

GEM Committee Minutes – November 15, 2008

1. Attendance: Kim Wheatley, Cindy Beger, Eric Householder, Steve Ransom, Steve Clarke, Sharon Holmstrom, Jim Ormsbee, Jennifer Graham, Art Roscoe, Paul DeLong, Jamie Lythgoe. Franco Mortarotti was welcomed as a new member.
2. Minutes of the October 6th meeting were accepted as written.
3. The status of Partner Reviews was discussed. The following reviews have been completed. Comments are noted:
 - a. OVBA – need more on motorized ATV/Motorcycle trail use. The committee agrees that better signs are needed to inform users of trails available for motorized use. It was pointed out that the entire Skyline Trail to Ben Lomond Peak is open to motorcycle use, and the trails on the back of Willard Peak see approximately 3000 ATV users each week. Separation from non-motorized use is a principle the committee feels is important.
 - b. Planning Commission/Planning Staff/County Parks and Recreation – Congratulatory comments were received.
 - c. Weber School District Board – Congratulatory comments were received. Buck Froerer (a board member, emphasized the possibilities and advantages of working cooperatively in the future.)
 - d. Huntsville Town Council/Planning Commission – Huntsville Town is forming a proposal for use of the old elementary school. We have agreed to add that comment as part of our recommendation for the Commissioners to engage the school district board in discussions about the disposition of the land and building. Mayor McKay had a question as to whether the Town would have to deed the Park to the new district should Huntsville join, we responded that would not be necessary. The Planning Commission suggested 25 acres as a minimum size for new parks. We will review the language of our invitation to Huntsville to join the new district to make sure it is an invitation, not a demand.
 - e. U. S. Forest Service – The recommendations are fine. They desire to fine tune the Public Lands Subcommittee report language with Terry Davis.
 - f. Eden Park Committee – They accept the plan as needed and valuable but express “sadness” in some loss of local control of the park.
 - g. Liberty Park Committee – They felt the same feelings as the Eden Park Committee plus the concern that the desire of residents in the district be determined as regards new facilities and use of facilities. There is sentiment that residents be able to use the local park at no additional use charge.
 - h. UDOT (email feedback) – desire to “coordinate with UDOT in how to best address the desire for bike use and scenic driving on SR-158 and SR-39. They might also want to mention the need for better bike access between the Ogden Valley and the Ogden metro area, at least over the long term.”

John Klisch adds “In spite of signage warning about the dangers of doing so, cyclists commute and recreate daily on SR39. In fact, the usage has been increasing lately as gas prices rise and residents become more attuned to the benefits of regular exercise. As beneficial as this is, the high traffic volume in the canyon poses a very real obstacle to an enjoyable and safe ride. As our population increases, the traffic will only get worse and cycling traffic will continue to rise. A cycling and pedestrian path is badly needed in the canyon.”

These comments will be reflected in the report.

- i. (The following reviews have been conducted since the meeting)
 - i. Weber County Commission – We met with the Commissioners one at a time. They expressed appreciation, noting that they value the contribution of the Committee’s work on Parks and Recreation. Budgets are tight this year. Kim pointed out that purchasing an option on land may be an inexpensive and valuable first step. The idea seemed well received. Commissioner Zogmaister indicated that she thinks Huntsville Town should be first in line to discuss the disposition of the old school property. They agreed to discuss the report together and get back to us sometime in December with feedback. We tendered our goal of completing the recommendation as early in January as possible.
 - ii. GOAL Foundation and Ogden /Weber Convention Bureau – The group asked questions of understanding, particularly regarding ways in which we recommended they support the effort. We felt the recommendations were well received.

4. The following reviews are planned. Members of the Committee are encouraged to join.
 - a. Ski Utah – Wed, December 10, 9:30 a.m., Solitude Mountain, Last Chance Mining Camp meeting room.
 - b. Ogden High Adventure Committee – Thursday, December 11, 9 a.m., 7th floor conference room in the Ogden Municipal Bldg.

5. The following reviews are not yet planned or are waiting for feedback:
 - a. Utah DWR – Pam Kramer to determine interest and arrange.
 - b. Private Camps – each representative to determine need for a meeting and arrange if desired.
 - c. Utah Office of Tourism – Review in progress, need for meeting not determined.
 - d. Utah Public Lands Policy Coordination Office – Review in progress, need for meeting not determined.
 - e. Utah Parks and Recreation – Review in progress, need for meeting not determined.

6. In any Committee member wishes to schedule a review for their organization please contact Steve Clarke (e.g. Resorts, Back Country Horsemen)

7. Partner review items and input from Ken Camello were reviewed and added to the report. A new version will be posted on the web site soon.
8. The upcoming review with the Commission was discussed with agreement that the objective of the meeting was to inform and collect input.
9. The target for presentation of the final report and recommendations to the Commission was set to be not later than January 30.
10. Kim Wheatley reviewed the modeling work he has done on maximum density considerations for the Resort Zone ordinance. He has developed a sophisticated model that permits adjustment of each variable. He has demonstrated that if contributions to TDR purchase and for the Real Estate Transfer Fee equal 3.5% of the unit selling price every additional unit in the resort will remove a unit someplace else in the Valley. At 4% Valley units could be reduced by approximately half, to approximately 6,000 at buildout. This is a non-intuitive conclusion, one which inspires hope in the Committee. The Committee extends its sincere thanks to Kim for his effort and skill in putting the model in place.
11. Steve Clarke encouraged the committee to review the Envision Morgan work on their website. Links are: <http://www.envisionmorgan.org/>, <http://www.envisionmorgan.org/Presentation.pdf>, <http://www.envisionmorgan.org/pollres.pdf>.
12. The Committee elected to cancel the December meeting. **Our next meeting is scheduled January 8, 2009 at 5 pm, Huntsville Library.**
13. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12 noon.