

Chena Flats Greenbelt Project
Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 16, 2006

Woodriver Elementary School Library, 5:30-7:00 pm

Attendees: Shelly Jacobson, Elaine Mayer, Bob Henszey, Karen Brewster, Sally Andersen, Jon Lindstrom, Jack Schmid, Larry Bright, Marie Beaver.

Larry Bright facilitated the meeting. He introduced the new Project Coordinators, Marie Beaver and Sally Andersen.

Karen Brewster presented her work to date on the Chena Flats Greenbelt Project website (Bob Henszey and his son have also contributed to the site). She has made impressive progress on the site with lots of great photos and text concerning our mission statement, history, and latest news. The site includes links to our newsletters, minutes to meetings, funding sources, and the Interior Alaska Land Trust. The site is not yet up and running, but you can view it at <http://cfgp.zthread.com/>. Karen is soliciting comments from the group on the site until December 1. She is also looking for photos to add the site. You can write her at fnknb@uaf.edu. This website will be a big step toward spreading the word about the Chena Flats Greenbelt Project to the larger Fairbanks community.

Fundraising was the priority of the meeting. Larry Bright mentioned a conversation he and Bob Henszey recently had with Brad Miekjohn of the Conservation Fund who urged the Chena Flats Group to seek greater financial support from the Fairbanks community, rather than rely on grants. With this goal in mind, Larry suggested that we plan a big event sometime in late March that could involve a dinner/auction with a local band and possibly a speaker to attract a larger audience. Dog mushing within the Greenbelt could also be a part of this event.

Ideas were tossed around for a possible location. Elaine Mayer and Don Lokken talked to the owner of the Pump House earlier this month. The Pump House would be interested in hosting an event for our group. They would cater the event but wouldn't close down the restaurant. We would therefore have to have it during the middle of the day when the restaurant isn't too busy. Elaine agreed to talk to the Pump House again to pin down details such as what kind of food will be provided by the catering service and how much the service costs.

Jack Schmid suggested two locations: Pikes Waterfront Lodge which hosts the Calypso Farm Auction and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks, the church across the street from the Princess Hotel. He agreed to check into both places.

Other ideas were the Karate place on Chena Pump Road (which Karen will check into) and the Woodriver Gym. At a non-restaurant location, volunteers will have to provide the food. The advantage to this is that we would not have to pay catering fees, which could be large. The disadvantage to a non-catered event is that it means more work for the

volunteers who cook the food and possible health code problems. Marie Beaver agreed to check into health code issues.

Shelly Jacobsen mentioned that she has a beautiful quilt that her mother made to donate to our group. We talked about raffling it off at the auction. We also talked about hanging it at several places around town months before the auction to give it a good showing.

The group decided to send out a fund appeal to the community before the end of the year. Jon Lindstrom suggested that the appeal should have before and after photos of the Chena Flats region, something along the lines of “This is what this area looked like in 1970; This is what the area looks like now.” Bob Henszey has access to aerial photos for 1949, 1978, and 2002. He showed the group a time sequence for the mouth of the Chena River, which he can also do for the Chena Flats. Jon Lindstrom and he agreed to work on this for the fund appeal. Elaine Mayer suggested that we look into PayPal for both the website and the fund appeal to give people a chance to donate some money to us, using credit cards. Sally Andersen agreed to look into PayPal.

Karen Brewster suggested that instead of calling the event a fundraiser, we call it a spring celebration.

Sally Andersen discussed the meeting schedule for the next six months. To lower the cost of renting the Woodriver library, we decided to schedule the meetings six months out (every time the library is rented, there is a \$20 rental agreement fee in addition to the hourly charge of \$12). We agreed to meet next month on Thursday, December 14 and then every third Thursday for the following five months.

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