

Colorado Association of Ski Towns

August 30, 2013

Crested Butte

Meeting Minutes

The following were in attendance:

Steve Skadron	Aspen	Jim Peterson	Grand Lake
Tim Gagen	Breckenridge	Joe Fitzpatrick	Mt. Crested Butte
John Warner	Breckenridge	David O'Reilly	Mt. Crested Butte
Aaron Huckstep	Crested Butte	John Ferguson	Ouray
Todd Crossett	Crested Butte	Patrick Rondinelli	Ouray
Roland Mason	Crested Butte	Andy Beerman	Park City
Christina Rinderle	Durango	Jason Glidden	Park City
Sweetie Marbury	Durango	Kevin Batchelder	Silverthorne
Peggy Smith	Fraser	Deb Hinsvark	Steamboat Springs
Gary Wilkinson	Frisco	Sonja Macys	Steamboat Springs
Bill Efting	Frisco	Vicki Mattox	Stifel Nicolaus
Andy Daly	Vail	Dan Gibbs	Summit County
Stan Zemler	Vail	Greg Clifton	Telluride
Matthew Birnie	Gunnison Co.	Jim Myers	Winter Park
Phil Chamberland	Gunnison Co.	Drew Nelson	Winter Park
Russ Forrest	Gunnison Co.	Vince Turner	Winter Park
David Baumgarten	Gunnison Co.	Carolyn Riggs	City of Gunnison

The meeting was called to order by President Steve Skadron at 8:05 am.

Approval of Minutes

There was a motion and a second to approve the June 2013 meeting minutes, which was passed unanimously.

Town of Crested Butte

Crested Butte Mayor Aaron Huckstep and Manager Todd Crossett gave a presentation to the group about recent happenings in Crested Butte. March, June and July were record sales tax months. Crested Butte was name one of the top 5 places to spend 4th of July by Sunset Magazine. Rec programs are up a projected 20%, while facility books are up a project 60%. They have hundreds of volunteers working on their trail system. The Baxter Gulch Trail is great example of collaboration with help from the Youth Corp. The Center for the Arts, Historic Train Depot restoration and and open space stewardship are other projects either completed or being worked on.

Elizabeth Lamphere

The mission of Elizabeth Lamphere's organization, called the International Avalanche Nest-Egg (IAN), is two-fold: To provide immediate and long-term financial support for the children and families of avalanche

victims, and to foster a community spirit surrounding this type of tragedy. Elizabeth talked to our group about getting support for her non-profit, as her fiance was killed in Colorado's Sheep Creek avalanche.

Phil Rozenski - Representing the American Plastic Bag Alliance

Founded in 2005, the American Progressive Bag Alliance (APBA) is a group of American plastic bag manufacturers that is currently focusing on plastic bag and plastic film recycling and litter prevention. Plastic bags are 100% recyclable and reusable and can be used for building materials, playgrounds, and new bags. In the U.S. plastic bags are made from natural gas, not oil. Plastic bags generate 80% less waste than paper bags. For every 7 trucks needed to deliver paper bags, only 1 truck is needed for the same number of plastic bags. This means fewer emissions in our towns. Phil talked about all the different types of plastics that can be recycled, a lot of which people aren't aware; cereal liner bags, merchandise shrink film, towel and tissue overwrap, etc. and the benefits of retailers offering in-store take back recycling programs.

Bob Murphy - MPACT64

Lakewood Mayor Bob Murphy, representing MPACT64, gave a presentation on Colorado Transportation funding and what is the best method of raising funds to bring Colorado's State Transportation System to a higher performance level. Colorado is largely dependent on the state motor-fuel tax to fund the construction, maintenance and operation of its transportation infrastructure. This fuel tax has not been increased since 1991, and its revenue is not bringing enough money in to meet the needs of the state or its communities. Cars today get better gas mileage, causing the drop in revenue. Currently, about 81 percent of CDOT's \$1.1 billion budget is dedicated to maintain the system and servicing debt. MPACT's straw man proposal for a 2014 ballot initiative is a statewide sales tax of 0.7 percent for transportation funding. Thirty percent of the money raised would go to transit funding with the balance of 60 percent to state, 22 percent to counties, and 18 percent to municipalities.

State Representative Millie Hamner

Representative Hamner has been touching base with her district and getting feedback on bills going through the legislature this upcoming season. Her focus is Amendment 66, a two-tiered income tax increase that would raise an additional \$950 million to fund public schools which will be on the ballot in November. For Coloradans making \$75,000 or less, the state tax rate would increase from 4.63 percent to 5 percent. Those making more than \$75,000 would see an increase from 4.63 percent to 5.9 percent. She directed people to go to the Colorado Commits to Kids website at www.coloradocommits.com.

Marijuana panel discussion

Gunnison County Manager Matthew Birnie, Gunnison County Attorney David Baumgarten, Breckenridge Mayor John Warner, Mt. Crested Butte Manager Joe Fitzpatrick and Crested Butte Mayor Aaron Huckstep were part of a panel discussion regarding marijuana in mountain resort towns.

Discussion summary moderated by CAST President, Steve Skadron:

1. The potential effects on how our guests make their decisions on what resort they might choose, if marijuana is present. And, whether you allow retail sales of marijuana or not, the use of it by your visitors will occur, how do you plan to regulate it?

Mt. Crested Butte – They’re not concerned about how it will affect their tourism; their only concern is how much public view of it there will be. Want to keep it out of view as much as possible.

Breckenridge – They are in the process of passing an ordinance which will not allow marijuana in the downtown district. The current medical dispensary will have to move.

Crested Butte – They are allowing retail sales, but as of yet, have not got to the point of regulating public view of it.

Gunnison County – Not really worried about it affecting tourism; pot is not new to ski towns. Have to balance it so smoking is not in people’s faces.

Amendment 64 clause that allows towns to regulate “time, place and manner” is subject to debate in many towns. You need to get a sense of what your community will tolerate when regulating it.

2. There has been talk of using legalization of marijuana as a marketing opportunity for tourism, is this a good idea or bad idea and do you think it will drive more business from the baby boomers who probably tried it in their youth and would like to revisit the glory the days?

Breckenridge – Their tourism has not been hurt by marijuana legalization, but remains about the same. More people complain about cigarette smoke at concerts than they do about marijuana. Breck will not market themselves as an “Amsterdam.”

Mt. Crested Butte – It is not necessary to market it and thinks it is a bad idea. But a whole new industry for gift shops will emerge with all kinds of souvenirs. Street level behavior will affect image.

Public consumption is the issue and Mt. CB is working on their town code to deal with it, other than that, they don’t see it as a big deal.

3. I would like to know about allowing grow operations in non-residential (meaning commercial) buildings in the commercial core?

Breckenridge – Safety standards are the issue in Breck, i.e. water quality, electricity, fire hazards, etc. As part of their ordinance, grow operations will not be allowed in downtown commercial area.

You also have to take into consideration how grow operations will affect other tenants.

Crested Butte/Gunnison County – Have not settled yet on where grow operations should be.

Public health concerns:

Water, electricity, fire, refuse, sight and sound, other tenants, zoning

4. Are you going to allow pot clubs?

Mt. Crested Butte – Complete prohibition

Breckenridge – No (had one, but no more)

Crested Butte/Gunnison County – Haven't discussed yet.

Pot is a communal activity – people like to get high together, eat together and listen to music. The argument for pot clubs is that they provide a safe place where people can legitimately go and keep them away from public place, i.e. a beer garden approach.

5. Will you cap the number of retail shops?

Gunnison County – Free market approach; eventually more will be permitted than survive.

Will it be regulated like alcohol? Based on the needs of the community?

Putting a cap on it does send a message to the community that you're not going to let it go rampant.

Breckenridge – Did away with caps; let free market decide.

Jerry Otero - Senator Udall's Office

Regional Director Jerry Otero introduced himself to the group and gave us a brief update from Senator Udall, including ski areas bill, wildfires, FLAME Act, and low income housing tax credits (LIHTC).

Sam Mamet - CML

Sam talked with the group about the great leadership from CAST on the CML board, including Christina Rinderle from Durango, who was at the meeting. He is concerned that the door has been kicked open regarding collective bargaining and it will possibly now happen with police officers. He has had conversations with the governor and has voiced his concern that it won't stop with police officers, i.e. teachers, social services etc. Other subjects he touched on were TABOR, Weld County, the recent recall, ski liability bill, urban renewal, wildfire legislation, simplified sales tax and broadband.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.