



THE SPOKES SPEAK - GEARED TO SERVICE

Rotary Club of the North Fork Valley

POB 1543, Paonia, CO 81428

WEB SITES: rotary.org rotary5470.org northforkrotary.org

Meeting Thursdays at Noon in the Paonia Town Hall

District 5470

Club 1180 - Chartered 12/20/22

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Guest Editor: Bain Weinberger

LAST MEETING: December 12, 2019

President Coombe presided.

Visiting Rotarians: None

Key Guest: Kevin brought Kevin Carville (Key passed to Bain).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- No Meeting on 12/26 or 1/2
- Six entries in the football pool this week. Peggy tied with Jackie with 11 correct but Peggy won on the tie breaker.
- Thank-you notes were received from Paonia Elementary students thanking the club for the dictionaries. They were humorous and charming as usual, and were passed around for the club members to enjoy.
- At the Board Meeting yesterday, the Directors voted to give \$250 to the ProSpace Interiors campaign to purchase a new bloodmobile for St. Mary's and \$100 to the Food Bank of the Rockies.
- Members were encouraged to make their year-end donations to the Paul Harris Foundation.
- The annual Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, June 20th. A committee is needed to make it happen.
- There will be a Fifth Thursday on January 30th. Need someone to host the party.
- There will be a Christmas Concert Saturday Dec. 21st at 7:00 PM at the Catholic Church.

PROGRAM: Paonia Master Plan

Kevin introduced Corinne Ferguson, Town Clerk and interim Paonia town administrator and Evan Bolt, AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer working on the Master Plan.

Ms. Ferguson said she and her family moved to Paonia in 2007 when her husband took a position with the Paonia Police Department. He is currently Chief of Police. She has nine children, five of which still attend school in Paonia. She has been Town Clerk since 2016 and prior to that served as Deputy Clerk and also served on the Board of Trustees for just under four years.

The last time the Paonia master plan was updated was in 1997, so a new update is long overdue.

Ms. Ferguson introduced Evan Bolt who is working on the update to the Paonia master plan. While his

volunteer tenure is for one year, he and his partner have bought a house in Paonia and intend to stay. He is also being offered employment with the town at the end of this volunteer term as he brings valuable planning expertise to the town.

The initial phase of the project was to define which chapters of the plan would be discussed and what the priorities of Paonia residents are. The first public input meeting was in September. From that, about 150 surveys regarding housing and utilities were received.

The second input meeting was held in November and a second survey focusing on economic development, transportation and sustainability was distributed. About 280 of these surveys have been completed. The survey is not limited to Town residents. Those living out on the mesas were encouraged to voice their opinions as well.

The next meeting will be January 9th, with the focus being arts and culture as well as parks, recreation and trails. There is a grant for studying parks and recreation.

The last meeting will be in late February and will focus on questions of land use.

The purpose of the surveys and meetings is to gather input from the populace to guide the updates to the Town's Master Plan.

Q & A

Q: Has the grant for parks and recreation been received or just applied for?

A: A grant for \$57,000 has been received from Great Outdoors Colorado. It will be used to fund planning around parks, recreation and trails such as feasibility studies for various improvements and amenities. Area planning firms will be submitting bids for the work. The grant stipulates that the work must be completed in two years, but it is expected to be completed in about 9 months.

Q: Does the grant have to be matched?

A: Yes, the match from the town was about \$10,000 for the \$57,000 grant. There was another \$28,000 grant for analyzing the water infrastructure in the town, and DOLA matched that 50% so the town paid \$14,000.

Q: What other areas of concern in the master plan need to be addressed and what is the town doing to obtain funding for those areas?

A: The town knows what it has, but it is hard to quantify specifically without a master plan. The master plan is the foundation. The plan will be focusing on infrastructure as well as creating a capital asset improvement plan, which the town has been lacking. Historically, the town has tended to be reactive to problems and issues as opposed to being proactive. The intent of the Master Plan is to be proactive. The asset inventory and water infrastructure analysis will allow the town to plan for the replacement of aging equipment and infrastructure ahead of the actual need.

Q: What were the results of the survey regarding housing?

A: The survey looked at housing affordability, availability and quality. Quality was not found to need much improvement, but better code enforcement is needed. Availability was the second priority because people who want to move here have difficulty finding available housing. Affordability was the top priority since about 60% of the respondents were considered to be "cost burdened" regarding housing. This means that their housing costs were more than 30% of their income. The planning commission will be looking at some alternatives to address these issues.

Q: What did the housing survey have to say about short-term rentals?

A: The survey was not intended to directly address this issue, but it was felt that more "accessory dwellings" could help address the other issues identified. It was also felt that there should be some restrictions on short-

term rentals and the focus should be put on long-term rentals to serve the needs of local residents.

Q: How does the 1997 plan compare to the new one?

A: The 1997 plan was 35 pages long and had no visuals. It mainly discussed land use and zoning. It did not address planning for infrastructure or many other things. The new master plan will address all of the areas surveyed and discussed in the four input meetings. It will be much broader and more in-depth than the previous plan.

Q: What assurances are there that the master plan, once completed, can be implemented?

A: Having an updated master plan is essential prior to any implementation. It should also be updated on a regular basis to ensure it meets the current needs of the community.

Q: Why is there is no question on the surveys regarding the proposed moratorium on new water taps?

A: The town is prohibited from expending funds for or against any ballot issue. Also, the master plan is focused on long-term issues. Whether to allow new water taps is a more immediate question.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Date	Speaker	Program	Member
12/19/2019	Scott and Cari Johnson	Forest Service Project up Stephens Gulch to improve Elk habitat	Jackie Parks
12/26/2019		no meeting	
1/2/2020		no meeting	
1/9/20			Karri Polson
1/16/20	Emily Wassell	Paonia Experiential Leadership Academy	Greg Thompson
1/23/20			Norm Lewark
1/30/20		Fifth Thursday	
2/6/20	Sally Kane - NFCB Pres.	Community Broadcasting	Felix Belmont
2/13/20			Bill Bishop
2/20/20			Sarah Bishop
2/27/20			Ed Bliss
3/5/20			Pam Bliss
3/12/20			Randy Campbell
3/19/20			Annette Choszczyk
3/26/20			John Coombe
4/2/20			Glenn Dahlgren
4/9/20			Marsha Grant

