



THE SPOKES SPEAK - GEARED TO SERVICE

Rotary Club of the North Fork Valley

POB 1543, Paonia, CO 81428

WEB SITES: www.rotary.org www.rotary5470.org www.paoniarotary.org

Meeting Thursdays at Noon in the Paonia Town Hall

District 5470

Club 1180 - Chartered 12/20/22

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LAST MEETING: July 13, 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Club members were asked to sign up to sell Ducky Derby tickets at City Market every Friday between now and August 12, race day. This event is our biggest fund raiser. Tickets are \$5 or 5 for \$20. While there was a potential conflict between this event and one the high school was going to hold, the high school booster club and some Rotarians will meet to sort out matters. Five sponsors at \$100 each are needed to fund the prizes. We have 4 so far: Ollie's, Lamborn Mesa Farms, Hecks, and Jeff Skeels. Thanks to these 4 and to the 5th one - will it be you?

Our club's KPP dinner will be in October.

A plaque naming the library gazebo the Inge Lange Memorial Gazebo will be presented in the fall when Ulli Lange returns from Germany.

President James asked for a vote of the club regarding approaching the town about refurbishing Poulos Park. The Club approved our drafting a plan and negotiating with the town about accomplishing it. Sarah Bishop will take the lead and needs two or three other members to help with the plan.

President James introduced several North Fork Ambulance Association (NFAA) volunteers who talked about why they took Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) training. Drew Felix accepted a check for \$3200 from the club to support training classes. EMR classes involve 60 - 80 hours of training and are a first step to becoming an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician). These volunteers are ambulance drivers, who can knowledgeably assist an EMT. NFAA is promoting their service through weekly photographs in the High Country Shopper, testimonials on KVNF, and an upcoming video. [Become a member of the NFAA today if you are not already signed up! - ED]

The club still needs a President Elect.

Randy Campbell is looking for a replacement as program committee chair to join Betsy Marston and Lisa Delaney, who are the other committee members. Give speaker ideas to committee members.

The club's facebook page is up. Put some posts on it.

Remember to feed the polio jar. Also, pay your dues.

PROGRAM: Betsy Marston introduced Judy Martin, who talked about the proposed sale of the Bowie Mine property and the subsequent change of use. The 90 residents living within 1000 feet of the property were given two weeks to comment to the County Commissioners about the change of use request. [Back story: An application to the Delta County Board of County Commissioners for a land use change at a former coal load out site north of Paonia is drawing skepticism and criticism from neighbors, who are requesting that the land be returned to its original state under its current permit.

Mark Levin, with Dumont, Colo.-based Paonia Holdings, LLC, has applied for a land use change

to "commercial and light industrial use" under Delta County's Specific Development Regulations, for parcels located at 41322 and 41402 Hwy. 133. The land is currently owned by Bowie Resources, LLC, and was used for coal loading and other mining-related activities beginning in the mid-1970s.

Under its existing permit with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (CDRMS), Bowie Resources is required to return the site to its original state and use after mining operations cease. Levin said the sales contract with Bowie, and release from the permit by the CDRMS, is contingent upon the BoCC's approval of the land use change.

Levin, a 35-year resident of Colorado with more than 25 years of experience in mine consulting, design and construction management, lists several possible uses in the application. Among them: heavy equipment storage and repair and sales of agricultural, mining, excavation and other equipment; rental and sales of equipment and parts; welding, fabrication and machining services; storage of equipment; manufacturing of firearms and ammunition; and limited agricultural uses.

Neighbors said they have a lot of questions about the repercussions of the land use change and see Levin's plans as "vague" and "not legally binding." They want the application to be more specific. If it's not, they fear a worst-case scenario of industrial use or possible oil and gas operations. In the end, they want Bowie Resources to keep its word and return the site to its original state under the CDRMS permit. (This story appeared in the May 10, 2017 issue of the DCI)]

Martin stated the possible repercussions of turning the Bowie mine area into an industrial site. The Scenic Byways Commission stated the designation of the highway 133 corridor as a scenic byway could be withdrawn. Under the current CDRMS permit, Bowie Mine owners have to reclaim the land to a specified condition which includes re-establishing Farmer's Ditch, removing a high voltage electric line, and resolving major issues with a railroad trestle and culvert. A new owner with the proposed change of use would have none of these requirements.

Martin and the local residents have seen some success in bringing these liabilities to the attention of the County Commissioners and the CDRMS. A newly appointed county planner will review the change of use request again. The CDRMS is drafting a letter of adequacy. The residents continue to gather facts and the costs of the proposed new use to the property. Let's not turn the east entrance to Paonia into a junk yard!

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL: July is Rotary Changeover month. Ian H. S. Riseley is the newly installed Rotary International President. In his address to the 2017-18 class of district governors, Riseley urged clubs to improve their gender balance and lower the average age of their members. Only 22 percent of Rotary's members are women, up from 13 percent 10 years ago. At that rate, Riseley said, it will take another three decades for Rotary to achieve gender parity. "Three decades is far too long to wait to achieve a Rotary that reflects the world in which we live. We need to make it a priority now," he said. Noting that 103 of the 539 incoming governors are women, Riseley said they are the type of women we need in Rotary, "leaders who will help Rotary connect with, and represent, and better serve, all of the members of all our communities."

Riseley also believes it is imperative that clubs find ways to attract and engage younger members. Today only 5 percent of reported members are under 40, and a majority of members are over 60, Riseley told the audience. "Consider what Rotary stands to look like 10 or 20 years from now if we don't get very serious, very soon, about bringing in younger members," Riseley said.

