

Gem Committee Minutes – October 4, 2007

1. Attendance: Stephanie Loud, Kathy Allen, Rick Vallejos, Nate Pierce, Jim Ormsbee, Buck Froerer, Steve Clarke. (Excused: Sharon Holmstrom, Joan Blanchard, Cindy Beger, John Klisch, Helene Liebman, Steve Roberts, Lowell Peterson, Shanna Francis, Paul DeLong, Mike Loud)

Attendance of regular committee members was an issue in this meeting. Please make every effort to attend and if that is not possible let the Chairman know so meetings can be rescheduled if necessary.

2. Minutes of the Sept. 5 meeting were not read but approved as written.
3. Ordinance Report: On September 17 the Planning Commission held a public hearing on the Sensitive Lands Ordinance. They requested two new definitions be added for their review. They conditionally approved the ordinance draft to be sent to the Commission. A work meeting will be held on the Resort Zone ordinance **October 11 at 5 pm**. All members are invited to attend.
4. Sewer Report: The sewer recommendation was presented in a Commission meeting on September 11. The Commissioners continue to be very complimentary of the Committee's effort and work product. Steve Clarke will speak with the Commissioners to encourage budget planning and progress toward adoption.
5. Steve Clarke announced that there will be a Powder Mountain rezone field trip for the Planning Commission members on October 12. The public is invited. The group will leave from the Maverick at 1 pm. The public will provide its own transportation and 4-wheel drive vehicles are recommended. Steve Clarke has obtained Hwy 158 UDOT safety data which is available. The **public hearing on the 24th** will be very important. Committee members are urged to participate in the hearing, starting at 4:30 pm in the Commission chambers.
6. Parks and Recreation:
 - a. Those advisors present introduced themselves:
 - i. Kathy Allen – Recreation Specialist with more than 17 years of experience with swimming, basketball, tennis, etc. programs especially with youth.
 - ii. Buck Froerer – Weber School District Board member
 - iii. Nate Pierce – Weber County Director of Operations
 - iv. Rick Vallejos – U.S. Forest Service
 - b. Jim Ormsbee and Stephanie Loud gave reports on the meetings with the Commissioners on October 3rd which resulted in confirmation of their

support for the priority and scope of the work on Parks and Recreation and generated the following suggestions:

- i. Invite Tim Maycock of County Parks and Recreation staff to join as an advisor (completed by Steve Clarke)
 - ii. Invite the Back Country Horsemen to send an advisor – Nate Pierce (a member of the group) will follow.
 - iii. Have periodic reviews with County Planning Staff to glean their ideas as we go along – Steve Clarke will schedule.
 - iv. Invite Church groups which operate camps in the Valley to be involved – Steve Clarke to follow.
- c. Steve Clarke reviewed the pertinent parts of the Recreation Element Plan (Chapters 3 and 9) relating to Parks and Recreation.
- d. Each attendee took a few minutes to outline “In an ideal world here’s what I would like to see” as a way to communicate priorities and scope ideas:
- i. Jim Ormsbee – would like to see parks and facilities with public swimming pool, tennis courts, etc. Feels use of private facilities is not something most families can afford.
 - ii. Nate Pierce – Would suggest there be 3 classes of parks:
 1. Neighborhood – smaller, family gathering places, mostly open space with few facilities.
 2. Community – larger, some amenities, support gatherings larger than family.
 3. Regional – parks like North Fork or Memorial.Nate’s suggestions regarding recreation are to identify the need and niche to be served. We can’t be all things to all people. Choose focus activities like snowmobile, ATV, Hunting, Fishing; or class things as High Adventure, or Seasonal).
 - iii. Rick Vallejos – Suggested the best recreation on public lands is that which doesn’t leave a trace on the ground. The Valley is not “big country”, we can’t be everything to everyone. We should recognize that it is a curse to live in such “nice country”. We should plan for the year-round cycle of activities. We should target a recreation plan to local residents but at the same time recognize that every third home in Ogden has a boat, a camp trailer, or an ATV/Snowmobile trailer and that those expensive investments are important to those families and will be used somewhere, likely in Ogden Valley. He is convinced users should pay for recreation. Rick sees a role for private providers of facilities such as a KOA camp. He feels having a good trail system is key. He suggests resorts should provide a financially viable alternative for local

people. The Forest Service will be the only provider of water based recreation.

- iv. Buck Froerer – Recognizes the 3 communities in the Valley. Example of a lady in Huntsville who in 45 years has never been to Eden or Liberty. Buck feels consensus on a Valley plan will be difficult. He feels those who use should pay and feels there is a role for special use parks and facilities.
 - v. Kathy Allen – Feels a priority should be to protect open space. She is focused on the needs of the youth, especially for swimming, tennis, and sees a need for a recreation center in the Valley. Kathy now supports 12 teams per night in a basketball program. She feels we should be concerned about the quality of life as well as the cost and suggests there are facilities which may not make a profit but are important. Kathy points to the town of Kamas, Utah, which built a small community center between their two schools. She recommends users pay for usage.
 - vi. Stephanie Loud – Feels there is a real need for public facilities in addition to any private ones. She has talked to many residents who have the perception that they are bearing the costs of visitors who use facilities in the Valley. Stephanie feels the Valley is changing and will continue to change. She points out the example of Park City, where residents resisted change and saw it surround them. Finally they accepted it and started to plan for the inevitable change. She feels we need to be ahead of the curve – change will happen.
- e. Steve discussed the **assignment given to attendees as well as those not present** to “Consider the Boundaries of the Study” and to write a few paragraphs outlining the scope. For example, consider the questions:
- i. Are we focused on visitors to the Valley, local residents, or both? If both, which is the primary consideration? Ogden City and Weber County both promote tourism with hundreds of thousands of dollars each year using pictures of Ogden Valley as the draw. Should this market be the primary one for our study?
 - ii. Are family reunions too small to be considered? (Ed. Note: I hope not)
 - iii. If we can't be all things to all people, what activities should be priority? Skiing? Boating? Snowmobiling? Hiking? Equestrian? ATVing? Sunday Drive? Camping? Should we pick a market segment and then ask “What activities does this market need or expect or would find attractive”?

- iv. What synergy exists or should exist between the schools and parks and recreation?
 - v. What public input should be sought as we proceed with preparing the recommendation? Please talk with your own extended families, friends, associates to get a feel for this.
 - f. Steve requests everyone e-mail him input on these questions and other ideas which could help define the scope of the study. We would like to be in the position of having a draft scope and work plan for discussion in the next meeting.
7. The next meeting will be held **Thursday November 1, at 5 PM** in the Community Room of the Huntsville Library.
8. The meeting was adjourned at about 6:30 pm.