

Mayoral Advisory Committee Meeting (Rescheduled)
City of Sky Valley, Georgia
August 26, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (Original Date was August 12, 2020)
Via Teleconference (Zoom)

MINUTES

THOSE PRESENT: Bill Oliver, Ed Morley, David Spears, Tim Darrah, Dan McAfee, Hollie Steil,
City Manager Fast and City Clerk Fleming

THOSE ABSENT: Martin Greene

1. Welcome

Bill, Chairperson, called the meeting to order and stated that the reason for the cancellation of the August 12th meeting was due to him recovering from surgery.

2. Mayor Comments

Hollie thanked Ed and Tim for their responses to some of the citizen's concerns. The corner area of the old lodge along with a Sky Valley resident's yard, that wasn't able to do the work herself, had also been worked on to make more appealing and neater in appearance.

3. Approval of Minutes – July 7th Meeting

Tim made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ed, unanimously approved.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/UPDATES

4. Property Owners Survey – Preliminary Results

Bill went over the top-rated results from the survey:

IMPORTANT QUALITIES

1. Natural Beauty
2. Safety
3. Quiet Place to Relax
4. Well Maintained Streets

IMPORTANT INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Clear Ditches and Roadsides
2. Improve Internet Service
3. Improve Cell Phone Service
4. Repair Culverts
5. Trim Trees
6. Pave/Stripe Streets
7. Maintain New Landscaping

DESIRED DEVELOPMENT

1. Commercial District (from comments taken, they reflected that a coffee or sandwich shoppe and convenience store is needed/wanted around old lodge area)
2. Conservation Easement (Preserving the natural beauty)

CONNECTION TO SKY VALLEY

1. Weekend/Vacation
2. Full-time working
3. Full-time retired
4. Seasonal/Part-time

HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT SKY VALLEY

1. Visits with family/friends
2. Word of mouth

There was a total of 295 responses, with 95 being full time residents. Bringing the response percentage to 32%. In reading the comments, 35 of them would like to talk to someone from the City. Bill, Hollie, and Ed will be reaching out to them. The results will be published to the public at a later date. They also will be fine tuned to show what is being worked on now and which ones will be in the future. These results will also be shared with Harrison Merrill.

5. Internet Updates

Only promised progress from TruVista and Windstream. TruVista already has good coverage and service, so not so much is expected from them. They have supplied a map showing where they provide coverage. Tim will compile the two together, when Windstream supplies their information, onto one map showing the coverage for both, along with how many megs are being provided. City Manager Fast stated that Georgia Regional could possibly, professionally print out a map that could be assessable online. Hollie asked if the information could be presented, and maps shown during the September 22nd Council Meeting.

HughesNet along with Little T, internet service, was discussed. Other avenues will be checked on and help sought from Rick Story along with Doug Collin's office.

6. Mud Creek (Across from Mail Center)

Trying to get confirmation from the DNR concerning the creek being classified as a primary trout stream. Bill has been talking with Mitzi Moffitt, botanist, and Sarah Baker, biologist with the DNR. This area is producing bog turtles and mountain bog plants which may lead to possible funding from the State. Looking at options such as a marketing tool for Sky Valley.

An estimate will be obtained for repairing the dam and an assessment done concerning the integrity of it.

7. Building on 246

The electrical issues are being taken care of by an electrician. One of the renters have extended their lease until the end of the year, the other may do an extension as well. The survey showed that a Welcome Center may not be the ideal plan for this building, as was part of the discussion, and will be brought up with the Marketing Committee.

The first draft drawings, from the architect, are still in progress. Which will show the building being used as a Welcome Center and a Community Center.

8. Questions and Answers

Tim had asked who is responsible for maintaining Mud Creek Trail and surrounding area. City Manager Fast stated that the City workers help to maintain when time allows. A part of the guard rail was recently broken and was repaired by the Road Department. Tim talked about one of the main concerns, which is the draining of the runoff water from the parking area. Putting in a ditch to divert the water was discussed and how to make that happen. Hollie suggested that the Special Project Committee should get involved with this endeavor.

Jim Curtis suggested that the City hire more employees to help with the trail and regular maintenance and that the possibility should be considered by Council.

Next meeting date was set for September 22, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Dan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by David, unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Karen Fleming, City Clerk