

Hybrid Meeting via Zoom and in Person at the Barn

Meeting Called to Order: By Tom Browder at 6:05

Roll Call: Council Members Present: Tom Browder, Quinn Carver, Sally Johnson, Gage Seeley, Garry Swain, Sharon Teague, Richard Westin.

Also Present: Msla. Co Commissioners Dave Strohmaier and Janita Vero.

Announcements: None

Minutes:

- Minutes correction to add Bruce Friede as present. Motion to amend the minutes was made by Quinn Carver and seconded by Garry Swain. The motion passed unanimously.
- Motion to accept the minutes was made by Bruce Friede and seconded by Quinn Carver. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

- No report at this time.
- The money that was community oriented was distributed at the May meeting.
- The \$1700 in the account for woodsmoke mitigation was given back to the county.
- New: The county will pay our bills through Kyra Lenhertz. We need to confirm the process so that we can purchase pizza, etc.

Introductions: None

Guests and Speakers:

- **Dave Strohmaier and Juanita Vero**, Missoula County Commissioners, updated the group on happenings at the county level.
 - The next budget cycle has begun. Will be finalized in August or September. The public is encouraged to attend and become informed. The Missoula County Voice will also have a page with updates.
 - The community wildfire plan is getting kicked off. It will take a year to 18 months to complete the update. Quinn Carver stated that the plan covers ingress and egress and funding for fuels mitigation. If Boyscout Bridge is deemed necessary for access, maybe there will be funding for its repair.

- The commissioners recently met with the assistant secretary of US housing and urban development. The money Zinke has obtained for the sewer is flowing through HUD and they are willing to help get money for the project.
- Other updates: There have been continued discussions to help with opportunities for the timber industry, the Western Montana Fair has added days so that the event covers 2 weekends for more visitor opportunities, and there is still ongoing discussion about getting the passenger rail back to western Montana.
- Question from Tom Browder: The Outhouse Races will be held on School Lane, do we need authorization for that? The commissioners didn't know.
- Other questions: Do the commissioners have any suggestions about the digital sign ordinance? Answer: Strohmaier suggested that the Board of Adjustments might be able to help with the sign effort.
- Question: Can Seeley Lake get included in the bear buffer zone? Answer: Strohmaier stated that the Potomac buffer zone was a pilot project and seems to have been successful. If the community is ready to go to work on a project like that, the commissioners would support it.
- Question from Quinn Carver: We've been asking for a year to have someone from the county provide us with an accounting of tax dollars collected from Seeley Lake vs cost of services received, is that going to happen? Answer: Strohmaier stated that this was difficult to quantify. He said if we can demarcate an area, then he might be able to determine property taxes paid. He also stated that you can find your property on the county site and then can click to see where your property taxes go.
- Question: Is it possible to make the Boyscout Bridge open to foot traffic and bicycles? Answer: MDT was adamant that the bridge either be open or closed, period. No variance. Senator Sheehy put in a request for \$10 million for repairs for the Boyscout Bridge. The request was passed out of committee. Still needs to pass through the house and senate.
- Question from Bruce Friede: A local citizen donated money for the 2 radar speed signs we have/had in Seeley. One was damaged and removed over a year ago and never replaced. Where is it? Answer: We'll check on it.

- **Charmin Bernstrauch, BCNW Update:**

- The BCNW meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6pm at the barn.
- The group was discouraged at the low attendance for the sexual predator law presentation given by Jamie Lavendar.
- Convicted offenders can live anywhere they want unless specified by the judge.

- Concerned citizens can sign up to get emails from the offenders list, but the information can not be posted on Facebook.
 - Members of the BCNW attended the campfire conversation put on by the Community Foundation. The biggest need of all non-profits is volunteers.
 - The group is waiting to hear back from the Spay MT organization to confirm dates for the spay and neuter clinic.
 - Second requests were submitted to Missoula County Health on properties of concern. They have heard nothing from the county.
 - July 11th, BCNW will host a poker run to raise money. Grizzly Harley Davidson is celebrating its birthday on the 11th and they are helping with the poker run. The Harley Davidson dealer in Helena may participate as well.
 - The planning for the public safety event is coming along.
- **Charmin Bernstrauch**, Seeley Area Chamber of Commerce update:
 - Membership forms are now on the website.
 - The group is finalizing the online payment platform and will get it added to the site as well.
 - July 4th updates:
 - The parade route is extended ¼ mile. The entry is at Cedar Lane by the hotel parking lot and the exit is on old Juniper Road. The route will have signs.
 - This year's theme is "Cheers to 250 years!"
 - There is a fireworks dedication form if anyone wants to dedicate a shot.
 - The Fire Foundation needs help with kitchen cleanup after breakfast.
- **Kevin Doherty**, USFS Update:
 - The boat ramp at Seeley Campground is open.
 - The fire danger is good right now, but may get difficult when the fuels dry out.
 - The person who has the contract for road maintenance hasn't shown up. Working on it.
 - Bike trails - there are 2 miles of trails cut in by volunteers on the easier routes. Work on the expert trail is being bid right now.
 - The Forest Service has special use permit revenue that can be used for recreational opportunities in the Seeley area. They hope to have a meeting to discuss what the community wants or needs.
 - Revenue from special use permits has to come back for projects in the area where it was generated.

- **Alan Davis**, Clearwater Bear Smart update:
 - Gave a summary of Grizzly activity in the Seeley area. Seeley has the highest concentration of Grizzly Bears in Montana. 50-60 bears are in our area at any time. The goal is to not give them a reason to stop when they are passing through.
 - His position is financed through the Blackfoot Challenge and the Seeley Lake Foundation.
 - So far over 100 bear resistant garbage cans have been given out in the Seeley Lake area. These cans have been gotten with the help of Heart of the Rockies and People and Carnivores.
 - Larger garbage containment facilities have been built at the One Stop, the Chicken Coop, the Filling Station, and the MDT section house at Clearwater Junction.
 - The group has held two bear fairs, one in Seeley and one in Potomac, as well as hosting bear events at the grade school, and having a presence at the Sunday summer markets.
 - They are finishing up the hazard assessment for Seeley lake.
 - The biggest challenge the group faces is educating people on how to coexist with the bears. We have a transient population in Seeley with summer visitors, VRBO renters, and tourists passing through.
 - The #1 bear attractant is garbage, #2 is chickens, and #3 is pet food left outside.
 - Garbage is a big issue. Many people in Seeley don't have garbage service, so they store the garbage until they can take it to the dump. Stored garbage is a bear attractant.
 - The group responds to issues as they arise and connects people to services that can help.
 - Davis stated that he would like to see the community included in the bear buffer zone now in effect in the Missoula area. One issue is that 12,000 bear resistant containers are needed just for the current buffer zone.
 - Strohmaier stated that the commissioners would be willing to help if the community wants to be included.
 - Question from Tom Browder: How do we learn more about the bear buffer zone? Answer: Go to the Missoula PublicHealth page on the county website.
 - Kevin Doherty stated that he is happy to help with education.
 - Quinn Carver stated that there has been a larger group looking at bear issues including the USFS, DNRC, and Jamie Jonkel.

Public Comment On Non-Agenda Items: None

Agenda Items:

Old Business:

- The dispersal of the SLCC funds is complete.

New Business:

- Election of officers. A slate of the following positions was presented and approved by motion. Chair - Tom Browder, Vice Chair - Quinn Carver, Treasurer - Garry Swain, Secretary - Sharon Teague.
- Items for August agenda:
 - Tax \$
 - Electronic Signs
 - Bear buffer zone
 - Hospital board update
 - USFS
 - BCNW
 - Chamber
 - Sewer

Adjournment:

- Motion to adjourn made by Bruce Friede and seconded by Quinn Carver. Motion passed unanimously.
- The meeting adjourned 7:35 pm.

Next meeting will be Tuesday August 11th, at the barn at 6:00