SCCC Minutes of April 19, 2022

The Board meeting was held at the Old Snowmass Fire Station and also on Zoom

Board members present at the Old Snowmass fire station: Ned Andrews, Chelsea Brundige, Molly Child, Sierra Flanigan, Michael Kinsley, Jacqueline Russell, Helene Slansky

Board members present on Zoom: Chris Collins, Johno McBride, Pete McBride, Jill Sabella

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of April 15, 2022 were approved and will be posted on the website.

Treasurer’s Report showed the balance in the combined accounts to be $38,124.44.

Unrestricted funds are $28,633.93 and funds for Water Studies are $9,490.51.

Two expenses this month were $225 to Devon Child for website work, and $250 for accountant fees for Fed/tax report.

The Treasurer’s report was approved.

GENERAL COMMENTS

There was discussion about the Caucus’ Welcome Letter which Judy Hill Lovins is writing and whether it should go to only new residents or be sent to everyone. This letter is informative about what the Caucus does, and makes a solicitation. Vicki said that in past fundraising solicitation letters sent out there was no response, and thought it best to do fundraising thru Constant Contact. Helene spoke of the need to circulate fundraising efforts more widely, thru emails and that there is a need to publicize the website and make it more visible.

There was discussion on how to generate interest in the Caucus’ work and how to register hits on the website. Chelsea said at the annual summer picnic we need to bring more attention to the mailing list and fundraising.

Ned will be out of country next Board meeting on May 17. Helene will chair the meeting.

MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE REPORT

The MP committee members are Michael, Chelsea, Helene, David Chase and Ned.

Ned commented revisions will give more constructive guidance and more information to future homeowners. Chelsea added the new Master Plan will go before the full Board, first as a draft with highlighted areas to indicate changes, sent out well ahead of the meeting where it will be read and studied. Michael also added that it is essentially a “policy document” - a basis for our decisions and for consensus, and as a guide for Land Use decisions and other governing criteria. It is currently still in draft form and the Committee plans to have it finished for review in May. After one or two Board meetings to review it, it should be finalized by July. Then it goes out to general Caucus approval. If the draft is ready in May a general review/public comment can be done before fall. Chelsea commented there is much clarification given with what the committee has added and improved. Last time the MP went through a major revision TDR’s were a flash point; now there are no such major flashpoints.

Chris questioned how the Master Plan aligns with the County Code; Ned said it will reference County Code.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

The ESC’s mission is to increase awareness and knowledge of our natural surroundings, to share the information with the residents in our caucus area, and to work toward solutions to protect it.

Water (Ned and Chelsea)

The water committee will be reaching out to the major irrigators in the Capitol Creek valley to explore opportunities for voluntary changes in water use. The committee will follow-up on the LOTIC study and look for opportunities to improve water use. There’s no means to mandate water use but the committee can initiate a community-based conversation to discuss what opportunities there are with people helping out in voluntary ways.

Biota (Jacqueline, Sierra, Johno and Pete)

Jacqueline and Sierra’s mission statement says an important role for the Caucus is to study, understand, monitor and support the rich flora and fauna, protect the valley and it’s habitat. The “to do” list includes doing a high value habitat study, a flora and fauna census, an imperiled species study, a beaver analysis model, identifying migratory corridors, doing a bird census, and studying the conservation areas and their biological signatures, read the reports that already exist, study wildlife overpasses, invasive species, wildlife friendly fencing, and do an in-depth study of the Roaring Fork Watershed Biodiversity and Connectivity Study.

Native Landscapes (Molly and Jill)

Molly’s mission statement is that the Native Landscapes committee learn about and share with others the importance of planting biologically diverse gardens and yards that support the local food web. In using native plants - indigenous to our area which evolved here over the course of thousands of years, thriving in our soil, adapting to our rainfall levels, temperatures and climate - these plants have become the foundation of the local food webs, giving birds, insects and all wildlife what they need to survive. Natives are beautiful and functional choices for the landscape, requiring less fertilizer and water than lawns or exotic plants. Planting natives connect our gardens/yards to the natural world around us and they can help create wildlife corridors that are needed to sustain groups of plants and animals. A website such as [nwf.org](http://nwf.org) (National Wildlife Federation) gives easily accessible information, organized by zip code, about native plants that thrive in varying zones and that support the various wildlife systems.

Climate Action (Sierra and Molly)

Sierra has drafted a *“Capitol Creek Caucus Climate Change Preparedness Strategy Draft And Climate Vulnerability Assessment”.* Sierra states *“*the purpose of this document is to provide a roadmap for Old Snowmass moving forward for ensuring resiliency in a rapidly changing climate. This document is to outline risks and mitigation efforts that the Capitol Creek Caucus community can take to prepare accordingly.” Sierra is welcoming all community and County input into her preparedness document. Additional concerns expressed were roof water collection with rain barrels, composting, fires/drought and how drought will effect wildlife, what the climate risks are and what we can do to mitigate them.

Also, possibly a Dark Night Sky Committee (to enforce the County lighting code, possibly put a friendly neighborhood letter in mailboxes) - since now there is no mechanism or authority to enforce dark night skies at the County level.

Vicki asked about a “Sound”, or noise concern given how sound travels in a valley like ours. Molly said semi-automatic rifles were used in upper Capitol Creek area recently. Chelsea said that safety in discharging of firearms can be an addition to the Master Plan and Chris noted that the County does have a sound ordinance for special events.

Helene moved to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned