

SEELEY LAKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 7 , 2010 – SEELEY LAKE HISTORICAL "BARN"

PRESENT: Addrein Marx , Jack Greenwood, MaryAnn Morin, Steve Johnson, George Frasca

ABSENT: Walt Hill, Carol Evans

PUBLIC: 20 present

GUESTS: Ed Francechina, MC Animal Control, Sandra Treadaway, U of M Graduate Student, Sarah Canepa, Rural Initiatives

ADMINISTRATIVE ASST: Kris Gullikson

Meeting commenced at 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES: Morin moved for approval of minutes from the June meeting. Johnson seconded. No changes. All in favor. The last name of a resident was added later (under Animal Control discussion).

TREASURER'S REPORT: Morin reported checking account balance of \$10,789.11 (includes Trails Acct. balance of \$7557.32 and SLCC account of #3231.79). CD Balances total \$4778.33. Total assets at \$15,567.44.

Two invoices from the Pathfinder totaling \$20.00 were paid and interest income totaled \$14.95.

MOTION: Morin moved for approval of the Treasurer's Report. Johnson seconded. All in favor.

Discussion: Chair Marx reminded Board of meetings held at the Barn are to be accounted for and reported to Morin for recordkeeping/payment. Any meeting held at the Barn when more than 10 are in attendance will incur a rental fee for space.

COMMUNICATIONS: 1). Letter from Chair Marx to Dave Atkins, USDA, Biomass-Co-Gen. Johnson reported on behalf of Evans; 2). dust abatement letter from Missoula Co., MC- Laurie Hire; 3). All Community Council meeting. Trying to set a date for the Spring 2011 meeting. Suggested May 23-27. 4). Rob Dillon letter on beetle kill trees. 5). MC- Laurie Hire- notice on public comment period for NF System. 90 days starting Feb. 14th. Available online. 6). MC- Election petitions and signatures. There will be no election in May for the SLCC Board seats vacated by George Frasca and Steve Johnson. Steve Johnson and John Richards applications were accepted by acclamation.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

1. Caroline Jenkins, Pathfinder, SL: Mention of letter to SL Sewer board from MCC. Inquiry as to what was in it. Marx explained. A copy was requested and will be sent by staff.

2. Ken Kronsperger, SL: Announcement of the SL Community Hall being in financial trouble and asked Council to look into possible funding to keep it in the community.

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT: Marx provided an update on the grant from the Seeley Lake Community Foundation that the Council had applied for. The Seeley Lake Communications Project was awarded \$2500. for the staff position held by Kris Gullikson, Administrative Asst. Included in that are time spent on the newsletter, meeting minutes and other jobs as directed by the Board. Chair Marx again reminded the Board that they cannot continue to rely on one source for resources for this position. Ideas/suggestions are welcome. MC may be of some assistance in the future, and Sarah Canepa with Rural Initiatives (present) will be coordinating the efforts of advertising for a Grant Writer that would include their fees in the original grant proposal. She will update the Board as needed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Animal Control: Ed Francechina, MC Animal Control supervisor came to present and answer questions. He gave a summary of his Departments staff (4) and shelters (4). The last employee hire was done 15 years ago. It is city

and county funded (60/40). Half is tax based and the balance is from licensing, adoptions, and impounds. Requested public write to BCC and request funding increases to \$75,000.

Francechina reported on two programs currently going on-- low income spay/neuter programs; the Big Fix; and Mom's Last Litter. Questions were fielded on procedures, etc. for reporting problem dogs. He reported that funding is an issue in relation to how much attention Seeley Lake may receive from the Co. and also an issue for the request of a part time patrol. The dept. tries to respond same day, using officers from area if needed and citations are issued to offending owners. Bark logs are standard and he went into detail about this subject, dispelling concerns brought up by local residents.

MC Public School Bond Elections:

Dr. Pecora presented the purpose for the bond election (renewal) and how it would be used. She stated the roof of the high school was repaired (with a similar fund- \$42,000). This is a *write in only* vote on the May 3 mail in ballot election. There will be a drop box on May 3 at the Grade School only. It is a 3.5 million levy over 7 years with \$450,000 for building maintenance, repair and equipment. Projected cost to taxpayer is \$8.67 per year to the property owner of a \$200,000. home. It will *not* go to salaries, utilities, bussing, or curriculum. Pecora stated it will go for electrical repairs, and upgrades for doors and windows.

Particular to SSHS: Bleachers for football stadium, technology infrastructure, roof over the boiler and other items. Dr. Pecora is happy to answer questions at 677-2224 Ext. 5721.

Dr. Pecora also addresses rumors that SSHS would close. Her response was a resounding NO!

Downtown Zoning: Chair Marx read a written proposal for the Council to consider as a motion:

"The Seeley Lake Community Council would like the Board of County Commissioners to continue implementation efforts outlined in the Seeley Lake Regional Plan, which was adopted by the Commissioners on October 20, 2010. The community appreciates the support of the Commissioners in its quest for a healthy and strong future but now asks for continued support by beginning the process of zoning the Downtown Area.

The difficulty associated with bringing diverse groups of people together in the downtown was successful during the planning process, but now this projects needs to be moved forward with the ultimate goal of helping the business community achieve those implementation goals 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.

Seeley Lake is truly on the edge of becoming a viable economic asset to the planning region and Western Montana. 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.

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." Signed Addrein Marx, Chair of the Seeley Lake Community Council

Discussion ensued.

MOTION: Morin motioned for the BCC to initiate zoning in the Seeley Lake Downtown area and to include Marx's letter in the motion. Frasca Seconded. Discussion followed. Residents asked for a timeline from BCC on events leading up to final zoning be included in the motion. Motion amended. 4 in support, 1 abstained (Greenwood). A letter requesting this will be sent to the BCC from the Council.

Grad. Student of the University of Montana Student- Sandra Treadaway

Treadaway presented her thesis idea and asked for support from the SL community with answers to her questions on the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Project, and other community groups. Her interest brought her to Seeley Lake because of the collaborative process and diversity of our population. Thesis timeline: begin

research in summer 2011, summarize thesis into late fall and finalize in May of 2012. Council pointed her in the direction of those she sought to interview.

OLD BUSINESS:

Economic Development: Johnson reported on the Feb. 10 meeting: Cheri Thompson did presentation on what branding is. Broke into subgroups and brainstormed. Now the need is to filter and narrow down the direction. Kris Gullikson invited Katy Peterson, Mt. Office of Tourism to the March meeting to assist us in the process. Next meeting is March 10, 7 pm at SLE.

AIR QUALITY: Jenkins reported 2 meetings coming up; March 11 and 25th at the Barn at 8:30 am. All are welcome. Jeanne Koester has been working on grants for support for woodstove change out program and will target homes around the elementary school area. LIAP weatherization programs may be applicable as well, according to Jenkins. She reported that open burning started March 1, so that is a concern, but not a problem at this time.

RECREATION/ TRAILS COMMITTEE:

Before beginning discussion, Chair Marx read timelines of communication that the Council has worked on starting from June 2009 on this issue. Also for the record, she identified a letter sent from MC Conservation Dist. on Feb. 15, 2011 to the Seeley Lake Driftriders about Sawyer Creek Crossing. ** Addendum to minutes will be added to SLCC website.* She reminded those present the SLCC purpose is to guide, not solve issues here. She reminded that Rural Initiatives representative, Pat O'Herren stated at the February SLCC meeting that if there were grievances between parties they should seek counsel with Greg Robertson, Missoula Co. Public Works Dept. It was reported that a temporary barrier was erected over Sawyer Creek until the issue is solved. There will be no through traffic allowed.

Dave Sharbono stated the Driftriders have the funding to erect a bridge over the creek. They just need an engineer and a permit to do so.

Objections stated by residents; Ken Dvorak and Gary Welkerman. Testimony by residents: Jack Eskers, Mike Evans, Ralph Nutt and Rod Stevens. Input from Beth Hutchinson.

Chair Marx directed those interested in further discussion see Greg Robertson, MSPW.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

SLCC: kmg 3/22/2011