



BIG * SKY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

Notes for Board Meeting Held Without a Quorum

Board of Directors
Big Sky Chamber of Commerce
55 Lone Mountain Trail | Big Sky, Montana 59716
406-995-3000
8:30 AM
March 10, 2015
www.bigskychamber.com

Call to Order: No call to order without quorum

Present: David O'Connor, Brandon Bang, Kevin Germain

Absent: Sarah Griffiths, Bill Simpkins, John Richardson, Shawna Winter

Staff: Kitty Clemens, Danielle Miller and Marci Lewandowski

INFORMATION ITEMS

TEDD Grant Application Status

Kevin Germain, Board of Directors

- We believe the grant will be going through. The County Commissioners will want an impact analysis which is not included in the scope of work for the grant.
- Kevin noted Regan has been doing a lot of research on TIF districts in other communities. He thinks that will want a power point with best practices from mountain resort communities.
- Some information we pulled together on other TIF districts in other communities include information from Steamboat Springs, Crested Butte, Whitefish and Taos. Ralph Walton is a third party contractor to the TIF district in Steamboat Springs. He used to live in Big Sky. The City Manager of Whitefish was once the TIF manager of Crested Butte. We also spoke with the TIF district in Taos. However, the TIF district in Taos will be going through the state legislature.
- Taos also has a very thorough development plan. It is getting ready to pass at the legislature. It is a \$58 million development plan. Kitty noted the TIF district in Crested Butte is very well developed. The goal is for Regan to put together a one sheet for the resources we have on TIF districts for Kevin. Kevin will provide direction on how he wants the Power Point

CDBG Progress

Kitty Clemens, Executive Director

- CDBG: We have selected a firm, but have not made a formal announcement. We do need to confirm with the federal government. Comma Q is the architect. With the PAR in hand we can get up to \$1.2 million for bricks and mortar.
- Comma Q will conduct public engagement and develop a schedule and budget to finish a demonstration project. The \$165,000 is for approval of the site. It is strongly recommended that we do not spend the \$165,000 granted by the Resort Tax before we have a PAR. It can be used as a match. Kitty asked the county for a letter of support from the County and will include it with a roll over request.

House Bill 262 – Penny for Housing

Kevin Germain, Board of Directors

- The bill will have its first reading in the Senate Taxation Committee on Thurs Mar 19th. Mona does have a proposed amendment that she will be sharing with the Resort Tax. We have several stakeholders we are reaching out to on this issue including Whitefish, West Yellowstone and Virginia City. Other groups include: Montana Lodging and Hospitality, Montana Building Industry Association. We are working on seeking support from the Montana Ski Area Association, and Montana Contractors Association.
- The Gallatin County Commissioners will be making a motion to hopefully support this bill today. Sheriff Gootkin of the Gallatin County Sheriff’s Department will also be speaking out in regards to this bill.
- Madison County also is interested in supporting this bill. Kevin is trying to have Commissioner Dave Schultz testify to support the bill. He met with Meg O’Leary to have Bruce Brensda, the Executive Director of the Montana Department of Housing testify in support this bill.
- Dave asked who opposes this bill. Kevin said not many people are in opposition.
- Pierre Martineau will be attending to give support to the bill. Kevin does not think there will not be opposition in the taxation committee, but there might be opposition in the floor of the House and Senate. Dave commended Kevin on all of his hard work on the project.
- Kevin met with the President of the Senate on Friday. Pacific West Economic Development Summit will be happening mid-July at Big Sky Resort and he thinks we should be involved.

Lease Extension and Permanent Location

Kitty Clemens, Executive Director

- We were offered and signed a renewal for the next year. The lease has been signed and executed. As far as permanent location, the landowners has expressed desire to continue development at this location. We will continue to look for a long term solution on 191.

PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS

Approve the Budget and Application Key Components

Kitty Clemens, Executive Director

- We do not have quorum. We need to vote as an action item for the Resort Tax. We do need board members present for this approval and before we turn in the Resort Tax application.

Dave believes it's very important for everyone on the board to be very thorough in approving this budget and aware of what is in it because many of our projects are multi-year projects with match grant funding. It is important to have a lengthy discussion on these items.

- The board tentatively set a date to approve the action items of the budget on Wednesday, March 25 at 3:30 p.m. pending a confirmation of a quorum for the meeting.

Discussion Items on the Resort Tax Budget

Kitty Clemens, Executive Director

- Kitty handed board members a copy of the Chamber FY 2015/2016 budget. Green cells represent the rollover or under budget funding for housing and infrastructure projects. Those under budget items will be given to Whitney and returned to the Resort Tax to be re-appropriated in this year's funding. Kitty has a letter from Morrison-Maierle, the company working on the Hwy 191 Entryway Plan.
- Kitty is recommending that we consider shifting from a gateway monument on the corner to other options. Our options are to: abandon the projects entirely OR to continue to try to do something which the community thinks is a priority and continue to move forward.
- We are not asking for a rollover, we are asking for a whole new direction on the entryway. One thing we did is create a 501 (c) 3 Entryway Foundation to raise funds for the bricks and mortar of the project.
- We have plans to include more lighting. We would have a goal of looking for two right reading monuments as options because an easement at the corner does not seem to be within reach. Kitty believes it will take all of next fiscal year to create this plan and get approvals. The new foundation can help with fundraising. However, it is very difficult to get donation for the "planning portion" or the project and therefore she asked for support of a planning request.
- Kevin agrees we do not want to abandon the big idea, but notes we have had unforeseen problems due to an unwilling land owner.
- Dave notes that we do need to clarify that the entryway monument, like the housing project is really a community project and if the community no longer wants to support the project, we will go in another direction. However, we do still have a lot of community support and will continue with the project.
- Dave's questioned where this leaves the overhead power lines. Kitty has been informed by Northwestern Energy they expect to get as far as Dudley Creek in the next fiscal year. Planning next year would put us in a good place to build the following year.

Draw Down the Reserve Account for the Wayfinding/Signage

Kitty Clemens, Executive Director

- We need to ask Whitney to transfer the balance for the wayfinding/lighting maintenance fund. The potential pitfall question might be asked as to the reallocation of funds. However, we can only anticipate numbers without certain bids, so it is a complicated process. Dave doesn't see anything that is hugely out of place. We are trying to use best practices in all of our funding.
- Dave notes we will also have the admin amount for the Resort Tax to fund a portion of the Chamber administrative and operations budget. This can be potentially controversial and we do always need to be prepared for those questions. The current Resort Tax board is not as strict on operational funds. We do use a lot of staff time for non-traditional Chamber projects

such as community projects and many projects that municipalities do including lighting, housing and community housing.

- Kitty notes that there is a very small portion that is pulled for payroll. Most is pulled for operations.

Sponsor Pacific American Conference

Kitty Clemens, Executive Director

- Pan American is a conference that is made up of the Department of Commerce, government, and elected officials. The Director of the Department of Commerce, Meg O'Leary, approached us to sponsor both monetarily and by volunteering.
- The Department of Commerce asks we send 10 volunteers to the conference. Dave inquired if ambassadors would be interested in helping. The board thinks we can open this up to ambassadors, community members and perhaps bigger companies with deeper staff. We do need to find out more of what they are asking for out of our volunteers in regards to a time commitment.

Membership Report

Danielle Miller, Membership Sales & Events Manager

- Danielle has been spending a lot of time on the Official Visitor Guide. She has almost half of the ads sold and is working on the listings.

VIC Report

Marci Lewandowski, Visitor Services Manager

- The planning for the End of Season Shred Party is moving along. Marci has confirmed the dates and time and found a grill for the barbeque. We are hoping to have a prize donated for the business that recycles the most paper and hope to have that prize confirmed shortly.
- The school is hoping to bring 600 pounds of paper to shred, and we hope this is an event many businesses and community members will take part in.

Meeting ended: 10:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marci Lewandowski
Visitor Services Manager