

**Big Sky Community & Infrastructure Solution Group
Meeting Minutes: November 8, 2004, 4:00pm**

In Attendance: Kate Wilson, Dave O'Connor, Loren Bough, Steve Johnson, Dick Fast, Marne Hayes, Erin Hayes, Peter Mroczkiewicz, Kay Reeves, Lenya Smithwick, Julie Pfingst, and Carol Collins.

Kate:

- Called meeting to order at 4:05pm
- Addressed the fact that we haven't fully introduced ourselves to each other and suggested that we go around the table and give a brief personal and professional background about ourselves.

Kate:

- Has lived in Big Sky for 5 years, is the Advertising Coordinator for Big Sky Resort.
- Has a marketing and writing background
- Previously worked in New Hampshire
- Member of the Volunteer Fire Department as an EMT/Firefighter
- V.P. of Big Sky Chamber of Commerce
- Land & homeowner in Big Sky

Dave:

- General Manager @ Buck's T-4
- Big Sky Resident for 14 years
- Member of the Chamber Board
- President of the Chamber's Steering Committee. Attends Solution Group meetings to see that there is not too much overlap between groups' goals/tasks.
- Concerned about how we will face challenging issues as a community.

Loren:

- Grew up in Eastern Montana
- Owned a house in Big Sky for many years
- Lived in England for 14 years and also in Russia
- Moved to Big Sky with his family 1 year ago
- Is passionate about getting a high school in Big Sky
- Works in investments

Steve:

- Grew up in Chicago
- Worked as a systems consultant for Anderson for 30 years
- Full-time resident of Big Sky since 2001
- Retired and loves the outdoors

Dick:

- Worked for 40 years in the U.S. Air Force
- Grew up in a farming community in Northern Wisconsin

- Big Sky resident for 5 years

Marne:

- Resident of Big Sky since 1993
- Has worked many jobs in area
- Currently is the Director of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce
- Grew up in Pittsburg, PA

Erin:

- Moved to Big Sky in 1993 from Cleveland, OH
- Worked as the General Manager of Geyser Whitewater for many years and at Lone Mountain Sports prior to that for several years.
- Started Alpine Property Management 1.5 years ago

Peter:

- Grew up in Arizona
- Spent 28 years in the U.S. Army, specializing in security work
- Hired as the Director of Public Safety for the Yellowstone Club and is the Manager of the Property Owner's Association at the Yellowstone Club.
- Resident of Big Sky for 2 years, is land & homeowner
- Loves it here!

Kay:

- Moved to Big Sky 2 years ago from Westchester County, NY
- Worked in Manhattan as an Employee Benefits Manager
- Also lived and worked in Chicago for 20 years
- Loves it here!

Lenya:

- Moved to Big Sky in 1998 from Flint, MI
- Has been a "full-time" resident in Montana since 1998, and has lived between Big Sky and Bozeman throughout 6 years, currently resides in Bozeman
- Works at Moonlight Basin as a Project Coordinator/Moonbeams Manager
- Loves the outdoors and sees a future in Big Sky as a potential homeowner, however feels there is a lack of community feel
- Wants to see a government structure here in Big Sky

Julie:

- Grew up in Michigan, took a trip out here with her father and loved it.
- Currently is the Sales Manager at the Big Easy Lodge

Carol: (was not yet at the meeting, tied up at BSOA)

Dave:

- Mentioned that he will attend a meeting on November 9, 2004 with the Director of Transportation re: HWY 191 and he's asking for input on questions to pose at that meeting.

Dick:

- Poses a question on how the road maintenance works here (Big Sky)?
- Adds that Gallatin County holds no responsibility to maintain the roads here, but have full authority to regulate them.

Moved to Interview with Ron Edwards at Water & Sewer:

- **Role:** Take care of about 25-30% of the water & sewer services in Big Sky
- They are located in Gallatin County, thus they maintain a building permit system of requiring a Land Use Permit for water and sewer that needs to be in place before any building is to be erected.
- Madison County currently has no standardized permitting process, they require no Land Use Permits and no sewer permits
- **Main Issue for Water & Sewer:** There is no consistency between Gallatin & Madison counties, different policies
- There are many other water & sewer districts being created in Big Sky; i.e. Ramshorn and Firelight.

Steve (adds):

- What can a person can do to propose that uniformity is required of all homeowners associations?

Peter (answers):

- Go to state and create a board to oversee the associations.

Discussion moved to Water Sources:

- The water resource of Big Sky Resort/Big Sky Springs and that of Spanish Peaks/Wells.

Dick (back to his interview):

- **Success:** Lifting of compliance order by the Environmental Protection Agency, originally issued in 1993.
- Found in violation of dumping too much sewage into the Gallatin River and also for leakage problems, thus a moratorium was issued that there were to be no new hookups to the Big Sky Water and Sewer District.
- Big Sky Water and Sewer is still able to dump sewage into the Gallatin River, however at very low amounts.
- Dumping should not be necessary now, due to the grievance to take care of gray water and also the new sewer facility.
- **Challenges:** How to deal with the increasing water demand in the summer?
- Hypothetically, if well were to shut off—there would be a BIG problem.
- There is no state authority over Big Sky's water restrictions
- Also, there is no coordinated efforts to standardize water restrictions in Big Sky.

Kay: ***Interview with John Holtzman, Ophir School Board***

- **Role:** Guide students to acquire skills what they need to know for the next level of life.
- **Relationship with County:** not much because of their Certified Superintendent Endorsement, Ophir is able to function on their own.
- **Success:** Survey results from 2002 showed community perceptions and attitudes on Ophir School; results showed that teachers are happy working there and thus the school has a low turnover rate, despite their low wages.
- **Challenges:** School expansion is a major challenge.
- The current growth rate is not near the projected rate.
- Ophir School is the “de facto” community center of Big Sky, and likes the role of this, but its location is not the center of the community.
- The distance to Bozeman High School is a big challenge: they are creating a tacking log of Ophir students’ success rate after they leave and go to Bozeman High School.
- **Ability to improve service to community:** The community is crucial to the success—the Ophir board members encourage community members to participate on the board and with the school in general.
- **Infrastructure Group to Help:** They welcome any ideas that will broaden the scope of services.

Peter:

- Agrees that Ophir is a great school, but having no high school in Big Sky is a detriment to the community, his experience is that it is hard to find quality employees at the Yellowstone Club because they are turned off by the lack of a high school.

Moved to interview with Eric Ossorio & Pat Collins from the Zoning Advisory Board

- **Role:** to provide an advisory function to the Gallatin County Commissioners.
- They deal mostly with variance requests, and they are not as powerful as one might expect.
- **Success:** Simply their existence and for Big Sky to be represented.
- **Challenges:** Their role is very small (Big Sky board members)
- A new master plan of the current zoning.
- **Infrastructure Group to Help:** we can help with re-mapping the master plan.

Solution Group member proposes a more investigative newspaper in Big Sky.

Dave:

- Adds to the newspaper comment that Infrastructure group should begin a “wish list” something concrete that will help to guide us to action.

- Some things already mentioned; a more informative and investigative newspaper, efforts to standardized homeowners associations, and a foundation for Solution Groups efforts.

Steve:

- Mentions that he spoke with Ken Weaver at MSU.
- Ken is willing to come up after we have our mission under way to listen to our efforts and possibly suggest ways in which to help.
- Ken may charge a fee for more visits.

Dave:

- Suggests that we may have to expedite our efforts in forming a foundation that is privately funded so that solution group(s) will have monies to spend on its efforts.

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Kay: ***Interview with Sharon Holtzman at the Library***

- **Role:** To allow the Big Sky community a “local library”.
- Provide printed and audio books, and an educational DVD collection.
- Provide 10 computers with internet service.
- Books for Babies outreach program.
- Have a satellite dish for television-based education.
- Currently open on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings, will be open Monday evenings for winter season.
- **Interaction with the County Government:** None, as it is a 501 C-3, non-profit organization.
- However, they have received much guidance and support from the Montana Library Association.
- **Success:** This is their fourth year of operation with over 300 members through sponsorships.
- The library is staffed solely by volunteers.
- **Challenges:** There is not enough space for their services and no room to expand.
- They have a great relationship with the school board and love being located in the school; however this poses a problem to serve the community during school hours due to class being in session.
- Need a reliable snow express schedule to better serve the community and the seasonal workers who depend on the internet service.
- **Infrastructure to help improve services to community:** They would benefit by having a Big Sky governing structure, so that they may receive funding.
- **Other contacts:** Kathy House

Lenya: ***Interview with Mindy Nowakowski at the Big Sky Association for the Arts***

- **Role:** Strictly non-profit, their role is to bring different genres of music/arts to Big Sky in a beautiful setting and to create a family/community outlet.
- Recently expanded their services to winter programming: Madrigal Dinners and acts such as Jenny Flemming.
- Started the Peggy Schwerer foundation.
- **Interaction with County Government:** Not much, only the Gallatin County Health Department for the annual Chili Cook Off.
- **Success:** Bringing a new form of entertainment to the community of Big Sky.
- **Challenges:** Not sure of the future of the BSAA, due to the acquisition of 22 acres by the Big Sky Community Park. (The Group wasn't sure what she meant by this comment.)
- States as an aside, that there is no community center in Big Sky currently, but there is hope with the new Town Center, she adds that she would like to see more affordable housing in Big Sky.

Dave:

- Asks the groups' advice on how to deal with community updates to our meeting agendas/outcome: consensus was to give a 2-3 sentence summary of our meetings.

Erin:

- Proposes to meet a bit later with the Holiday season.

Kate:

- Proposes a date/time for next meeting: November 22nd from 5-7pm, at the Fire Station (tentative location).

Meeting adjourned at 6:03pm