

Minutes of the GEM Committee – April 1, 2009

1. Attendance: Sharon Holmstrom, Kim Wheatley, Richard Webb, Jim Ormsbee, Steve Ransom, Kent Lyons, Cindy Beger, Ross Mertlich, Art Roscoe, Steve Clarke. Visitors: Kent Jorgenson, Trevin Blaisdale (UTA)
2. Kent Lyons, General Manager of Snowbasin, was recognized as a new member of the GEM Committee.
3. Minutes of the March 4th meeting were accepted as written.
4. The following announcements were discussed:
 - a. Planning Commission work meeting 4/2 at 5 pm. (Sharon Holmstrom, Kim Wheatley, Steve Clarke attended)
 - b. Meeting with the Commissioners Monday April 13, 1:30-3 pm to refocus on Parks and Recreation recommendations in the Commissioners conference room. All members are encouraged to attend.**
 - c. The Valley Citizens for Responsible Development (VCRD) has invited us to provide a short (10 min) update on progress with the ordinances at their next meeting, 5/14 at 6:30 pm in the Huntsville Library. Steve Clarke will present the update, all are welcome to attend.
5. The Alternative Futures Study by USU which looks at the impact of different growth scenarios in Ogden Valley is complete but will not be provided to the County or Committee until matching funds are provided. Steve will meet with Commissioner Dearden to discuss the situation and develop a plan. (Since the Committee meeting Steve met with the Commissioner and he will talk with the other two commissioners to see if money currently set aside for Valley planning can be used for this purpose. The total project cost was approximately \$14,000. The Commission is considering a \$7,000 share. We expect a response by the time of our April 13 meeting.)
6. Steve Clarke has received input from many members of the Committee with regard to the Committee's next project: The large majority of input favors focusing on the Resort Zone and TDR ordinances and pressing forward on Parks and Recreation. The Committee voted unanimously to accept that direction. We anticipate a General Plan update in the next year or two, and these activities could contribute positively to prepare for that activity.
7. Kent Jorgenson and Treavor Blaisdale of UTA presented a summary of the history of UTA activities in Ogden Valley, beginning with the Route 617 bus service which went from 25th and Washington up the Canyon, around Huntsville and Eden, and back to the starting point. Steve

Clarke will ask for a copy of the Power Point and will distribute to the Committee when it is received.) The service was discontinued in 2001 due to low ridership.

The following ideas were discussed:

1. Van Pooling – UTA will provide 15 passenger vans to groups of residents, companies, or communities who wish to provide service. The lease, insurance, maintenance, and gas are priced by UTA based on total miles driven at a favorable rate. About 100 vans are currently providing service to/from Hill AFB as an example. Snowbasin expressed an interest in such arrangements and will have further dialogue with UTA. We expect other resorts may also be interested. We speculate that groups of residents may find it valuable to use a van to commute to the Front Runner station or Weber State for example.
2. The UTA ski bus service to the Salt Lake resorts was reviewed. They use specially outfitted and geared busses for this service and operate them on a seasonal basis. This type of service could also apply to our resorts.
3. UTA's planning process was clarified. Basically UTA does not monitor growth in areas like Ogden Valley, looking for a threshold of need to institute service. They depend on the local government, or groups of residents to point out the need and usually look for some sort of tax support as was recently done by the mayor of Brigham City, where they wish to have a Front Runner station. Bottom line; when we feel it is time for UTA service here we will need to make the case to UTA through our County Commissioners or otherwise.
4. We observed that in several European countries local bus service also provides service to the school children. This would seem to make a lot of sense here in the Valley, where the school district provides full coverage of the Valley as well as to Weber High. We believe federal law prevents this arrangement in the U. S.
5. Kent agreed to investigate the implications of seasonal Van Pool use.

Kent Jorgenson agreed to provide a note outlining the Van Pool guidelines (which he has done). Steve will circulate that. (Since the meeting Steve plans to suggest the Ogden Valley News interview Kent with the idea of publishing the Van Pool concept.)

8. The next meeting of the GEM Committee will be Wednesday, May 6, at 5 P.M. in the Huntsville Library.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.