SCCC Minutes 2.21.23

Firestation & Zoom

Board members in person: Ned Andrews, Michael Kinsley, Jen Rupert, Helene Slansky, David Chase, Judy Frey, Jill Sabella

Board members on Zoom: Judy Lovins, Chris Collins, Johno McBride, Pete McBride, Sierra Flanigan, Chelsea Congdon

Guest: Martha Ferguson

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes and Treasurer’s Report

Michael approved and David seconded the Minutes of January 17, 2023. All in favor.

Minutes will be posted on the Caucus website.

Treasurer’s report ending January 31, 2023 showed a total of $42,619.93 with $33,129.42 in the unrestricted account and $9,490.51in the account for water studies. Expenses were for postage and supplies, and a $1,000 contribution was received. A $250 application fee was made to the Dark Sky Organization. The contact person with Dark Sky will be changed from Vicki to Judy Frey.

TREASURER’S POSITION

Judy Lovins offered to take the Treasurer’s Officer position. David seconded. All in favor.

Ned said Vicki dropped off two notebooks she put together on the Treasurer’s procedures for the Caucus’ help in transition. Thank you Vicki. Judy and Ned will be added as signatures on the Caucus account; Vicki’s name will then be removed.

Post Office box fee will be handled by Jill, who’s name will go on the Caucus’ box 507. One of the two keys will go to the Treasurer, and Jill, as Secretary will hold the second key.

COMMITTEES

Ned lead a review of the proposed committees: Dark Sky, Water, Land Use, Wildlife, Fundraising, Community Outreach, Website. Chelsea commented that was too many committees and we could put several of them under a large umbrella, like Environmental Stewardship.

Ned stressed the desire and importance of having the annual Caucus picnic, as a community event and as a fundraiser, and that organization to make that happen should begin. It’s been three years since the last picnic. Thoughts about the location were discussed - Windstar, lower Capitol Creek Road park area, which as Chris mentioned, could also be a chance to address the camping and waste issue of the Capitol Creek trail to the lake. Johno will look into a McBride location. But the consensus was that it should be within the Caucus area. Sierra offered to help set up an online system to facilitate organization.

After discussion about requests from valley residents to be involved in committee work in addition to Board members, Michael moved that the Board accept valley residents. Jen and Chelsea seconded. All in favor and agreed the committee chair person should be a Board member with other committee volunteers.

In working to finalize the committees, emails will be sent to Board members as to what committees they want to be on.

CAPITOL CREEK TRAILHEAD ISSUES

Discussion was that Open Space & Trails has had meetings with the County, Forest Service and BLM concerning the usage and condition of trails. Jen said she’s talked to OST about what the Caucus can do and spoke on the Utah State Univ is doing a 2-year study on this situation. Jen’s points were: 1. this study is being done and that what we can do is to report accurately the pertinent numbers - of people, cars, etc., take photos of waste, number of cars, toilet paper, etc., and 2. with these documents, give them to Michael who will get them to OST.

Michael said the solutions will be complex; and that permitting is very difficult.

Chris talked about Steamboat having a similar problem with trail abuse. Steamboat’s efforts to improve the situation of maintenance of trails and trailheads was to start a “trail maintenance Endowment fund”, funded by private individuals and local organizations, which is something we could look into doing here. I.e. reservations and permits for parking. They are sending Chris information on this.

COMMUNITY GROWTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sierra and Johno have voluntarily been participating in the Community Growth Advisory Committee since summer, with meetings every other week. The March 1st meeting will synthesize ideas proposed by all participating. Issues like TDR’s, GMZO, water conservation, energy, lands planning, etc. Johno commented the committee was pretty polarized and that a consensus will be difficult and that he personally believes strongly in character and scale.

Sierra said we can live stream the meeting on March 1st.

DARK SKIES

Martha Ferguson spoke about the Dark Skies Initiative and that she and Judy Frey, Sierra, and David had a zoom meeting with Amber Harrison, our contact at the Dark Sky Organization, which was very encouraging. The Capitol Creek valley has qualified because the Caucus is an “entity” and that we need to reach out to organizations like AVLT, ACES, RMI for a nomination. One purpose is to promote “educational advocacy” about light pollution and it’s effects. We would have events, do an annual report . There are no enforcement concerns, and there’s no timeline in that it normally takes 1-3 years for acceptance.

David commented it’s really about education and the importance of dark skies as light interference effects animal behavior significantly. He said 80% of the world cannot see dark skies because of light pollution and it’s very important to maintain dark skies in our valley, especially at this early stage.

There was discussion that we could turn to local publications as well as social media and our website to do an article on our Caucus’ Dark Sky initiative.

COMMENTS

Judy Lovins expressed concern that new residents have a bad opinion of the Caucus Board being critical of things like house design and style. It was agreed the Caucus is an advisory group; the County has the regulations. The Caucus cannot dictate style and design.

Ned moved to adjourn. Helene approved and Jen seconded.

Meeting was adjourned.