SCCC Minutes Draft 8.16.2022

Old Snowmass Fire House

Board members present: Ned Andrews, Molly Child, Sierra Flanagan, Michael Kinsley,

Jill Sabella, Helene Slansky, Vicki Treece

Guests: David Chase, Steve Child, Martha Ferguson, Judy Frey

CONSENT AGENDA

The Minutes of the Caucus meeting of 7.19. 2022 were approved.

The Treasurer’s Report showed no activity this month, so the balance remains at $36,967.95 with $27,477.44 in the unrestricted account and $9,490.51 in the restricted/water fund account. The report was approved.

MASTER PLAN

Ned commented he’d made some edits on the Master Plan draft and raised the question of the plan’s audience - whether it’s our caucus area’s current and future residents, or the County P&Z. The P&Z asks all caucus groups for their Master Plans, which are then used by architects and engineers for direction and guidance on what will be approved and supported by the County. Therefore, Ned added, a shorter presentation is more effective, and that the “residential” section is the most frequently reviewed.

David added that the Caucus also responds to what neighbors want as well as what the County wants.

Michael said master plans have two other functions: 1. as a legal governing document which is used by the BOCC because it is approved and is therefore the document which is the policy basis for our Caucus; and 2. so that other people can get feedback, which may mean a longer and more educational document. He said the content wasn’t basically changed when making these revisions, and that we can continue to build on it.

Ned added that the more educational material should go on the website, and that it detracts from the Master Plan to have too much educational material.

Steve said that when the County reviews the documents and Master Plan and approves it, it then becomes a legal document to be used as a guideline.

Ned moved Chelsea’s Water section to XII Water Use.

It was decided that Sierra’s Climate Stewardship section should have it’s own separate numbered section because of it’s importance.

Ned moved to approve the Master Plan as is, subject to Sierra’s final edits on Climate Stewardship. Sierra also offered to do the final formatting on the Master Plan draft, as approved.

Steve would like to see an agricultural concern added to the Biota section in a future Master Plan revision so that no house could be built in the middle of an agricultural field. The Environmental Stewardship Biota section was approved. Steve had made some edits for wording in line with P&Z and County document approval.

Michael moved to approve the MP as reads now, noting Climate Stewardship and Energy as different sections, using the existing content, and in the future add the agricultural issue. Also in IV D 3 - strike “avoid”. Strike XII DOMESTIC WATER USE and use instead XII WATER USE. Strike XVI A2 - Site Visits - as an over-reach of the Caucus.

Molly 2nd the motion. All in favor.

Steve said the next step is that the MP goes to P&Z for approval and then to the BOCC for ratification. Steve might recuse himself from the BOCC ratification because of his involvement in this revision process and advised that sometimes the P&Z will edit the document.

OUTDOOR LIGHTING

A Caucus Board committee and others finished writing a letter for valley residents concerning nighttime outdoor lighting and information on dark sky concerns and international organizations legitimizing dark skies. The board approved the letter. Michael moved to distribute the letter and Helene seconded. All in favor. Discussion followed on how to distribute it - whether by mail or Constant Contact. Vicki suggested sending out a postcard to all valley property owners which would direct them to the SCCC website. The mailing list of property owners is available from the County.

Also discussed was distribution of the revised MP to all residents.

There was a motion to send postcards to all property owners directing them to look at the SCCC website which will have an invitation to a public forum to review the new Master Plan.

Ned - make a motion to send out postcards to look at their email for MP.

Michael suggested the postcard include reference to:

1. the revised MP on the website
2. the night sky letter
3. information on the two public forum meetings - Sept 20 and Oct 18 - for MP review
4. encouragement to refer to the website often and also to sign up for Constant Contact. The November Board meeting will review comments from the forum. Comments on the MO could be sent to the website, or by hard copy.

Vicki suggested that Judy Hill include the night sky letter in her ongoing welcoming letter to new residents.

Steve suggested sending the night sky letter to the Upper SC Caucus to distribute as well.

Two Creeks water rights application

Review was made of the application from Two Creeks for Conditional Storage Water Right and Augmentation Plan for three ponds. Pond #1 draws from Little Elk Creek and Boram and White ditch, 4.1 acre-feet. Pond #2 would have total capacity of 3.6 acre-feet, draws from B/W ditch. Pond #3 would be 3.6 acre-feet., draws from B/W ditch. All three would be used for fire protection, piscatorial, aesthetic and recreation, and as irrigation control structures.

The ponds would be made by dams. Ned commented that this is a State of Colorado Water District issue and that our responsibility is the Water Shed and that we make an objection. B/W ditch is also objecting. Steve added every ditch owner should file a letter of objection. Ned added we could object because of the State Instream Flow Right.

Buttercup Ranch Site Visit

Responding to a concern of a Little Elk Creek resident about Buttercup clearing habitat used by sandhill cranes and other wildlife, owner Bob Clark gave several Board members a tour of the work being done on the Buttercup Ranch open meadow at the western half of the ranch. The ditches are being cleared of willows and an underground sprinkler system is being installed to manage B/W ditch water. This meadow area will be seeded and used for grazing. There is a designated “wetlands” on the property of just under one acre in the center northern boundary.

Michael spoke of the need to develop a protocol on how the Caucus should respond to a resident’s complaint, which will be discusses at a future meeting.

Meeting was adjourned.