

Colorado Association of Ski Towns

January 27, 2012
Steamboat Springs

Meeting Minutes

The following were in attendance:

Steve Skadron - Aspen	Jon Roberts - Steamboat Springs
Tim Gagen - Breckenridge	Debra Hinsvark - Steamboat Springs
John Warner - Breckenridge	Sonja Macys - Steamboat Springs
Aaron Huckstep - Crested Butte	Winnie Delliquadri - Steamboat Springs
Susan Parker - Crested Butte	Tyler Gibbs - Steamboat Springs
Bill Pinkham - Estes Park	Dan Gibbs - Summit County
Bill Pelham - Frisco	Stuart Fraser - Telluride
Bill Efting - Frisco	Paul Perry - Teton County, WY
Gary Wilkinson - Frisco	Andy Daly - Vail
Bob Lenz - Jackson, WY	Stan Zemler - Vail
Bob McLaurin - Jackson, WY	Jim Myers - Winter Park
Jim White - Minturn	Drew Nelson - Winter Park
Joe Fitzpatrick - Mt. Crested Butte	Steve Jeffers - Stifel Nicolaus
William Buck - Mt. Crested Butte	Vicki Mattox - Stifel Nicolaus
John Howe - Mountain Village	Diane Foster - Park City, UT
Jason Wells - Silverton	Jay Fetcher - Senator Udall's Office
Russ Forrest - Snowmass Village	

The meeting was called to order by President Stuart Fraser at 8:20 am.

Approval of Minutes

There was a motion and a second to approve the October 2011 meeting minutes, which was passed unanimously.

Debra Hinsvark - Steamboat Springs Assistant City Manager

Debra Hinsvark gave a presentation on how the City of Steamboat Springs hunkered down to weather the bad economy. Some of their responses to cut expenses include closing city hall and other administrative offices on Friday; reduce all administrative and some service staff time by ten percent; cut managerial salaries by ten percent; eliminate vacant positions and enact a reduction in force; hold services at their current level. Many of the programs they enacted helped enhance their credit rating by two points. They worked to keep Smart Wool in town by negotiating a new lease, which will generate 50 new jobs. Debra's full presentation can be found at www.coskitowns.com/presentations.cast.

Winnie Delliquadri – Steamboat Springs Government Programs Manager

In 2005 they formed the Steamboat Springs Urban Renewal Authority. Bonds were issued so that the Authority could complete the Base Area Promenade improvements which included Wayfinding Signs, Ski

Times Square Reconstruction and Apres Ski Way Roundabout among other improvements. Another success they've had is with open space. In the last 15 years they've been trying to preserve view space as well as allow public access. In 1995 the city owned about 100 acres of open space, today they own 2,585 acres, 566 acres of park. They bought as much along the river as they could. Their most recent purchase is the Orton Property which took about 10 years to pull together. Howelsen Hill is a city park and is very much the "town hill" as opposed to a ski area. It is one of three natural ski jumping hills in the U.S. They have reached Gold Level status as a bike friendly community - there are 5 or 6 in the U.S. For a copy of Winnie's full presentation, go to www.coskitowns.com/presentations.cast.

Elena Wilken - Colorado Association of Transit Authorities

There are 70 transit agencies in Colorado. CASTA two main focuses are their training program and to find money. Colorado provides more rural transit trips than any other state, yet the federal formula is based on population and land mass (not ridership), so therefore, Nebraska gets as much money as Colorado does. Colorado depends a lot on local funding. The Colorado Transit Coalition is a sub-group that goes after federal funding since 1997. It is now a very competitive grant process (no more earmarking) and it's not consistent - Estes Park may get funding, yet Vail may not, for example. How does the coalition handle that moving forward?

CASTA goes to D.C. 4-5 times a year. They are trying to tweak the rural funding component to be based on ridership. Their immediate two focuses this year are getting Colorado rewarded for our high ridership - this is the basis of their white paper. Secondly, to refine the competitive grant process. The move away from earmarking was for transparency reasons, yet the decisions by the FTA have not been showing that transparency - they still pick and choose among agencies. Ultimately it's to bring more money into the state. How can CAST and CASTA work together to make that happen?

In the long-term, CASTA believes earmarking will return in some form - they must keep Colorado at the table. Give us the money and let us figure out how to distribute it. Governor Hickenlooper's envisioning process modeled after Utah - transit should be a part of it.

Stephen Saunders - Rocky Mountain Climate Organization

In August 2010, at our meeting in Aspen, we talked about a Save Our Snow program. Since then, Stephen, with a committee, has reshaped the program based on feedback from the CAST board. Stephen will be going after funding to support the program and the Gates Foundation will be the first to get the grant application. We also heard from committee members Kathy Collier from Ft. Collins and Diane Foster from Park City who both head successful climate programs. Participation in Stephen's Save Our Snow program is based on the success of Ft. Collins' Climate Wise program. When federal funding was pulled from the Energy Star program, Ft. Collins developed their own program. It is a voluntary program, but they pulled in businesses from the economic side - 300 now in program. Ft. Collins now has an Office of Sustainability. Businesses sign a partnership agreement, agreeing to implementing a project within two year. A "project" can include anything from all employees shutting off their computers at the end of each day to a major store changing all their lights to energy saving bulbs. Diane Foster runs Utah's Save Our Snow program which has seen great success. Their program has continuity and flexibility, and includes a reporting element - "If things aren't measured then they aren't being managed." Success of the program is contingent on funding.

Dave Atherton & Rob Christie, VRCompliance LLC

Dave gave the group an update on the Short-Term Rental Tax Compliance Program. They are currently involved in two law suits with HomeAway - one as defendant, and one as plaintiff. They are currently engaged with several CAST and non-CAST communities in discussions about their program. Summit County and Winter Park are finalizing their agreements with VRCompliance. They've wrapped up their program with Grand Lake and are working with Avon. They are in this for the long-term and are not going away. Many communities outside of Colorado have heard about CAST's program and are showing a lot of interest. Rob Christie showed us how the VRCompliance computer "dashboard" works using Summit County as an example.

Stuart Fraser - Updates

Stuart asked the group how they would like to handle town updates in the future. At one of our past meetings, the updates got a bit out of hand and went on much too long, so we need to streamline them and make them more efficient. One idea was that we provide a script before each meeting that is emailed out and members fill in the blanks. Another one is that we focus on one specific topic for each meeting and we send out a template on that topic prior to each meeting. A third idea was to create a ListServ similar to CML's.

August meeting topic suggestions were affordable housing and the Pro Cycling Challenge.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.