

BAKER AREA CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes

Thursday, April 14, 2022, 5 pm NV Time

Snake Valley Community Center

245 W Elko Street, Baker NV 89311

Meeting called to order at 5:01 pm.

Members in attendance: Craig Baker, Heather Brennan, Dave Kuiper, Mary Sullivan, Elizabeth Woolsey

Also in attendance: Bryan Hamilton, Anita Hansen, Rowena Leonard, Kelly Jackson, Aviva O'Neil (phone), Shellie Watts

PUBLIC COMMENT: Bryan Hamilton, Biologist, Great Basin NP. Fire Management Plan Revision is currently open for comment- please follow this link to comment before next Friday, 4/22:

[Parkplanning - Public Scoping Period Open for GRBA Fire Management Plan \(nps.gov\)](#)

The link has also been shared on the Snake Valley Connection by GRBA PIO. So far there are only 2 comments, and any feedback is much more effective during planning phase than when the smoke is blowing.

Approval: Minutes from February 10, 2022 meeting reviewed and approved.

>Update/Discussion: Great Basin National Park Foundation Housing Task Force.

- **Aviva O'Neil, Program Manager, Great Basin National Park Foundation.** The park is facing a significant housing shortage both in the park and in Baker to accommodate new employees. The Housing Task Force is in investigative stages and would like any housing project to benefit the community as well as the park. We want the citizens of Baker to feel good about and involved in this process. The Task Force meets once per month on the second Wednesday of the month on Zoom.
- **Anita Hansen, Administrative Officer, Great Basin NP.** Park managers have exhausted avenues to find housing solutions over the last four years, including adding a housing project using government funds, but the timeline would be more like 7-10 years out. Any housing constructed on park property could only be for park staff; we recognize a housing need in the community as well and are open to ideas and options for collaboration through the Foundation Housing Task Force.
- **Attendees engaged in short discussion around possible alternatives for providing housing in the community:** *BLM land acquisition, private landowners constructing tiny homes, possible incentives for landowners, property infilling, existing utilities, finding out who owns what plots, other ideas/concerns. Please reach out to Aviva (oneil.aviva@gmail.com) or Anita (anita_hansen@nps.gov) with any insights or to join the Housing Task Force/attend a meeting to help guide discussion.*

>**Discussion/Possible Action: Getting Flashing Speed Signs on Route 487.** Speeding in Downtown continues to be a problem. Dave has a contact with NDOT and will reach out again, possibly to request a summer study date so that summer speeding levels are recorded. We also have permission to repaint the triangular Getaway signs for this purpose, or potentially to add a Slow Down sign to the Welcome Signs. This has been a 4H Club project in the past; we could also put up an old police car with a dummy a la Kanab, UT or Boulder City, NV.

>**Update: Baker Dark Sky Community Update.** As of today, we have fundraised \$15,278.00.

- **Shellie Watts and Kelly Jackson, Mount Wheeler Power.** After investigating lighting options, we received and installed a plastic reflective light dome/cover at a private home of one of our members to test. We hope this can be an option for members looking to make their home security lights dark sky friendly. It would be available to call and request, and costs are not yet available.
- MWP also presented specifications for replacement shielded outdoor lighting (dark sky compliant) for public buildings. The member organization would need to call and request/give permission for the new lighting. **Action Item:** Liz will contact the school board and the county fire manager to discuss replacement lighting and other details for possible installation.
- **Additional MWP Updates:** During community power outages, it is always best to call Mount Wheeler Power and report your power out. Every call reporting an outage helps inform the map utilized by the linemen in the field to locate lines down, poles, etc.
- Gas station canopy lights are in progress. They will dim to 50% after dusk and brighten when people drive in to use the pumps. Also ordering specialized lights for the back of the fire station, and will continue to work on replacing the light on top of the flag pole at the US Post Office.
- Liz will be working with the Heritage Area on a cash match grant to supplement existing funds.

>**Update/Possible Action: Assigned Mailing Addresses for Residents.** There may be three address systems layered over time- the best solution is to change your address on Google and communicate with delivery drivers/companies if you want to make your deliveries more efficient. **Action Item:** BACAB may share out the guidance/suggestion sheet for community members about how to mitigate delivery issues.

Community Cleanup Day 2022: Next week, Saturday, April 23, 8 am – 3pm. Yard waste/organic material only, please. Materials can be dropped off at dump trucks at the Baker gas station. We may also plan on doing trash cleanup on Highway 487. Post Office cleanup and installation of new benches and picnic table at the ball field.

Agenda Items for next meeting:
Great Basin NP Fire Management Plan Info/Discussion

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Set Next Meeting Date and Time: June 9, 2022 at 5 pm Nevada Time.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING: 6:13 pm