

Snowmass Capitol Creek Caucus Board Meeting Minutes of April 17, 2018

Snowmass Fire Station Annex

Board members present:

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

Guests: Kelly McNichols Kury, Alice Collins, Steve Child

Quorum was established at 7 pm

Public Comments

Kelly Kury introduced herself as a candidate for the upcoming County Commissioner election.

Steve Child, commissioner, spoke about several issues:

- The airport environmental assessment and moving the existing airport runways south, toward the mountains, as the airport is currently not in compliance with FAA regulations because the runway and the taxiway are too close to each other.
- Leaving room for a new terminal which will be needed in about 10 years ..there are about 100 commercial flights a day now.
- A pedestrian/bike trail on lower Snowmass
- Williams Hill towers are all upgraded; broadband is still months out. The County has contracted with Mammoth to serve the smaller mountain communities.
- A request to please respond to a county survey.

Treasurer's Report

Vicki reported here is a total of \$42,461.40 in the Caucus account with \$17, 480.89 in the unrestricted account and \$24,9880.51 in the account restricted for Snowmass water work.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications

Chris Bergerud is manning the website. Valerie Braun from the Woody Creek Caucus is planning a cross-caucus meeting May 14, 5-7pm at the Basalt library and encouraging caucus members from all caucuses to attend. The airport issue and urging the County to develop rules for starting new caucus will be discussed among other issues.

Chris will work on adding a tab to the caucus website with wildfire information.

Land Use

Chris Collins reviewed two applications:

- St. Benedict's Monastery at 1012 Monastery Road has an application for an Activity Envelope for a Ground Mounted Solar Array in the vicinity of the monastery for 200 KW. They received CORE and Udall grants totaling about \$200,000 (out of \$500,000 total). David praised the Monastery's intention to be self sufficient and cut their carbon imprint. Chris Collins moved to approve their application; George seconded. All were in favor.

- The White Tip Ranch, located at 6801 Capitol Creek Road at the upper end of Capitol Creek Valley, is asking for the County to change the ruling on dog prohibition on that property. The County has had these restrictions on dogs on that property since 1997 because most of the parcel is in an Elk Production Zone and migration pattern. The surrounding properties are allowed to have “working” dogs in fenced in areas but they are not in the Elk Production Zone. There was discussion about the danger of diminishing wildlife habitats. A motion was made to support the designated dog prohibition as it is, and if White Tip Ranch wants to pursue their application, they should go to the County. Michael moved to approve the motion; George seconded.

There was discussion on a enlarging the Windstar parking area (in the USCC) and a possible agreement involving the adjacent landowners.

Fun-d Raising

The annual Caucus picnic is planned for Saturday, August 25 up at the McCabe Ranch. It will be posted on the Caucus’ website as a save-the-date. Steve Child will see if the Wooden Nickel band is available to play at the picnic as they did last year.

The annual Capitol-Snowmass Creek road clean-up is set for Saturday, May 12. The Caucus will look into whether a Community Service program at the Basalt High School, which has service projects, can assist.

Water

George spoke about the meeting he organized March 29 at the Monastery barn with the main Capitol Creek irrigators and that they agreed, as they always have, to share water as needed in low water years, especially those who have hay and cattle. This was not a Caucus initiated meeting; rather a meeting of the main irrigators.

George also met with Chad (last name?) of the Roaring Fork Conservancy. Currently the Conservancy and George do regular monitoring of the creek. Chad suggested initiating a macroinvertebrate study at one of the two creek sampling stations (there is one above confluence of Capitol and Snowmass Creeks and another above the parking area at the highway.)

The water in Capitol Creek is of excellent water quality and is stable; the quantity of water is limited in winter and fall.

There was discussion as to whether or not a more comprehensive study of Capitol Creek was needed because currently there are no potential problems foreseen. It was decided no study is needed but George was encouraged to continue monitoring the creek and informing the board.

Wildfire Management

The Aspen and Basalt fire departments held a seminar in March at the Basalt library and invited local caucus members to attend. Four of our caucus members attended and it was decided to send a postcard to all caucus property owners with brief but important information about contacts and procedures in case of wildfire. This postcard was printed and is being sent. There will also be a tab set up on the Caucus’ website with more detailed information and updates.

We will also ask HOA’s within the caucus area to inform their own communities and also have a plan for animals/horses evacuations.

Michael moved to adjourn the meeting.
Meeting adjourned at 9 pm.