

SEELEY LAKE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the Seeley Lake Communications Project

Council Members

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Council Requests BCC Initiate Process of Zoning to Protect Community Vision

At its monthly meeting on March 7, the Seeley Lake Community Council (SLCC) passed a motion to request the Missoula Board of County Commissioners, to continue implementation efforts outlined in the Seeley Lake Regional Plan by beginning the process of zoning the Downtown Area. [quoted from a proposal by Chair Addrien Marx].

Council Chair Marx read the draft proposal that solicits the Commissioners' continued support in the planning process, noting Seeley Lake is truly on the edge of becoming a viable economic asset to the planning region and Western Montana.

The difficulty associated with bringing diverse groups of people together in the downtown was successful during the planning process, read Marx, but now this project needs to be moved forward with the ultimate goal of helping the business community achieve those implementation goals outlined in the Plan, which was adopted by the BCC on October 20, 2010.

We have a plan, and a foundation, and a vision said Marx at the meeting, and she noted we need to have faith in our community to execute the vision. Presently the Plan does not have enforceability, so the

Council, on behalf of the community, is requesting the BCC initiate the implementation process to legally protect the vision, outlined in the Plan.

The Council is adamant that a strong and thriving business community is necessary for the financial well being of its residents, in particular growing families and service-related industry, read Marx. In order to make it over the obstacles that face us, the County's assistance in this implementation effort is essential and is likely possible only if we take advantage of this opportunity that is now present.

Marx expressed the appropriateness of the Council undertaking the initiative to request the BCC move forward with implementation, seeing it as a critical step to protecting what was put into the Regional Plan. As our highest priority goal at this time, the Community Council formally requests the County to begin its implementation efforts for zoning in the Downtown area that is addressed [in] the Seeley Lake Regional Plan, concludes the proposal.

At the February Council meeting, Pat O'Herren, Director of Rural Initiatives, explained that the County is not going to automatically move forward to zoning the area in accor-



Personalized tours are the suggestion of Lee Boman for promoting our western hospitality. Katy Peterson, Mt. Office of Tourism was his first test subject! Photo by Kris Gullikson

dance with the plan. If landowners approach the Commissioners, requesting a certain area be moved forward to zoning, the BCC will look to start implementation. This is the case with the Double Arrow Ranch; the DAR Board is working with RI to formally zone in accordance with the land-use designations.

O'Herren noted in February, that it is reasonable for the Council to approach RI and the BCC, requesting they look at zoning X, Y or Z. Consequently, Chair Marx put forward the above proposal for submission approval.

Community members in attendance at this week's SLCC meeting requested that the SLCC ask the County to clearly outline the next steps in moving toward zoning, specifically noting the opportunities for public comment and input. Chair Marx agreed this was a very reasonable request to make of the County.

• Caroline Jenkins as printed in the 3/10/11 issue of the *Pathfinder*

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Branding Meeting

The Economic Development Committee met at the Seeley Lake Elementary on March 10th and received a stimulating presentation from Katy Peterson, from the Montana Office of Tourism. The State of Montana has developed a brand that includes three pillars:

*-Spectacular
and Wild*

-Vibrant and Charming

*-Breathtaking experiences
and warm hospitality*

This took a great deal of effort, meetings and discussions for the State to develop, and we all felt that using this as a backdrop for the Seeley Lake branding discussion in the future was in order.



In addition, Highway 83 is listed on the recently published; *Top 10 Scenic Drives in the Northern Rockies Adventure Map*, and could serve as a platform to develop our economy. A Branding

subcommittee was formed to further discuss the branding issue and carry forward our effort to find our brand. Lee Boman will direct this subcommittee. The next

meeting of the Economic Development Committee will take place at 7 PM, April 14th at the Elementary School, and will focus on what must be done to support and nurture the business community in Seeley Lake. We especially invite business leaders and merchants to come and share their ideas, needs and frustrations with us at that time.

Submitted by Walt Hill



UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- Seeley Lake Community Council - 1st Monday; April 4, 6 pm at the Barn
- Seeley Lake Cemetery District 1st Thurs., April 7, at 12:00 pm, DARLOA office
- Seeley Swan Hospital District 2nd Monday; April 11, 5 pm at the Clinic Conf. Room
- Seeley Lake Rural Fire District Third Tues., March 15, 6 pm, SL Fire Station #1
- Seeley Swan Search and Rescue; Third Tues. March 15, 6:30 pm
- Seeley Lake Sewer District- 3rd Thurs., March 17, 5:15 pm at The Barn
- Seeley Lake Refuse District- 4th Monday, March 28, 7 pm at the MC Building in SL
- Seeley Lake Water District- Last Th., March 31, 5:30 pm, Water District Office
- Air Quality Committee: March 11 & 25 - 8:30 am at the Barn
- Economic Development Committee- April 14, 7 pm at SL Elementary
- Branding Committee- TBD

Summary of other items from SLCC March Meeting

The Community Council hosted Ed Francechina, MC Animal Control Supervisor to learn the process of reporting problems and issues with animals in the Seeley Lake area. A resident reported difficult measuring requirements, while another stated problems were reported with no follow up. Francechina assured residents his office would return calls within the day of the call or within a 12 hour period. There was some mention of a part-time vehicle in Seeley Lake, but not of when that might happen. Budgetary restraints upon the Dept. were the issue. It was explained that residents could contact the BCC if they felt more enforcement was needed and because the annual budget process is underway feedback is welcome (as previously mentioned by the Commissioners).

Dr. Pecora, SS High School principal explained the upcoming school building levy to attendees and asked for their support. This will be voted upon in May 2011.

A graduate student at the University of Montana requested our community's input on her thesis: Rural and Environmental Sociology. Specifically, she is looking at the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Project and the community of Seeley Lake. Look for Sandra Treadaway in the near future— she will be appreciative of your input.

Residents and snowmobilers again voiced concerns for car/snowmobile safety on Elaine's Way and were guided to Missoula County Public Works Dept. to settle the issue. ∞

Air Quality Committee

At the March 11 meeting, the small group discussed the grant proposals submitted through the Seeley Lake Community Foundation. Also discussed was the implementation of plans set out over the past year or so. At this time, the committee is under a contract with the county health department and are working on carrying out those terms before the end of April. The next round of funding is proposed to go toward a stove change-out project with details to be forthcoming.

Submitted by Carol Evans