

Snowmass Capitol Creek Caucus Bard Meeting December 11, 2018
Snowmass Fire Station Annex

Call to Order 7 pm

Board Members Present:

David Chase, Helene Slansky, George Johnson, Jeffrey Woodruff, Vicki Treece, Michael Kinsley, Jill Sabella

Minutes

David moved to approve the minutes of November 20, 2018

All approved

Treasurer's Report

Unrestricted funds are \$19,565.10

Restricted funds are \$24,980.51

Total in accounts is \$44,545.61

Discussion about donations given but not yet recorded which will be looked into.

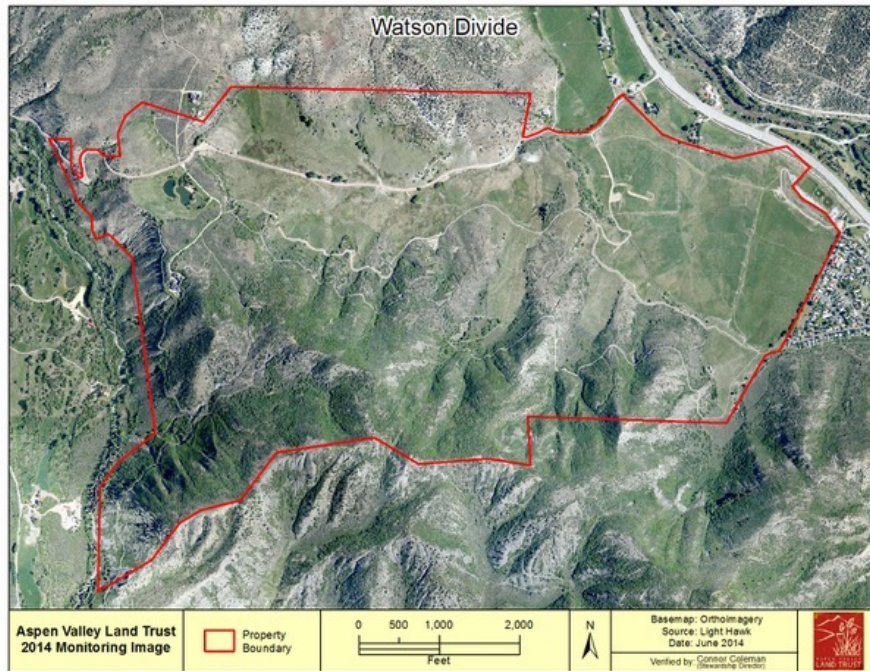
George moved to accept the treasurer's report. Michael seconded. All approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Land Use

The Upper Snowmass Creek Caucus' President David Hale requested support of the Snowmass Capitol Creek Caucus in paving Watson Divide road and asked what the Caucus' position was on the paving. David stated the SCCC Master Plan denies interest in paving, especially for safety reasons. The USCC Master Plan supports paving the Watson Divide road as well as paving the south end of Snowmass Creek Road where it is now gravel. David also addressed that Aspen Valley Land Trust has an easement on the Wheeler property, which is on both sides of the divide, and which was established by the Bartos family, who owned the property before

the Wheelers. Such conservation easements are “forever” and the taking of conserved land for



road alignment would be rejected by the easement holder, AVLT. (See AVLT easement map) Jeffrey spoke on the P&Z’s land use code that maintains that unpaved roads maintain their rural character. Jeffrey also noted what Brian Pettit, Pitkin County Public Works Director, has addressed safety issues regarding the divide - that it is hazardous, there is better traction on a gravel surface versus paved, there would be increased speeds resulting from paving, that paving is not part of any county budget, and the issue of guardrails and the need to reconfigure the road’s curves would have to be addressed. Additional considerations would be the elk migration route across the road and that the west side does not have a stable road base for widening.

George moved that the Caucus oppose any structural/reconstruction changes on Watson Divide, as advised by Brian Pettit, that the County consider Pettit’s advice, and that the County increase maintenance work to maintain the road in better condition and place more obvious signs to enforce truck prohibition than what signage exists now. Seconded by Jeffrey. All in favor.

Water

The Caucus supports a study beginning in the spring of 2019 of Capitol Creek to ascertain that the in stream flows are viable, and to consider what Chelsea Brundige has referred to as “pinch points”- how seasons effect them, their location and duration, and how to manage and maintain the creek. George expressed concern for establishing minimum stream flow, in agreement with the major irrigators in the valley. Funding for that study could come from the restricted water fund.

Public Comments

Michael spoke about how the fires threatened the power lines this past summer. Holy Cross has proactively contracted Rocky Mountain Institute to do an analysis of ways to create a more resilient power system for future emergencies, to look into energy efficiency, decentralized sources (solar), and to implement controls to reduce energy consumption by using a “demand response” program to be used at low demand times.

The Caucus thanked Helene, Jeffrey and Chris Bergerud for their work on the Board this past year. David thanked all the Board for their work this past year.

Michael moved to adjourn. All approved.