

GEM Committee Minutes for December 7, 2006

1. Attendance: Lowell Peterson, Paul DeLong, Ron Gleason, Kim Wheatley, John Klisch, Marsha Rasmussen, Steve Clarke. Visitor: Brandon Fuller. Excused: Art Roscoe, Laura Ault, Steve Roberts, Shanna Francis, Pam Kramer, and Sharon Vause.
2. Reports were given for the subcommittees:
 - a. Stakeholders: Paul DeLong and several others led a discussion on the progress in making suggested changes to the ordinances. It is clear that the Sensitive Lands Ordinance is being interpreted differently by the community than by the Stakeholders and this is a major concern. Analysis of example plats is the suggested way to develop facts in the matter. This subcommittee will have completed its work in a few months.
 - b. Transportation: Steve Clarke reported for the group that they have done as much as possible without a "Transportation Plan" for the Valley which is agreed on by UDOT and the County. Laura Ault is working on ways to get such a study in the pipeline.
 - c. Impact Fees: John Klisch reported that he has had numerous conversations with the County to promote progress on implementation of the fee structure. Now the 2007 budget process is wrapped up he is encouraged that progress is possible.
 - d. Parks: Steve Clarke reported that the group continues to refine the vision document and presentation. Sharon Vause has collected some examples from other communities. Lowell Peterson suggested that January might be the best time to present the Vision to the Commissioners. There are no major obstacles to continued work by this group.
3. A proposal was tendered to ask each subcommittee chairman to remain in place and to continue working on roadblock issues, which may take years, but committee members would be released, with the exception of Parks and Political Outreach, to work on other things. After a short discussion the group agreed. Therefore the Parks Committee will continue to function, the Stakeholders will continue to work on the implementation of the ordinances, Bob Dyer will continue work on obtaining a transportation master plan, John Klisch will continue work on Impact Fee implementation, and Lowell Peterson will continue to look for Political Outreach opportunities.
4. A proposal was discussed which would have the GEM Committee begin active work on the **Valley sewer analysis** which was requested by Commissioner Cain. The discussion included the issues involved, which have been covered in previous minutes, awareness of a current rebate program available to Valley residents who will pump their septic tanks, the need to dispel the common perception that sewer will bring ¼ acre lots, the need of the County Commission to have us help with the study, and the availability of resources to do the work.

- a. After discussion the proposal was accepted as necessary and urgent. The Goal is stated as:
 - i. Analyze alternatives for waste water treatment in the Valley in technical and management terms and present the study to the County Commissioners.
 - b. The Committee agreed to organize the work in 3 parts:
 - i. Technical – Including understanding the merits of the different treatment options with their related costs and effectiveness.
 - ii. Management – Including understanding the role of Sewer Districts, Financing, Body Politic, Legal, Federal/State/County law, managing the possible alternative solutions. Kim Wheatley agreed to contact Mark DeCaria to discuss legal issues.
 - iii. Communications – Print, Meetings, Web, etc.
 - c. Leaders of the 3 work groups were tentatively selected, to be confirmed by the next meeting:
 - i. Technical – Bob Dyer (unconfirmed)
 - ii. Management – Ron Gleason
 - iii. Communications – Jack Wright
 - d. In the information gathering phase the following were discussed as primary sources: Curtis Christensen (County Engineer), Gardner Engineering, Aqua Engineering, Utah State. Ken Gardner, Curtis Christensen, a State representative, Mark DeCaria, and possibly Louis Cooper were discussed as key skills to be recruited.
5. Other Items: Kim Wheatley discussed a plan to write editorial articles for the newspaper to raise awareness in the lower valley of the issues in Ogden Valley. He suggests a series of articles may be needed.
6. The next meeting is scheduled for **January 4, 2007** in the Huntsville Library at 5 P.M.