

March 3, 2011

Meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Bill Muse, Mayor; Sue Inman and Randy Ripplinger, Council Members; Judi Davis, Clerk; Mark McIff, Attorney.

Public Present: John Holland, Scenic Highway 12 Committee Coordinator; Matt Cochran, Mark Austin, Keith Watts, Ashley Coombs, Ray Nelson, Boz Bosworth, Peg Smith and Sergio Femenias, Randy Catmull, Judy Drain, Tom Jerome, Jean Bramble.

Pledge of allegiance

Approval of the minutes of the February 3 meeting will be postponed until the next meeting since there isn't a quorum of people tonight who were at that meeting.

John Holland, the Scenic Highway 12 Committee Coordinator, presented their annual report. He distributed copies of the 2010 Annual Report and a sheet showing current activities. (Brian Dick, Jabe Beal, and Steve and Cheryl Cox came.) They have redesigned the route guide and are currently redesigning their website. The manufacturing of the interpretive signs that were placed last year was inferior, so they will be replaced. Donations from the half marathon (\$2,500) will go to Cannonville to finish their pavilion. He expressed appreciation for our cooperation and participation with their efforts and for Scott Brodie's activity on their committee. They have been asked for letters of support for causes, including the extension of the Bryce Canyon bike path into Tropic and Cannonville. They have been asked to support the citizens' opposition to the Hogsback Wayside development project

Brian reported that Bevin McCabe and Troy Chatwin have agreed to put both names on both properties, but there's no deed to present tonight. They are legal non-conforming lots. Bill gave a history of the creation of the lots. Because the lots are non-conforming, if they are changed, it will have to be done by way of a variance. When the deed is ready, he should apply for a variance. Brian said that, in tabulating the surveys, they see that people feel there is too much regulation. He agrees that the lots are non-conforming, but feels there shouldn't be a variance required. There was agreement that this part of the ordinance may need to be changed. Tom has heard complaints that we don't enforce our ordinances. The Mayor asserted that we look into any complaints we receive and resolve them as best we can. The Board of Adjustment serves a purpose and can hear requests for variances. The Town Council should come to the Planning Commission and request that the ordinance be changed. (Lucus Catmull came.) Keith suggested that, since these three lots are unusual and there may not be another place in town where such a situation

exists, that section of the ordinance may not need to be changed and, in fact, it may be good to leave it there to prevent any other such long, narrow lots. Randy made a motion we ask the Planning Commission to look at the lot width-to-depth ratio. Sue seconded the motion. Before a vote was taken, Peg stated that she feels the Planning Commission should look at the whole Subdivision Ordinance. Randy then made a motion we ask the Planning Commission to review the whole Subdivision Ordinance. Sue felt we may not be able to revise some things if they are in the ordinance because State law requires it. Tom recommended that, if the Planning Commission suggests changes, we have the attorney check for legal compliance. Sue then seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The With GAIA park master plan design project is finished. Tom said he and his committee are thrilled that it is finished. Jabe learned that Bryce Canyon National Park is retiring some picnic benches and is giving them away, so he has reserved 10 for the Town. Randy made a motion we pay the bill and sign off on the With GAIA contract. Sue seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The Council approved the issuance of a business license for Land Ark Northwest, a business run by Aaron and Autumn Bauman that will be coming to Boulder within a month when they move here.

Matt reported that the BLM Hogsback day use area is supported by a handful of people in the BLM but doesn't seem to have citizens' support in either Boulder or Escalante. There is concern that the BLM hasn't responded to citizen concerns, and people feel unheard. A survey shows that 93% of town businesses oppose the project. There are 60-70 signatures on the petitions. The citizens have tried to compromise by suggesting an alternative in the form of a pull-out wayside instead of a day-use area with no fencing, rest room, cattle guard, etc. There is some question as to whether the BLM can maintain the proposed development, with daily garbage removal, cleaning, etc., being required. The citizens' committee needs a town resolution of support.

Mark Austin gave some history. Initially, some years ago, it was felt a restroom was needed, but there have since been some provided at the visitors' center and other places. The original citizens' petition that was submitted some time ago should have been part of the EA but was never included and is now missing. Providing restrooms dilutes business opportunities for private enterprise. Jean, who lives in Escalante, stated that people there are largely unaware of the proposal. The high cost of this development is such that the money could be better used somewhere else. Keith feels the restroom will take business away from the local businesses, since people who stop to use their restrooms typically buy something.

The Assistant Monument Manager will be at the site on Tuesday, March 8, at 2:00 to discuss their revised plan, which came into being because the original plan encroached on the Wilderness Study Area. This, then, is an opportunity to present other options. John Holland advised that UDOT Enhancement money is being used for the project, and it can't just be put into some other project at will. The BLM conceived the project early; when the Byway plan was developed, this became part of it and was adopted as part of the Corridor Management Plan but not specifically discussed. He will take these concerns back to the committee, which hasn't yet voted on whether to support the project. They tend to support well thought out programs.

Mark Austin stated that the BLM never completed the community input part of the process; thus, proper process was not followed. Keith stated the BLM said there was no local opposition, but the petition would have proved otherwise. Matt feels the questions in the EA were not properly considered. At the Mayor's request, Randy read the letter that the Council has been requested to sign. Sue then made a motion that we resolve to send the letter to the people listed. Randy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Farlan will clean the landfill up when the road dries out. The Planning Commission will meet this week.

The Mayor has had requests that salvageable material from the demolition of this building be offered for sale, with the money going back into the project or possibly the park. That may depend on how the contract is written.

Randy made a motion the meeting adjourn. Sue seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.