

Chena Flats Greenbelt Project Minutes from the Wednesday, February 8th Meeting:

Agenda –

- Recap the meeting with the Mayor
- Recap Grant status
- Discuss Current Gravel Developments
- Find ways to incorporate more people in meetings
- Find new meeting location
- Discuss current strategies

Recap the meeting with the mayor: On February 3rd, Peggy, Tako, and Nick had a meeting with the Mayor, his assistant Jennifer Yuhas, and Karl Kassel. The Mayor and Karl will be writing a letter of support for the project.

The question of bringing the project in front of the assembly was discussed, and it was decided to be unnecessary at this time.

It was recommended that we contact the Planning Commission and give a brief presentation of the project at one of their work sessions so they can be aware of the residents desires/plans in case of the future rezone issues etc.

It was also recommended that we contact Luke Hopkins, and ask the Assembly if they would like a presentation about the project – this would not be asking for a resolution, and would not be open to public discussion.

We also discussed the current progress of the Bender Mountain Project, and if it would be worthwhile to contact the organizers for support/advise/general outreach.

Recap grant status: Briefly discussed how the Trails Grant Peggy wrote passed the first obstacle and how we should be hearing about the final results soon. It was recommended for full funding.

Discuss Current Gravel Developments: Most of the landowners we have been in contact with are either mining gravel now, starting to mine gravel, or planning to mine gravel in the near future. At least one claims to be doing it specifically because of the greenbelt project. This led to discussion of how there seems to be a campaign of misinformation working against the project.

It was suggested that we need a more open line of communication with the Conservation Fund to be better informed about the offers being made and to which land owners. It was suggested one person should have this contact with Brad Meiklejohn so as to keep the entire group informed. It was decided that it was important that someone in our organization had a good idea who was be contacting, what sort of offers were being made or could be made, and what information Brad was giving land-owners about the greenbelt and the other options to outright sell their property.

Find more ways to incorporate people: It was generally decided that the next important step was to organize a steering committee to direct the project, organize volunteers, network, develop better strategies for outreach and acquisition etc. The steering committee would consist of interested residents, and would number up to a dozen individuals. A meeting was to be arranged the last week in February to develop the committee. In the mean time we will be working developing a list of duties and estimates of time commitments for those involved.

Find a new meeting location: The next meeting will be held in one of the public meeting rooms at the Noel Wien Library. Possible other meeting locations closer to the Greenbelt were discussed and included:

Local Churches
The Chena Ridge fire station
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It was also decided that we would have a meeting of the core group and steering committee at least once a month.

Discuss current strategies: Several good ideas came up. One was to contact local real estate agents, and see if any are interested in donating their services to the project. This may help put a local face on what we are doing and may help with situations where Brad Micklejohn is tied to offering landowners only the assessed value of their land.

Steve offered to help make plywood sign that we could move around the neighborhood advertising the upcoming meetings.

An emphasis was placed on having local faces associated with the project, and to try to find supporters that hesitant property owners would respect and relate to.

There was talk of getting a website established.