height and square foot limits for small town commercial zones and will include input from Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).

We will have a draft plan roll-out community workshop on October 15th from 6:30 to 8:30 at the Kendall Elementary School gym.

A discussion on the square foot limits for commercial property included a suggestion by Jeff that 2,000 sq ft restriction was too small and would hobble economic development of the sub area. Jeff suggested that the committee reconsider this restriction and increase to 10,000 sq ft.

- Aiki Homes: The applicant has not yet resubmitted the traffic study.
- Rezone for 80 acres (Goshen and Holly application) from Rural Forestry (RF) to Urban Residential 4 (UR4): This is on hold waiting information on wetlands and fire and water service providers.
- Sensor Link, 1975 Valley Highway, Acme: The Hearing Examiner has remanded to the Whatcom County Land Use Division.
- School Impact Fee Ordinance: The Planning Commission, at their July meeting, recommended moving this ordinance forward to the Whatcom County Council for approval. This ordinance would allow school districts who have approved Capital Facility Plans on file with Whatcom County to apply an impact fee to building permit applicants.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MARKETING –RUSS ANGUS

- No report.

INFRASTRUCTURE –PHIL CLOWARD

- No report

RECREATION AND TRAILS – JEFF MARGOLIS AND CAROLE MACDONALD

- Van Zandt Community Hall: Septic plan has been approved by the Health Department. This is a high tech and costly system to maintain. The community has raised more than one-half of the funds necessary for installation.
- South Fork Park: Visioning sessions have been held. Jeff has not seen the feedback. Jeff expects that this park will be to the east county as Larabee State Park is to the west county. It is a 503 acre park, 3 times the size of Rockport. Jeff thought that this park would be a big economic engine in the South Fork valley – an anchor and destination point with proximity to Porter Creek Road with access to Park Butte. Jeff mentioned several ideas for area development including: an outfitting business in the immediate vicinity, use as a base camp to other immediate resources, swimming with a changing facility, an amphitheater, cabins, establishment of a docents group. Carole M. suggested and will pursue inviting a Parks Department representative to the next meeting.
- KAVZ 102.5: This station operates from 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM daily at the Van Zandt Community hall. They are working with the Mount Baker School District to create a radio club. This is a donations funded station that reaches from Peaceful Valley to Maple Falls, to Deming and Squalicum Lake Road. They have been working with the Nooksack Tribe on a program for native Rights/Affairs and also a health program. Jeff suggested that they could be used for tourist information with a sign posted on the highway. A later discussion involved KAVZ going to full power which would result in the station being heard in Glacier and the potential for securing advertisers. It was also suggested that the station might move into the Foothills Subarea and that it should be included as a topic in the subarea plan.
- Trails: Carole discussed an upcoming speaker, Rick James, Clallam County Transportation Manager, would will be presenting at the Silver Lake Lodge on October 12th from 6:45 PM. His presentation will be on the Olympic Trails and how they affect property owners.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE – No Chair

- No report

STEERING COMMITTEE – Carole MacDonald

- Will be meeting later this month.

AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

WWU SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER – KEVIN HOULT

Kevin handed out the WWU Business Development Center annual report and a conference flyer for the “The New Whatcom Business Conference” to be held on October 18, 2007. Early registration ends on September 24th.

CELL PHONE – CAROLE SHARPE

Carole requested information on the cell tower in Deming and whether it is a Verizon tower. It appears that the Kendall cell tower project will not move ahead due to the cost

to get to the proposed tower location. Carole stated that by mid November T-Mobile will provide service to part of the Kendall area. Jan noted that a significant amount of funding is being put into the Whatcom County area communications by WSDOT. Whatcom County is the first county to have the radio signals upgraded, mostly due to the Olympics. They are upgrading fire, state patrol, and piggybacking all kinds of communications on the National Security towers. Jan suggested that Carole contact Ben Thompson regarding the cell towers. Jan also stated that she has no information at this time regarding high speed internet.

OTHER BUSINESS

Jeff would like the committee to contact Whatcom Transit Authority (WTA) regarding a bus to Glacier. Committee members stated that the Glacier business is minimal. Currently there is a once a week trip to Bellingham. Committee members discussed the following bus options: 1) a seasonal daily bus to the mountain top from Glacier, 2) a Glacier bookmobile, and 3) a weekly trip to town using a van type vehicle with stops at specific stores, banks, and other businesses.

Rebecca stated that the bookmobile was discontinued due to lack of interest however, Wickersham does have a bookmobile stop. Several committee members thought that it was not sufficiently advertised.

Candidate Meet and Greet: Citizens for Columbia Valley will host a candidate meet and greet at the Peaceful Valley Country Club on Wednesday, September 26 at 7:00 PM.

Candidate Forum: The Chamber of Commerce will host a candidate forum at the Kendall Elementary School on October 11, 2007 at 7:00 PM.

The committee discussed removal of greenbelts and in the Paradise Lakes area. The questions was raised as to how this could occur. Members noted that the board of directors for Paradise Lakes disbanded under controversy of mismanagement.

Kendall Watch: The committee noted that the watch has been highly successful. They are planning another community cleanup day.

Lighting Improvement District (LID): The Evergreen Water and Sewer District is interested in creating a LID for Paradise in order to install street lights.

ADJOURNED:

1:50 P.M

NEXT MEETING

October 17, 2007

SUBMITTED:

Penny V. Harrison, Whatcom County Planning & Development Service