Minutes of the SnoCap Caucus

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Acting President, Chelsea Brundige. Those attending were outgoing board members, incoming board members and guests including Chelsea Brundige, Patsy Batchelder, Rick Heede, John McBride, Mark Harvey, Tim McFlynn, Martha Ferguson, Gary Beck, Jeff Woodruff, Jill Sabella, George Johnson, Aaron Oakley, Meredith Oakley, Chris Collins, Alice Collins, Michael Kinsley, Barbara Reese, Chris Bergerud, Michele Murphy and Jennie K. Curtis.

A quorum was established.

The election process began. Nominations had been open for thirty days. Ballots were mailed and returned. There were nine on the slate. Gary Beck began the count as he is no longer in the caucus area, therefore impartial.

Rick moved and John seconded approval of the December 2016 minutes. Motion passed.

Committee Reports followed:

Finance. Chelsea has the checkbook and associated financial documents ready to pass to the new Treasurer. Gib Gardner, previous treasurer, resigned from the board. Chelsea signs on the account for now and has the post office key. The bank balance is $41,000 of which $25,000 is earmarked for protection of Snowmass Creek and water conservation work generally.

Land Use Committee. Rick Heede. The caucus receives referrals from the County regarding proposed new buildings, lots and roads. The committee seeks out neighbor comment, does site reviews and checks to be sure the proposal conforms to the master plan before making recommendations back to the County.

Election results were announced. The slate was approved by acclimation. Board members are now Chelsea Brundige, Rick Heede, Michael Kinsley, David Chase, George Johnson, Jill Sabella, Aaron Oakley, Jeff Woodruff and Chris Collins. Congratulations to all. The new board will elect officers at a subsequent meeting.

Master Plan Committee. John McBride. The County asked all caucuses to revisit their Master Plans three years ago. Ours was reviewed by the Committee and reduced from 35 pages to 9 and written as a guide for all future development.. One provision prompted community objections regarding the use of TDRs so that section was moderated back to the original. The revised plan was taken to the P & Z and Community Development department and received positive response. It has not yet been approved by the caucus board or the County. The committee suggests that the County work on defining the role of caucuses and also review the Home Rule Charter going forward. Perhaps there will be opportunities to work with the County and Upper Snowmass Creek Caucus in the future.

Communications/Governance/Bylaws. Tim McFlynn. Chelsea distributed copies of the bylaws. At the end of 2016 a committee (Tim, Jill, Aaron and Steve Child) worked on revisions but these have not been discussed or adopted.. Going forward the board and/or committee may want to define number of board members, transparency, outreach, use of a moderator for meetings, participation of members, geographic representation.

Communication via a new website and updated software were discussed.

Fun(d) Raising. Martha Ferguson. Martha reported that the Hoe Down was fun but didn’t make money. The Picnic wasn’t well attended but timing was an issue. Seed packet mailing was good outreach. Other efforts included direct mail.

Water. Chelsea Brundige. The goal of this committee is to protect healthy stream flows on Snowmass Creek for wildlife, fish and plant life, and aesthetic values. At our urging and outreach Snowmass Water and Sanitation District has become a partner with us in protecting the Creek. We have produced a valuable booklet on water conservation to protect the Creek that we want to share with all residents in the valley, particularly those along Snowmass Creek. Going forward we might want to understand opportunities for improving Capitol Creek.

Biota. Mark Harvey. There are 30,000 acres in the caucus area. The focus is on Wildlife and the Environment. Reports were developed on Human History, Aspen Tree Decline, Williams Hill, and Geology. Mark encouraged the new board to continue these studies. He and Molly will help. Reports will go on the new website.

Mark stated that the caucus has real value. It’s a place where good people can come together with good ideas. Chelsea followed that with thanks to all, incoming and outgoing board members.

Possible items for February 21st agenda: Bylaws, Election of Officers, Transparency, Land Use Applications, communication for non residents (Hot Spot).

Patsy moved to Adjourn, Martha seconded. Unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Helene Slansky, Acting Secretary