

Lolo Community Council

April 13, 2010 Meeting Minutes

- ◆ Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Devin Jackson, acting chair @ 7:03 PM
- ◆ Roll call: A quorum was present consisting of: Bill Geer, Devin Jackson, Gary Hoffman and Tom Wolf. Sue Hadnot and Gary Buehler were absent.
- ◆ Additions to agenda: Devin stated that we had received a letter from MCBC allowing us to request additional funding for Council activities or projects with a deadline of April 19.
- ◆ Approval of minutes: Minutes of the March 9 meeting were approved as written
- ◆ Treasurer's Report: No checks issued since last meeting. Balance remains at \$813.13
- ◆ **Communications**

Received:

1. Banks statement
2. Lolo Peak News
3. Bitterroot Star
4. MFRD "Smokescreen" newsletter
5. Traveler's Rest Chapter/Heritage Foundation Newsletter
6. Missoula County OPG – Budget request forms
7. Clark Fork Coalition – "Currents"

Sent:

None

- ◆ **Drafts for correction or approval:**

None

- ◆ **Special Reports:**

1. MRFD – Paul Finlay attended the meeting representing MFRD. He was asked if there were any plans and/or funding available for fuel mitigation. Paul responded that more information would be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

- ◆ **Old Business**

1. Devin informed the attendees that applications for Matching Grants from the County Park Board are due no later than April 19.
2. Medical marijuana discussion (continued from March meeting)
Mike Hyde, owner of the Lolo medical marijuana outlet reviewed the status and procedures associated with the legalization of medical marijuana. He briefed the group on his view of the medical benefits of marijuana as opposed to prescription drugs such as Oxycontin. He stated that he follows strict dispensing guidelines and requires a medical doctor's certification in order to dispense his product line. Several outlets need only a certification obtained by phone to dispense. A lengthy discussion followed his presentation. There was a general consensus that the program has the potential of being abused by many in the community. Mike pointed out the disparity between the negative consequences resulting from marijuana use and that of alcohol. He felt that he is providing a necessary service to the community and helping people to relieve chronic pain associated with their ailments. He welcomed anyone to visit his store and check things out for themselves.
3. Rural Initiatives – North Lolo Intent to Zone Planning Proposal
Devin recapped the modifications recently suggested for the NLPP. Note: This "Intent to Zone" proposal has 30 day public comment period from 4/15 – 5/15.
 - a. Suggested density for the Rossignol properties has been set at 6units/acre
 - b. Suggested density for Ken Allen's property has been set at 1unit/acre
 - c. Proposal removes non-conforming designation from selected properties

◆ **New Business**

1. Mountain Line bus service to Lolo – Steve Earl
Steve gave the group an update as to the thinking regarding establishing bus service to and from Missoula. Essentially, the funding for such a program would eventually, if not immediately, have to be derived from a mill levy on Lolo properties. (see attached addendum “Update on Potential Public Transportation in Lolo”) Steve introduced Lyn Hellegaard of *Missoula Ravali Transit Management Association* (MRMTA) who informed the group of the options available through the Vanpool program. This option needs to be communicated to the community. Toward that end, the council will place a link to the www.mrmta.org website on the LCC website.
2. Proposed Council Budget: Due May 15. Council members are to review the budget and be prepared to discuss at the May meeting
3. May election: Election for Lolo Community Council scheduled for May has been cancelled. Sue Hadnot (3Yr), Will Geer (3yr), Gary Buehler (2 yrs remaining) appointed by acclamation. There is one vacant position to fill a one year term and stand for election in 2011.

◆ **Committee reports**

1. Highway 12 Bike Path committee: Gary read an e-mail from Sue Hadnot regarding the contacts she has made in Washington DC. While the possibility of obtaining funding this year for the extension is remote, there remains a strong possibility for funding next year.
2. Trails Committee: No report
3. Traveler’s Rest: Loren recapped the activity over the last few months. The Interpretive Center will be installed in May. School field trips are starting up and visitation is up for the 1st quarter. The storytelling was a big success.

◆ **Open forum**

1. E-mail from Michelle Landquist: (response to resident e-mail)
We read the e-mail from Ms. Crocker regarding several traffic safety issues on Tyler Way. While her primary concern was speeding, she also feels that a stop sign be placed at the intersection of Tyler and River where there is now a “yield” sign. She was also concerned about the 90 degree turn at the north end of Tyler which is essentially a blind corner and close to park access. The council will follow up with Ms. Crocker and thank her for her input. We will also draft a letter to the Sheriff echoing Ms. Crocker’s concerns. In addition, we will draft a letter to BCC requesting their support for construction of sidewalks and/or walkways to be installed on Mormon Creek, Tyler Way and Ridgeway out of concern for the safety of school children walking to and from Lolo School. Letters will also be drafted to Tim Elsea and Greg Robertson of Public Works to request action. Michelle has indicated that April is the month that the Transportation Policy Coordination Committee, of which she is a member, is requesting CTEP requests.

◆ **Adjournment-** The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Hoffman, LCC Secretary

Update on Potential Public Transportation in Lolo
Addendum to April 13, 2010 Meeting Minutes

(Presented by Steve Earl to Lolo Community Council on April 13, 2010)

What has been done so far:

- Mountain Line has conducted a survey to measure community interest and we had 200 responses. The overwhelming majority indicated they favored the service.
- Projected pilot program designed to include four runs per weekday centering on Southgate Mall, Downtown, Community Hospital area, and U of M. Draft budget of \$70,000 annually (\$40,000 federal + \$30,000 local).
- 5311 funding was identified in the Missoula Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (12/14/09 pg. 33) at \$70,000 a year starting in FTY 2011 and approved by MDT.
- Possible match sources were identified as Missoula County: A coalition of major employers; business partners (U of M) or, Lolo petitioning into the Missoula Urban Transportation District (MUTD) or forming its own transportation taxing district and contracting for service with Mountain Line or another provider.

Following this process the Mountain Line Board 1 Planning Committee established a position that includes:

- Considering recent economic trends and the absence of substantial community support directly related to operational funding the board has directed staff to focus on maintaining the quality of service within the existing district boundaries.
- As we move forward staff has been directed to meet with the Lolo Community Council and with Missoula County Commissioners to help look at other solutions.
- Although based on the survey there is an apparent desire for bus service, the lacking component is a commitment for providing local matching funds and an indication that Lolo becoming part of the Urban Transportation District is feasible in the future.

Other options besides fixed route commuter service:

- Carpooling and Commuter clubs
- Vanpools that are operated in different ways that may include subscription service, regularly scheduled service and either volunteer and/or paid drivers depending on the level of funding identified.
- Incentive programs for carpooling, vanpooling and using other alternative transportation.
- Employers allowing greater flexibility on telecommuting and when a work day begins and ends (i.e. allowing off peak hour commuting).

What needs to be done as we move forward?

- Meetings with elected officials to discuss options, scope of problem and funding.
- Possible community-wide survey to indicate interest in vanpools and other commuter options.
- Discussions with Missoula Ravalli Transit Management Association (MRTMA) about providing vanpool options.
- MUTD staff participation in developing solutions
- Discussions at the regional level, engaging in a conversation about transportation issues within the Missoula and Bitterroot Valleys. The conversation about transportation issues in the region should be broad based and should include, but not be limited to, transit and other public transportation options.
- Continue to develop list of key contacts and stakeholders, identify community leadership.