

Snowmass Capitol Creek Caucus Board Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2017
Snowmass Fire Station Annex

CALL TO ORDER

Board members present:

Aaron Oakley, David Chase, Chelsea Brundige, Michael Kinsley, Chris Collins, George Johnson, Jeffrey Woodruff, Jill Sabella

Guests: Meredith Oakley, Molly Child, Steve Child

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

None

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chelsea reported:

Checking balance of \$14,223.34

Restricted for Snowmass water work \$26,665.76

Donations from Caucus picnic, Amazon Smiles, David Chase \$996.44

Total balance as of 8/31/17 \$41,829.10

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications

The board reviewed Chelsea's Welcome Letter to new residents of Old Snowmass, the purpose of which is to improve neighborly relations and to inform new land/home owners of the Caucus' Master Plan.

It was discussed how best to distribute this letter —thru realtors and/or the website link to Pitkin County real estate records. This will be further discussed.

Master Plan

On Tuesday, October 17 at 5 pm the SCCC Master Plan will be reviewed by Cindy Houben, Director of Community Development, and by the Planning & Zoning Commission at Aspen Public Library's Community Meeting room. Aaron and David will attend, as well as other interested caucus members and the public is invited.

Land Use

No new applications.

Regarding the Abundant Acres application, a letter went out to the county on August 28 with Caucus concerns. Those concerns were: reinstating story poles, screening of trees on the south side, the size of the pond and state permitting for the pond, and horse show functions and the additional traffic.

They have agreed to put in a dry fire hydrant.

Fun(d) Raising

The annual Caucus picnic August 19th brought in \$940 in donations. It was a great success - a fun event, music by Molly and Steve Child and the Wooden Nickel, food and beverage contributed by McCabe Ranch, and beer by Capitol Creek Brewery.

Hopefully next year a date can be scheduled without conflicts with other organizations. Many thanks to the McCabe Ranch for hosting the picnic.

The storytelling event Sept 17 up at Molly and Steve Child's home was attended by about 25 valley residents and guests. Wonderful and colorful stories were told by Dwight Maurin, John McBride, Steve Child and Tony Vagneur. All who attended want to continue this tradition, so another storytelling will be scheduled at some point.

Many thanks to Molly and Steve for hosting this event and to Nathan Child for recording the event.

Water

George Johnson made a presentation on Capitol Creek - it's uses and adjudications as it flows down to the Roaring Fork. The board decided to look into doing a "biological index" of Capitol Creek and start a baseline assessment on the nature and condition of Capitol Creek and it's riparian areas. Ditch water management was discussed. Steve spoke on how in past dry years Capitol Creek was self-administered with neighbors sharing water with neighbors to be neighborly.

A meeting will be scheduled to start up a Water Committee to look into the issues and nature of Capitol Creek from it's source near Capitol Lake to where it joins Snowmass Creek.

Chelsea mentioned the Upper Snowmass Creek Caucus may be interested in partnering with our Caucus in the future on work on Snowmass Creek.

Steve Child spoke on how Pitkin County Commissioners and Board of Health have made a list of the top six concerns of the county for the next five years. Those are:

1. mental health issues, including substance abuse and suicide prevention
2. healthy housing, including safe, affordable, and appropriate housing
3. access to health care
4. water quality and quantity
5. air quality
6. food security

Steve gave an update on Pitkin County Broadband. The work on the upgraded Williams Hill site is done, and new towers and equipment will be added to improve service from Sunlight, Red Hill (Thomasville) and Elephant Hill (up the Crystal River). This upgrading is paid by the County and is used for emergency services as well as regular uses for tv, FM radio, and broadband. The goal is to reach 95% of all Pitkin residents.

By spring, Mammoth Communications (through Skywerkz and possibly other ISP's) will be offering broadband service to reach the more remote mountain rural community areas by installing small transfer towers. Mammoth will be the "last mile provider" which will reach residences in upper Capitol Creek which do not have good existing service.

Aaron moved to adjourn the meeting. Chris seconded the motion. All approved.