SCCC Minutes DRAFT 8.15.23

Old Snowmass Fire Station Annex

Board members present: Ned Andrrews, Helene Slansky, Molly Child, Judy Frey, Johno McBride, Pete McBride, David Chase, Chris Collins, Michael Kinsley, Jen Rupert, Jill Sabella

Guests: Steve Child, Martha Ferguson, and on Zoom Sharon Caulfield, Jeffrey Woodruff, Gayle Morgan and Forrest Thomas

CONSENT AGENDA

The Treasurer’s report ending July 31, 2023 showed $32,254.81 in the unrestricted account and $9,490.51 in the water studies account for a total of $41,745.32. Expenses since June 20, 2023 were $650.00 forNonprofits Insurance Alliance and $387.50 to Devon Child for web design and $338.00 for Six Internet.

The Board approved he Treasurer’s report as well as the Minutes of June 20, 2023.

Ned mentioned that Chelsea will be printing 25 copies of the Executive Summary of the Lotic study of Capitol Creek to be distributed to various local organizations. Also that he will not be here for the September 18th board meeting, and that on September 19 the Commissioners will be considering the final Master Plan. Before final approval, with the Colorado House Bill 23-1255 having been recently signed by Gov. Polis, the Community Growth Management needs to integrate into our Master Plan some new mandates. The Master Plan also needs to have an overlay map done of the area within the SCCC for final completion.

CAUCUS PICNIC

Johno and Peter McBride have generously offered Johno’s home for this year’s Caucus picnic. It is scheduled for Friday, September 8th, 6-10, at 5463 E. Sopris Creek Rd. and will be posted on Constant Contact. It is a fundraising event. The McBrides will provide brots and burgers, chips and salsa and the Caucus will provide drinks of wine, beer and soft drinks, as well as a port-o-potty. Everyone coming is asked to bring a potluck sidedish/desert for all. Everyone is also asked to bring their own plate and utensils, a chair, and a flashlight. Jen is looking into getting cups inexpensively printed with a SCCC logo. A bonfire is planned. Since it is a no-moon night, it will also be a Dark Skies event, with Judy Frey bringing her 8” reflector telescope to be set up on Johno’s lightless deck as well as guest John Kneeler’s large telescope. Martha will bring Dark Sky literature. Everyone is asked to use caution around the telescopes.

DARK SKIES

Martha spoke on how Dark Sky pamphlets have been given to the Aspen and Basalt Chambers of Commerce. Amy Shipley, new Director at the Basalt Library, has offered to host a Dark Skies presentation at the library. And Jo Brumet, a graphic artist who has worked with the Caucus, is creating a Dark Skies logo for “WildSky Old Snowmass” on a sticker to be used for marketing.

Sierra and Martha are creating a webpage on Dark Skies for the caucus website which will have articles, information, and photos - thanks Pete McBride - as well as Judy Frey’s celestial calendar and advice on smart ways to buy LD lights that don’t light pollute. When all is well organized, it will be given to Devon to integrate into the Caucus website. The Caucus has purchased a light meter. Also, the County Commissioners plan to sign a letter of support as well as reviewing their outdoor lighting code.

David added that he has asked Jeff Hall, executive director of the Lowell Observatory, to come here to talk about Dark Skies at a venue like ACES.

There was discussion about the new house construction site on 6890 E. Sopris Creek road and the concern of erosion at the site. Chris said the Land Use committee had looked at the site a couple years ago and that the approved single story house under construction is simply replacing the previous complex of buildings and that they are working on managing the fill dirt that was excavated from the site and is now spilling down the hillside infant of the house. Steve said they will have to reseed it and do some landscaping to reclaim natural vegetation and that the County will see that it’s done.

David commented on some excavator activity at the three ponds once proposed at the intersection of Sopris and Capitol Creeks which the Caucus understands did not receive a “storage water right” to fill the ponds.

There was also discussion about the accuracy in marketing the building allowances at the 1645 “Capitol Creek Resort and Event Ground” ranch currently for sale, and also the lack of licensing of their outfitters operation.

CAPITOL CREEK FLOWS

Ned reported that the CWCD will only administer water that is measured and that once we have measurements of water flow thru gauges we can start having discussions about ways to increase summertime flows in the creek by having voluntary users return not needed water into the creek, possibly with monetary incentives.

IMPACT OF CO SB23-1255 on CAUCUS AREA LAND-USE CODE

On August 7, 2023 Gov. Polis signed this bill which proposes amendments to the Pitkin County Land-Use code and which will now have to adjust to change.

Steve commented there are now more options for development on individual land, and more use of TDR’s in the free market. Discussion followed as to whether this therefore does allow for more development, and that the bill does not consider environmental issues with more development nor does it consider the health of the support systems for development - like water, schools, etc. Steve added that most small Colorado (mountain) communities are against this legislation, except for Boulder which has a priority of more affordable housing.

Jeffrey confirmed, as a P&Z member, that our Master Plan is now held up by the 1255 adjustments and that we will be waiting for a go-ahead from Ellen Sassano and Suzanne Wolf before final approval, but that a zoning code overlay map will definitely be needed.

Meeting adjourned.