

MT. BAKER FOOTHILLS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Meeting – September 21, 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
Jan Eskola, Glacier
Sherri Daymon, Small Business Dev. Center

Dodd Snodgrass, Port of B'ham
Cliff Landley, WC Sheriff's Office
Jeff Margolis, Everybody's Store
Phil Cloward, Mt Baker Foothills C/C
Lynne Givler, WC Parks
Matt Aamot, PDS
Sharon Digby, PDS

OPENING COMMENTS

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

Open Comment Session

PRESENTATIONS

By-Laws – Alan Seid

- The by-laws have been a year in the making. Language was changed last spring to reflect changes suggested by Councilperson Sam Crawford. Version 4.7 of the by-laws was ratified by consensus.
- Rick committed to highlighting the by-law requirements on a month-by-month basis.
- Carole noted that 3 people need to be appointed to an ad-hoc elections committee. They are Rick Gantman, Phil Cloward and Carole MacDonald. Rick will email potential meetings dates for this committee.
- Membership is defined as attending 3 regular meetings in the last six month period.
- The Governance sub-committee is dissolved.

KAVZ Radio – Jeff Margolis

- Jeff reports that the radio station has been granted an extension by the Federal Government for going on air. Whatcom County has granted Administrative Approval. A portion of the Van Zandt hall will be dedicated to the station. A building permit is pending.
- Early last June, tubing was banned on the South Fork of the Nooksack River. The Acme and Everybody stores experienced a sharp decline in business. The owners spoke with the County Council Natural Resources Committee (NRC) to clarify the text of the banning Ordinance. Tubing will be restricted above the town of Acme only. The County Park Commission will hold it's October 20th meeting at the Van Zandt hall at 7:00pm to take public input on the Ordinance. The NRC will appropriate not less than \$10,000 to administer public recreation. They will also take steps to have a consultant look at the situation.
- Bob Lindquist of Summit GIS has put out a County bicycle map available at Everybody's Store and other locations.

Marketing Committee – Phil Cloward

See Committee report.

- The Bellingham Chamber of Commerce is now the Bellingham/Whatcom Chamber of Commerce.

Sub-Area Report – Matt Aamot

- Ad-hoc committee has been created to review draft scope of work/outline of subarea plan components and review consultant proposals. First meeting is 9-21-05, 3:30pm at the Planning office.
- The Growth Management Hearings Board ruling: In response to the Future Wise Challenge of some elements of Whatcom County's Comp Plan, the GMHB ruled that any zoning in the rural area less than one dwelling per 5 acres is invalid unless its in a properly established "limited areas of more intense rural development" and that the UR3 zoning in UGAs is invalid.

Recreation Committee and Trails Committee – open

- Lou reported that the "Ride 452" event was very successful this year. This event sponsored by many individuals and the Foothills Chamber had 300+ riders from Glacier to Artist's Point.

Cell Phone Tower – Carole Sharpe, Dodd Snodgrass

- T-Mobile will be submitting the results of the meeting with the Ad-hoc Committee and John Carter at their quarterly meeting. Dodd will forward additional information.
- There has been no response from Verizon to the meeting with committee/Port members. Dodd sent an official letter reiterating the points made at the meeting and mentioning that service is now available in Point Roberts and has received no response. Verizon has a completed radio frequency study.
- Nextel – the proposed tower on Sumas Mountain is on hold because of survey problems. Dodd is trying to get a meeting with Nextel.
- Unicell – a Rural Communications Company, serves underserved areas with low elevation topography. Whatcom County is not in their service area. Dodd has asked CTED to notify Unicell to revise their service coverage.
- Clearwire – a wireless broadband internet service provider is having a launch in Bellingham at the Bellweather, September 29th, from 4-6pm. They make use of existing cell towers for their equipment. Dodd will invite a representative to the next EDA meeting.
- Dodd stated that he will continue to host contact meetings with cell phone companies. He will look into Nextel.

AIKI Homes – Rob Staveland

- AIKI Homes has offered land for the North Fork Resource Center (NFRC) and they are working on releasing the title in order to disassociate themselves from the process of choosing a site. The County Council is reviewing sites for the center.
- The proposed development is conducting a new level of studies at a cost of \$100,000. The project has gone through the first review period. A SEPA determination should be available possibly in six weeks. They expect to be through the process by early next year.

Other Business

- Alan mentioned that nominations need to be submitted at the October meeting for membership to the Steering Committee (7-9 members). The Steering Committee is charged with the overall leadership of the EDA.
- Alan will be speaking about energy issues at the next meeting.
- Jeff asked about the minutemen/vigilante rumors. Cliff (Sheriff's office) responded that the Sheriff's office was in communication with them and that they are willing to cooperate. Jeff requested an update at the next meeting.
- Carole mentioned that the Bellingham-Whatcom Chamber of Commerce is having a luncheon on 9-29 to recognize the outstanding large and small business of the year.
- Foothills Chamber submitted an application to WCOG for \$350,000 for "Welcome Center". Funds come from the Federal DOT.
- Jeff brought up concerns about the Cornell Creek bridge which is a major interest of the Bicycle Pedestrian Action Committee. Lynne responded that the bridge can't be located on the alluvial fan. The Parks Dept has sent a letter to Olympic Resources requesting permission to build on their land. Olympic seems supportive.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:50 pm.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, October 19, 2005 at 1:00 pm in the Mt. Baker School District Office

Submitted by: Sharon Digby