SCCC Minutes of 7.16.24

Old Snowmass Firestation

Board Members: Ned Andrews, David Chase, Judy Lovins, Judy Frey, Martha Ferguson, Michael Kinsley, Chris Collins, Johno McBride, Pete McBride, Jill Sabella

Guests: Aubrey Epstein, Amory Lovins, Kevin and Stephanie Heineken, Alex Kelloff and Sara Adams

CONSENT AGENDA

The Minutes of June 18, 2024 were approved by David and seconded by Michael. All in favor.

Chris moved to approve the Treasurer’s Reports of May, June and July. David seconded. In the Caucus’ Unrestricted Account there is now a restricted account for Dark Skies.

Ending June 30, 2024 the cash account for Unrestricted Funds was $33,933.18; Funds restricted for Water Studies was at $8,381.70, and Funds restricted for Dark Skies was at $2,147.51. Expenses were $3,988 to Varnish & Raisch attorneys/Water study, and $37.50 to Ken Ransford for legal expense. The total balance as of 6/30/24 was $42,936.89.

ASPEN FLY/RIGHT

Amory Lovins gave statistics to support his view/opinions of the airport/FAA controversy, and he encouraged voicing opinions, including signing the petition he had with him to put the issue on the upcoming ballot, signed by registered voters only.

Pete added that as a owner/pilot of a small single-engine aircraft, he’s has felt the squeeze from priority to bigger aircraft at the Aspen airport.

DARK SKIES

Martha reported that the Snowmass Corner businesses are willing to adapt their lighting to DS codes, and that the Park n’ Ride which CDOT contracts with RFTA is also open to reviewing their lighting. The vote on the revised County lighting regulations is Sept. 10th.

Martha will soon start writing the application to Dark Skies International and encouraged the Caucus to consider making a donation to the Dark Sky Action Fund as inaugural donors. This is through DarkSky International. Because of the in-depth review done, approval time can take two to three months.

Ned commented that the valley is darker now - that Dark Skies has been effective in it’s publicity and education. And that the County is the enforcer, not the Caucus.

CAUCUS PICNIC

Aubrey Epstein, owner of Darling Farms has offered to host the annual caucus picnic. It will be held Tuesday, September 17th. A 100-person tent will be there and the Caucus is responsible for setup and take down, food and drinks and port-a-potties. Jen Rupert will head a committee for the picnic. Last year at the McBride’s there were about 90 people. The picnic is held for residents of the SnowCap Caucus area and a Constant Contact invitation will be sent out.

ELECTION

In September the Caucus will put out a 90-day call for Board elections so that at the last December meeting the election results are in. Ned stressed the desire for to add some younger candidates , but keep the total Board number about the same as is.

FEVAAG RANCH APPLICATION

Ned stated that Pitkin County requested an evaluation be made by the Caucus and that

the Caucus now has a draft evaluation letter which was discussed and revised by several caucus members to represent the judgement of the entire caucus board and that it was unanimously approved by the Caucus board. This letter will be sent to the County, including the P&Z and Community Development,. The Caucus has credibility with the County because we are thorough and transparent. Michael commented the letter is unambiguously negative in it’s evaluation of the proposed entrance, especially since it is a proven large wildlife crossing.

Sara said they met with CDOT and the County and that they denied #82 access because there was an option on Snowmass Creek Road. The Caucus feels the lower 1/4 mile of Snowmass Creek Road is unacceptable for a road for a variety of reasons, and that it may be viable from the Park ’n Ride. Sara said RFTA has an exclusive long-term lease on the Park ’n Ride with CDOT. The dirt road entrance into the property on #82 is strictly used only for agriculture/work on the two ditches just above the creek, not for any residential use. Highway #82 is one step down from an interstate so CDOT cannot grant state law.

Chris made a motion to approve Michael’s review letter and David seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Alex commented that he has a development right, and that he has been working on this for two-plus years.

The meeting was adjourned.