

Snowmass Capitol Creek Caucus Board Meeting March 19, 2019
Snowmass Fire Station Annex

CALL TO ORDER

Board members present: Chris Collins, Michael Kinsley, George Johnson, Jill Sabella, Glenn Russell, Vicki Treece, David Chase, Molly Child

Guests: Steve Child, Paul Andersen

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

George moved to approve the minutes. Michael seconded. All approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michael spoke about the work he's doing with Emily Goldfield on behalf of RMI with Holy Cross Energy to work with local communities/caucuses and first responders to get ideas and input on what the critical electrical loads are in Pitkin County, and to look for potential solutions put forward by the community in the event of a major electrical shutdown in the event of fire. For instance, Basalt High School, which is an evacuation center, does not have a backup generator, Ruedi Dam provides some electrical power to Aspen outside of the normal grid, and to look into converting home solar installations to adapt to direct use as well as sending to Holy Cross. The point is to make the entire valley system more resilient and to look to the community for input and solutions.

AIRPORT EXPANSION COMMITTEES

George is on the Airport Visioning Committee and said his strongest concern is the safety of the planes that will be allowed given that they will be larger and have more passenger capacity.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Vicki said the only major expense was new stationary. The restricted fund is \$19,945.93; the unrestricted fund is \$4,980.51, for a total of \$44,926.44.

George moved to accept the report. Michael seconded. All were in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNICATIONS

Discussion about bringing someone in to help with postings on the website and keep it updated. Molly will check with Nathan Child at the Basalt library to see if anyone there would be interested. The caucus would pay a fee for their time.

WATER

A caucus group including Chelsea, George and David will meet with hydrologist Seth Mason to discuss the scope of a summertime assessment of conditions of Capitol Creek. The meeting is April 4 at Two Rivers Grill, Basalt. All are invited.

LAND USE

Paul Andersen, director of Huts for Vets, made a presentation of his organization and discussed with the board his plan to put three teepees on McBride property on Light Hill for this coming summer's programs.

This experience in the Roaring Fork Valley for vets, both men and women who have served in combat - is called Wilderness Healing for Vets. They spend three days in the wilderness in nature, in conversations with each other and leaders, and sharing their feelings and experiences.

This organization is an outgrowth of the Pat Tillman Center and the Team Rubicon for vets, mostly in their 40's and 50's who've "hit a wall" in recovery from their wartime experiences. This year, from late June to mid Sept there will be 6 groups. They stay at Margie's Hut for three nights. The night before and night after would be spent up at the teepees. In past years, they have stayed in Aspen, but the costs are significant so John McBride offered a location on his Light Hill property that is flat, is dirt, and is clean of brush. There would be a total of 12 nights in the Hut. The cooking is done on a chuck wagon with a gas range and oven; they have solar showers and have dug a pit toilet. They want to make no impact on the land.

The Board expressed support for the organization but also expressed serious concerns about fire, the white color of last summer's teepees which make them visible throughout the valley, the human waste issue, emergency access, a possible lightening strike, and wildlife concerns.

Given the combustible fire conditions of last summer, the board is very concerned that all care be taken so that no campfires or cigarette smoking be done on the site; that the human waste be properly taken care of consistent with country regulations; and that the former white teepee color be modified to a brown or gray to blend in to the surroundings and be less conspicuous. Last summer the teepees were very noticeable at long distances because of their open location and color.

Paul will meet with the County on April 24 with his special use permit application. The County has regulations on human waste and wildlife impact.

Steve suggested talking with John McBride about a possible second location choice for the teepees on his property that would be more private, in a wooded area with water, especially if the County should happen to reject their special use application.

David moved to support Paul's special use project for the Huts for Vets subject to remediation on the issues of fire, sanitation waste, and a more camouflaged colored teepees.

George seconded. All were in favor.

David proposed that the Caucus send an email letter to all Snowmass Capitol Creek Caucus members, which is about 350-400, asking what any concerns residents have that the Caucus might address.

Molly is looking into the annual Spring road clean-up and the current CDOT requirements for the one-mile stretch of Highway 82.

David moved to adjourn the meeting. Michael seconded. All were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30.