SCCC Meeting January 21, 2024

Snowmass Firehouse and Zoom

Board members present:

Ned Andrews, David Chase, Chris Collins, Michael Kinsley, Forrest Thomas, Gaelen Means, Sierra Flanagan, Judy Lovins, Jen Rupert, Johno McBride, Pete McBride, Jill Sabella

Guests:

Steve Child, Molly Child, Nathan Child, Garland Lasater, John McBride, Gwen Garcelon, Amanda Britt, John Guenther, Tom Cardamone

CONSENT AGENDA

The Minutes of the December 17, 2024 and the Treasurer’s Report of January 21, 2025 were both moved for approval by David and seconded by Michael. All approved. The Treasurer’s Report showed as of January 21 there is a total fund of $30,563.42 with $24,9986.64 in the Unrestricted Fund, $4,144.70 in the Water Studies Fund and $1,432.08 in the Dark Skies Fund. To date there is $753.23 in the PayPal account to be transferred. Donations this month totaled $2,900. Expenses totaled $2,322.50 with $165 for Dark Skies web expenses, $537.50 for SCCC website expense and $1,620.00 to TGMC for legal expenses.

ELECTION OF CAUCUS OFFICERS FOR 2025

Ned welcomed the two new Board members - Gaelen Means and Forrest Thomas, for a total of 13 Board members.

Michael nominated Ned Andrews to continue as Chair. David seconded. All were in favor.

David nominated Sierra to be Vice Chair. Jill seconded. All were in favor.

David nominated Jill to continue as Secretary. Michael seconded. All were in favor. Sierra consented to be backup in case Jill was absent.

Forrest accepted the position of Treasurer. This office will be restructured so that Kim Clinco, accountant, will do quarterly financial reports for the Caucus, Alpine Bank will pay Caucus bills directly from our account and receive the bills online, and Forrest’s responsibilities will be specifically determined when Ned, Jill, Kim and Forrest can meet and when the PayPal account can be authorized to new officers.

STEVE CHILD’S PRESENTATION ON THE NAME CHANGE OF NICHOLSON

Steve gave the history of the Nicholson extended family that settled up Capitol Creek in the 1920’s where currently Garland Lasater has a ranch on the old homesite. Over the years the name showed on maps and documents as “Nichelson” and Steve is making an appeal to the BOCC to change the name to the correct spelling of “Nicholson”. He will write a letter to the County and asked the Caucus for support. Michael seconded and all were in favor.

COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

Ned and Sierra discussed the need for committee organization and new committees and asked for Board participation in the following committees: Dark Skies (Martha), Wildlife safety issues - like corridors and overpasses (Michael offered), Annual picnic, Annual roadside cleanup, Fire safety, Water (Ned), and history of the valley (Steve and Jill). Ned commented that it seems the Two Creek legal dispute has been tabled, tho no formal agreement was reached.

FUTURE OF ST. BENEDICT’S MONASTERY; CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBILITIES

Now that the potential purchase mentioned last month was rescinded, Ned asked the Board to consider what outcomes the Board would favor and not favor.

David referenced a letter the Board approved in April 2024 and which is on the caucus website which states the caucus’ desired future of the monastery property and he asked the Board if this letter continues to suit the Board’s desired future use. He commented that the County also wants to see much of the monastery land put into conservation easements and asked that we think in terms of what our potential grandchildren will live with here.

Michael stressed the need to be cautious in anticipating potential development at the monastery, that we should focus our attention less on particular possible uses and more on potential outcomes or results of possible uses. Further, because we are concerned about potential outcomes or results at the monastery, we could consider amending the master plan to address those outcomes or results. We can do that by using the master plan as a starting place or point of reference. Then add language to present future damage to the monastery lands. He added the County carefully watches for violations of conservation easements and conditions of development approval. When necessary, the county takes legal action against those violations. As an example, Michael said the county is currently taking legal action against a landowner who violated the terms of a conservation easement. Also, conservation easements are strong measures for permanent protection of lands over which the county has jurisdiction.

David asked the Board to create options which could be offered to the monastery’s selling agent.

Tom Cardamone, who is the Board Chair of Roaring Fork Safe Passages, offered to arrange an in-depth test drive of the Roaring Fork Biodiversity and Connectivity Study with the lead scientist on the study and with a specific focus - like the Monastery lands as a presentation to the Caucus.

The meeting was adjourned.