

GEM Committee Minutes – September 3, 2008

1. Attendance: Sharon Holmstrom, Julie Mertlich, Ross Mertlich, Ken Camello, Jim Ormsbee, Steve Burr, Roland Bringhurst, Rick Vallejos, Paul Riley, Art Roscoe, Kim Wheatley, Cindy Beger, Paul DeLong, Richard Sorensen, Jennifer Graham, Kathy Allen, Richard Webb, Ron Gleason, Steve Clarke. Visitor: Mrs. Webb. Excused: Pam Kramer, Terry Davis, and Sharon Vause.
2. The Committee elected to not read the minutes of the July 10 meeting.
3. Ordinances: The Committee discussed the joint County Commission – Planning Commissioner meeting to discuss 7 issues raised by Rob Scott, most of which have to do with the Resort Zone and TDR draft ordinances. GEM Committee input was circulated for suggested improvement. (Note: the meeting was held on Sept. 8 at 5 in the Commissioners conference room. Commissioner Zogmaister chaired the meeting and made it clear that these meetings were not to “start over” on draft development, but were intended to recover momentum lost this year because of other distractions. Meetings were scheduled for 1st and 3rd Thursdays, to be confirmed by Sherri Sillitoe. Ron Gleason added a request for the meetings to be advertised on the County website. Kim Wheatley added transportation as an issue; Jim Banks added secondary water as an issue. The intent is to complete the discussion in 3 additional meetings. The public is invited, but these are not public hearings. Input from others will be invited by the Chair at her discretion. These meetings are very important and your participation is invited.)
4. Recommendation Draft Review: The group was pleased with the progress of the draft and offered the following excellent input which will be included shortly in a new draft recommendation:
 - a. Recreation Programs are not mentioned.
 - b. Public use of resort facilities is clearly at the option of the resort and one must be clear that the resorts can change their minds.
 - c. Need to highlight the urgency of obtaining land for parks now.
 - d. Ice Skating was discussed in some length. While an Olympic style rink is clearly low priority for the foreseeable future, there is strong demand for an ice skating facility in the valley, whether it be strictly natural ice, enhanced to provide an extended season, or some kind of lower budget year round facility, the need exists. We are fortunate indeed to have the help of Ken Camello, who has deep experience in this area. The Community recreation facilities write up will be modified, as will the recommendation.
 - e. The table on page 3 extracted from the Recreation Element plan was confusing to several members and will be modified. The demand summary needs to be more clear.
 - f. While school attendance is declining slightly, children’s use of recreation facilities is not declining, and that will be clarified.
 - g. Everything added as a recreation facility means our taxes go up. We need to be clear about that.

- h. Rick Vallejos pointed out the opportunity for commercialization of recreation facilities, as the Forest Service has done with many of their facilities. The capital investment is not recovered, but companies make a good profit in running the campgrounds and other facilities.
 - i. The recommendation is consistent with the Forest Service land use plan. Rick pointed out that we may be missing the issue on cleaning beaches other than the commercialized areas.
 - j. Roland Bringham will send an email with modifications to the snowmobile parking lot recommendations.
 - k. The mention of Snowbasin as the “high quality” resort is unnecessary and will be reworded.
 - l. Either we need to explain why so much mention is made of the resorts or reduce the coverage given to them.
 - m. We discussed the issue of recommending expanded camping. Some feel a camp site generates impact on the valley much like an additional residence. Others feel there is a real demand for camp sites. No conclusion was reached but we will look again at the language of the recommendation.
 - n. We discussed the increased use by “competitive leagues and teams” of our park facilities and the fact that they are willing to pay fair fees for use of the parks. Steve Burr recommended we contact Jeff Robins in the Utah Sports Commission to get more information.
5. Presentation development: A meeting for subcommittee chairs plus Ron Gleason, Jack Wright, Art Roscoe, and Steve Clarke was set for Monday 9/15 starting at 2 pm and going to not later than 5 pm for the purpose of refining a presentation storyboard.
6. Stakeholder List: The list of stakeholders was reviewed and Planning Commission Staff was added as an entry. Stakeholders will be asked to review the draft presentation/recommendation. The list includes:
- a. Liberty Park District, Eden Park District, Huntsville Town
 - b. Planning Commission, Planning Commission Staff, County Parks and Recreation, County Commission.
 - c. Weber School District, Ogden City.
 - d. Ogden/Weber Convention and Visitors Bureau, Ski Utah.
 - e. GOAL Foundation, OVBA.
 - f. Forest Service, Utah DWR, Utah Division of Parks and Recreation.
7. The next meeting was established for Thursday October 2, 5 PM at the Huntsville Library (**This will change** if the schedule for the joint Planning Commission – Commissioners meeting is confirmed for the same date and time.)
8. The meeting was adjourned at about 6:30 pm.