



MINUTES OF THE CHAFFEE COUNTY HERITAGE AREA ADVISORY BOARD THURSDAY May 26, 2016 BUENA VISTA COMMUNITY CENTER

Members Present: Melanie Roth, Kay Krebs, Gary Mason, John McCarthy, John Nahomenuk, Nancy Roberts, Steve Harris, Alison Ramsey.

Absent: Emily Katsimpalis, Kathy Moore, Kristi Jefferson

Guest: Alan Robinson, Stage & Rail Trail, Friends of Four Mile

Chair Melanie Roth called the meeting to order at 12:05pm.

Presentation on Stage and Rail Trail

Alan Robinson provided the Board with an update on this project. The State Trails Program (CPW) has awarded a \$44,000 grant for Phase 1, which includes hiring a professional project manager to begin detailed planning prior to actual trail work. Alan is working with LTUA to acquire additional conservation easements of about 300 acres in Southern Lake County for the Trail.

Approval of Minutes from April 14, 2016

Upon a motion by Steve Harris, seconded by Kay Krebs, the minutes for April 14, 2016 were approved with corrections.

FHWA 2011 Byway Grant – Byways Conservation Coalition Project

Alison Ramsey will follow up with Andrew Mackie of LTUA and arrange a meeting with John Rhorda, Chaffee County Planning Director, to review the heritage/conservation planning map, and the activities and goals of the CCHAAB and LTUA. Melanie Roth and John McCarthy agreed to assist with the meeting.

Melanie suggested that the candidates for County Commissioner be invited to an upcoming CCHAAB Board meeting which would give us the opportunity to inform them of the Board's mission and discuss the importance of Chaffee County heritage.

Additional 2012 Byway Grant – Scenic Byway Economic Strategy Plan

Alison reported on the April 22 Agritourism Summit in Salida where she made a presentation on the economic potential of heritage areas and the importance of maintaining open space and agricultural areas for tourism. Planning is already underway for a 2017 program with support from the Colorado Tourism Office.

SHF Nomination Project

Melanie spoke with History Colorado and they are willing to accept a combined submission for a survey grant and historic site nomination, which could fast track the process for a ranching property. She is working with Nancy Roberts to find a suitable property and willing owner.

Outreach

Kay Krebs reported on her attendance at the Historic and Scenic Roads Training sponsored by the Scenic Byway Commission. Of particular interest was a presentation on the history of scenic highways, and how other Byways incorporate commercial and tourist oriented properties in addition to scenic views. The CCHAAB also meets as an oversight board for the Collegiate Peaks Byway, in contrast to some other Colorado Byways who no longer have the required oversight and could lose accreditation.

Additional Project Ideas

Melanie brought up the idea of a pilot program entitled "Dinner on the Ranch" which could be a periodic event on a local historic ranch. The goal would be to introduce people to the County's ranching heritage with the entire event handled by caterers. Alison stated that the Byway funding cannot pay for food, but tents, tables, etc. could be covered.

Kay noted that the existing Smelertown Stack was built in 1917, and some kind of celebration should be planned for the 100th anniversary. As a Salida Museum volunteer, John McCarthy noted that the Museum owns the property and he will contact Susan Jesuroga about a possible joint project.

Special Use Review

Nothing submitted.

Oral History Project

Melanie mentioned that she and Nancy have been working on oral interviews with Joe Cogan and Frank McMurry.

Other Issues

Melanie noted that the Poncha Visitors Center has not yet opened. Alison will follow up with J.D. Longwell who is now on the Poncha Springs Town Board.

Next Meeting

The next CCHAAB meeting will be in Salida on July 7.

Melanie Roth adjourned the meeting at 1:25 pm