

Nederland downtown development updates

Reviewing sidewalks, decks, and website proposal

by Pam North

The Nederland Downtown Development Authority (DDA) met on Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. at the Pioneer Inn. Present were: Teresa Warren (Chair), Paul Turnburke (Executive Director), Ken Adler (Vice Chair), Steve Culver (Secretary), Rob Joseph (Trustee Liaison), Jonathan Beggs, Peter Stader and Udo Sille.

Downtown Colorado Conference

Teresa Warren reported that four DDA members were attending the 2011 Downtown Colorado Conference in Durango, Colorado, on September 21-23: Rob Joseph, Paul Turnburke, Udo Sille, and Teresa Warren. The theme of the conference is Cultivate, Collaborate & Celebrate; Growing the Economy from the Bottom Up, and will include topics such as: various strategies for local governments and development/ improve-

ment district leaders to manage complex downtown issues; attracting investment to the community; financing tools; engaging the community in public forum planning; tourism; partnerships for youth engagement and job creation; and parking.

Sidewalk Maintenance

Paul Turnburke gave updates on sidewalk maintenance. The sidewalk in front of the Pioneer Inn has an uneven spot that needs repair, and while maintenance of such problems is primarily the responsibility of owners of private property and the Town in public areas, the DDA is willing to offer some assistance, and a policy should be formulated in that regard. A suggestion of a boardwalk appearance for the sidewalk in front of Town Hall was offered. Udo Sille commented that a system should be developed to take care of minor repairs on an as-needed basis, and it was agreed that a proposal for that plan of action should be presented at the next meeting, then forwarded on to the Board of Trustees for their consideration and approval. It was acknowledged that sidewalks built by the

DDA with their funds should be maintained by the DDA. The removal of noxious weeds at the corner of Highway 119 and Tilden Street is planned.

DDA Budget Needed for BOT

Rob Joseph gave a review of the last Nederland Board of Trustees meeting on September 6th. A budget workshop had been held by the Board the evening before, and a budget hearing, covering revenues and expenditures, is scheduled for the October 4th BOT meeting, after which the budget will be posted on the Town's website. As the DDA is part of the Town's budget, the DDA will have to submit one of their own to the BOT. The Chamber of Commerce is working on a transitional action plan to better serve Nederland's business community, reinventing itself from the ground up for that purpose. The outcome of the proposals by private individuals to take over Frozen Dead Guy Days will soon be announced. The Sustainability Plan is undergoing further study by the BOT.

Riverwalk Postponed

It has been decided not to submit an application this year for the

Riverwalk planning grant, as there is insufficient time before the submission deadline for the public to give input, and instead the grant application will be postponed until November of next year.

Sidewalks

Additional discussion on sidewalks included: the contractor will sign off soon on what has been completed; a request has been received from a town resident to install the pedestrian crossing flags in concrete for stability; ADA signs will be installed to designate the disabled-accessible sidewalk by the bridge; a crosswalk in front of the library is a future possibility.

Conference Expenses

Under Old Business, an expenditure for \$1,500 was approved to fund the four members' attendance at the upcoming Downtown Colorado Conference.

Public Recreational Deck

Under New Business, a proposal was discussed regarding leasing two lots, between Off Her Rocker and Rustic Moose, for the purpose of building a recreational deck to be used by the public, and it was agreed that action should be pursued to draw up the lease and submit it to the owner of the lots.

Support Rally

A twenty-minute recess was called for the DDA members to attend a short meeting in front of Town Hall. Residents had gathered to express regret that former mayor Sumaya Abu-Haidar had resigned on September 6th, and to protest the bullying tactics used in recent months by anonymous callers who were not in agreement with decisions and actions of the Board of Trustees. The assemblage encouraged respect and civility as a part of the process of disagreement over local issues.

DDA Website Proposal

After reconvening their meeting, the DDA members discussed a proposal for services to tailor a website for the DDA to build community outreach. Jennifer Murphy, with Ebuildout Consulting Services, presented a design plan that would be linked to the Town website to offer on-line communication with the public that would include post-event notification, information, profiles of DDA members, surveys, protocol/ etiquette for control of input, a newsletter, updates on DDA actions, and archived articles. Various strategies for networking were considered, all with the purpose of familiarizing the public with the DDA and its members,

and building and mobilizing community support. Murphy's services would be provided at a 50% discount to the DDA, which would result in an approximate \$700 to \$900 cost, with about four maintenance hours per month needed to update the website, and she can modify and adapt the website to the DDA's needs. Opinions of Board members included:

--The public perceives the DDA as a separate entity, "us and them," and that the DDA is "missing something" in their outreach (Udo Sille);

--Some people still like "paper" as opposed to the internet, so both venues should be employed (Peter Strader); the concept is good and should be used to clear up misconceptions about the DDA and facilitate communication, but keeping it up-to-date was important, and member input should be reviewed for accuracy (Steve Culver);

--Uncertainty as to what would be accomplished, and some unnecessary overlap seems likely (Ken Adler);

--Engaging social media tools is good, and history and current projects of the DDA should be included, perhaps on a separate page for each (Rob Joseph);

--It would clear up misinformation situations, and better logos for the DDA and the Town might be desirable (Teresa Warren);

--The building of the website would be the easiest part, with maintenance, additions and changes the more difficult aspect of the process (Steve Culver).

Other input came from members of the public in attendance: DDA outreach to the public needs to be better, and would be a start to bridging the gap; the Chamber of Commerce already has much of this in place, and reinvention of the wheel is unnecessary, so coordination and communication between the DDA and the Chamber would be beneficial; cost should be viable and in line with the results; private messages should be circumspect. Moving forward with the proposal was passed with a vote of 7 to 1, with Ken Adler voting against.

The meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

Next Meeting

The DDA has shifted to having only one monthly meeting, the second Tuesday of each month, so their next meeting will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 11th, 2011, at the Pioneer Inn, 15 E. 1st Street, Nederland.

Notice of Public Open House TWIN TUNNELS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PLEASE JOIN US TO SHARE YOUR INPUT

Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2011

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Buffalo Restaurant and Bar
1617 Miner St.
Idaho Springs, CO 80452

AGENDA:

5:30-6:00 P.M.: Registration/Open House

6:00-6:30 P.M.: Project Presentation

6:30-7:30 P.M.: Q&A/Open House

Persons with special access or translation needs should contact project staff in advance to make arrangements.

For more information, please contact:
Jim Bemelen, CDOT, 303-365-7010 or
James.Bemelen@dot.state.co.us

Para información en español, por favor
contactar a Darin Stavish al (303) 365-7047
o escribir al darin.stavish@dot.state.co.us.

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) invites you to attend a public open house concerning the Twin Tunnels Environmental Assessment.

CDOT is currently considering improvements to the Twin Tunnels area east of Idaho Springs to Floyd Hill along the eastbound direction of the Interstate 70 (I-70) Mountain Corridor. The purpose of the proposed project is to improve capacity, mobility, and safety along this stretch of the interstate. The Environmental Assessment will define these improvements and provide information on impacts to environmental and community resources and determine appropriate mitigation to minimize any impacts.

A critical part of this process is obtaining your input so that we understand your concerns. Please join us on September 27th to learn more about the project and share your thoughts and questions.

Should you be unable to attend the meeting in person, please visit the project website for more information and an opportunity to provide comment electronically:
<http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/i70twintunnels>

