

Planning & Development Board

May 21st, 2015
Park County, Montana

Attendance: Planning Board Members Traci Isaly, Dave Haug, Mike Dailey, Bill Berg Frank Schroeder and Rich Baerg via conference call. Also present Mike Inman, Planning Director, and Charles Wolf Drimal, River Conservation Associate with the Greater Yellowstone Coalition.

Call to Order: 4:00 p.m., Traci Isaly called the meeting to order.

Public Comment on Agenda Items not Scheduled for a Public Hearing: None

Approval of Minutes: The board reviewed minutes of the April 16th, 2015, meeting. *Frank Schroeder moved to approve the minutes, Dave Haug seconded the motion. Motion passed.*

Conflict of Interest: None

Wild & Scenic Interests Presentation: Charles Wolf Drimal gave a presentation on efforts to develop support for new wild and scenic river designations throughout southwest Montana between Red Lodge and West Yellowstone. The group has been working with the Forest Service throughout the state during their forest planning process to employ administrative protections of rivers through forest planning. A wild and scenic river designation is only through an act of congress, but the Forest Service can analyze a river for eligibility. Charles said there is less than a ¼ of 1% of Montana's rivers that are protected and there is a new interest in small to medium hydropower all across the west and growing oil and gas interests and the use of fracking which takes a huge amounts of water. He said we need to anticipate water use twenty to fifty years forward and get ahead of future threats. There are a number of river segments in Park County that the Coalition is considering for a wild and scenic river designation draft citizens proposal including the Boulder, West Boulder and Big Creek. This is not a bill but a document that people can look at, make comments and support then the Coalition would work with the Montana delegation. The draft proposal will be on the website www.healthyiversmt.org . Charles said that bringing the wild and scenic rivers act to Park County is an opportunity to boost the economy through increased tourism by supporting businesses, protecting fisheries and wildlife and recreation.

Paradise Valley Corridor Study-Discussion of Billboards and Signs: MDOT recently completed a comprehensive corridor study. One of the issues that came out of the study was the cultural and historic value of the Paradise Valley, the natural amenities and the proximity to Yellowstone National Park. Also in relation to that people in Livingston, Emigrant and Gardiner expressed concerns regarding signage as this area develops in the future and maintaining the scenic quality. There is no City or County zoning in this area so there are no sign regulations and the Park County Commissioners thought the Planning &

Development Board could utilize the data of the study to decide whether or not the County should look into the issue. MDOT does have a permitting process if someone is putting a sign in the MDOT right-of-way, but adjacent to that right-of-way it is anything goes and people can do anything they want. Mike recommends that the Planning & Development Board review the Paradise Valley Corridor Study and consider if they can initiate a public process to engage citizens throughout the corridor regarding the concerns and come up with a recommendation to the Commission. Mike will be giving the Board a copy of the corridor study and the Board will continue the discussion at next month's meeting.

Discussion of County Decay Ordinance: This item was postponed until the June Planning & Development Board meeting.

Discussion of Subdivision Review Process: Mike Dailey said being new to the Board he had a couple of questions on the subdivision review process. He was concerned that applicants aren't always aware of what their engineer has submitted on their behalf and are unprepared when they attend the meeting, and shouldn't they be held responsible for what is submitted for review of their subdivision. Mike Inman and other members of the Board went over the process with him.

Project and Grants Updates: Mike said the Gardiner Gateway project is in full swing and the cement has been poured for the CTEP sidewalk project. The Boulder River project has started, Parks Frady met with members of Sweetgrass County and Federal Highways to discuss 30% design. The County is pursuing a TIGER grant to implement and construct a ten foot wide 27.6 mile trail from Hwy 89 North to Point of Rocks. The grant will be submitted June 4th and the County will hear back in the fall.

TIGER Grant Application Letter of Support Discussion/Decision: The Board discussed Peter Fox's letter of support of the TIGER grant on behalf of the Board. *Mike Dailey made a motion to approve the letter of support. Frank Schroeder seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.*

Discussion of June: The June meeting will be in Gardiner. Traci Isaly suggested arriving in Gardiner before the meeting to tour the area and see the work on the Gardiner Gateway project.

Public Comment: Chuck Donovan spoke about the importance of signage to businesses along the Paradise Valley Corridor and asked the Board to keep that in mind when discussing the issue of billboards. Chuck also said when the Board is discussing the issue of decay they should consider decaying grass which is a fire hazard.

Adjournment: 5:28pm

Peter D. Fox
Chairman