

SEELEY LAKE-SWAN VALLEY HOSPITAL DISTRICT
SEELEY SWAN MEDICAL CENTER 501(c)(3)
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Combined Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2011

In Attendance

SSHD Trustees/SSMC Directors: Jeff Aresty, Twyla Johnson, Mary Ann Morin, Karen Pratt

SSHD Board Clerk/SSMC Secretary-Treasurer: Marty Kux

SSMC Foundation Directors: Tim Love, Sandi Ridgeway, Dick Seale

Advisory Committee Members: Sue Cushman, Pam Forder, Kim Grover, Walt Hill, Colleen Nicholson,
Stan Nicholson, Dick Seale

Guests: Ty Harding, Beehive Homes of Missoula; Dr. Todd Fife, MD

Members Absent: Jack Copps, Helen Ike, Traci Jasnicki

Call to Order

The special combined meeting of the above-listed entities was called to order by SSHD Board Chair Mary Ann Morin at 4:00 P.M. at the USFS Seeley Lake Ranger District conference room.

Following self-introductions by the participants, Morin described the backgrounds and functions of each entity, explaining that the new Foundation Board will be separate from the Hospital District Board, larger than the existing 501(c)(3) Board, and tasked with raising funds for expansion of the existing clinic and possible senior housing. Morin and SSHD Board Clerk Marty Kux provided a history of the funding of the existing land purchases and building construction.

The potential expansion project involves a Partnership Health Center grant application for dental and behavioral health services for the clinic's service area, to be housed in an addition to the clinic building. If awarded, the federal grant would provide equipment and operating funds, but the building expansion required for these services would need to be funded locally. It is possible that a re-negotiation of the lease agreement between the Hospital District and the St. Patrick Hospital management entity could provide some of the funding, but a capital campaign would also be needed. It is anticipated that a decision regarding the grant application will be made by April. If the project is approved, the subject services must be in place by August. A mobile dental unit would be used until a permanent facility is available, and other space would be sought for counseling services.

On behalf of the Advisory Committee, Chair Walt Hill summarized how the Seeley Lake community could work with and expand on the Neighbor-to Neighbor program that Pam Forder is co-ordinating in Condon.

Following a general discussion of these and other related matters, Ty Harding of Beehive Homes, Missoula, described the concept and philosophy behind this form of senior assisted living. Harding had given a similar presentation to the Advisory Committee several months ago, and it was deemed worthwhile for the combined entities to have the same opportunity to learn more of Beehive firsthand. Although he fully understood the desire of the attendees and other community members to have such a facility available in our community, Harding's demographic studies indicate that such a business endeavor would be marginal at best, even for an eight bedroom unit with live-in staff. He cited the example of a facility in Cut Bank, Montana, that was initially sold out but was now struggling to replace those residents who had either died or moved to skilled nursing facilities. His feeling is that the local population is not large enough to support such a business enterprise. Whether or not it could succeed if constructed and operated by a non-profit entity remains a question, given that the land is available.

