SCCC Minutes of 12.12.23

Board members: Ned Andrews, David Chase, Chris Collins, Judy Frey, Judy Lovins, Michael Kinsley, Helene Slansky, Jen Rupert

Guests: Martha Ferguson, Forrest Thomas, Jeffrey Woodruff, Sharon Caulfield

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Treasurer’s Report showed $31,153.95 in the Unrestricted account and $8,381.70 in the Water Studies Fund for a total of $39,761.08. Income was $405 from picnic donations and a $109.35 insurance refund. Expenses were $122.96 for a Dark Sky decal and $165.96 to Molly for picnic supplies refund.

Michael moved to approve the Minutes of November 13 and the Treasurer’s Report. David seconded. All approved.

RECOGNITION TO HELENE SLANSKY AND CHELSEA CONGDON

Recognition was given to Helene and Chelsea for their many years of dedicated service to the Caucus Board. Both will not be continuing on the Board. Helene said credit goes to the entire Board which is working well, and that it’s been an honor to be part of the Caucus. The Board thanked her for her more than 20 years of service.

ELECTION OF NEW CAUCUS BOARD

Though the election results are not official until December 18, given that there were 13 candidates for 13 slots, Ned recommended recognizing those 13 as the new Board. David moved to approve the slate of nominations and Judy Frey seconded. All in favor.

The election of Officers will wait til the meeting in January, 2024.

DARLING FARMS

The Board was given a tour of the proposed plan for the Darling Farms by Mitch Haas/land planner, Mike Alpert/designer, and Forrest Thomas/ranch manager. The Board was favorably impressed with the tour. Michael said it’s the best review he’s seen and Judy Frey said she was impressed they were reusing the logs from the old barns to build the new barns. Their plan hasn’t yet been referred to the Caucus by the County.

Ned commented the Caucus needs a committee to review the proposal. Chris, as head of the Land Use committee agreed and Molly, Judy Lovins, David offered to be on the committee, also planning to ask one of the McBride’s to also be on the committee.

DARK SKIES

On the issue of using residential exterior lighting compliant with County’s recognizing Dark Skies standards in their new lighting regulations as of November 14, Chris explained how lighting for properties is now measured in foot candles and lumens, not watts. One foot candle allowed at a property line - is the new regulation. The point being halting light so as not to trespass on a neighbor’s property. Chris commented it is difficult finding safe exterior lighting that meets the Dark Skies code and that presently to get a certification for occupancy, lighting must be dark Skies compliant and the there’s a lot of ambiguity at this point. Ned agreed that the County needs to have lighting referrals for meeting the new County standards and Martha added that Dark Skies should provide advice on acceptable outdoor lighting. Sharon noted that the Dark Skies website does have lighting suggestions.

Martha added that the Dark Skies program is education, not enforcement. Chad Abraham at the County is the person to contact about enforcement.

Ned moved that the Caucus purchase a digital luminescent light meter to measure trespassing light in lumens to facilitate meeting County standards in exterior lighting. This could be donated to Basalt library for community use. All were in favor.

Martha added that the Dark Skies webpage is about ready and that we can apply to Colorado for a Dark Skies grant for upcoming expenses.

COMPLIANCE

Ned and David led a discussion about “successive planning”, that is getting younger people involved on the Caucus Board. At the next meeting there will be discussion about recruiting younger people to join the Board and get involved.

Judy Lovins brought attention to Amory Lovins’ work on the airport expansion plan through his “Aspen Fly Right” organization, to help the County make good decisions on the expansion and size of runways.

Motion to adjourn by Helene. Seconded by David. All in favor.