

AUGUST 4, 2020

MINUTES

PATAGONIA PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

PRESENT: David Budd, Brad Sander, Susan Lange, Gerry Issac, Georgette Larrouy
ABSENT: Melissa Murrietta, Laurie Monti, Ike Isakson, Todd Norton
Attending from Town of Patagonia: Ron Robinson, Town Manager

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm.

The minutes of the last meeting were still in rough form, and it was decided to review and approve minutes for both July 7th and August 4th at the September 1st, 2020 meeting.

Current Events-

David Budd reported that it is apparently official that South32 Corporation plans to build a new road, that will bridge Harshaw Road over to State Highway 82, just outside of Town limits. The plan will then be move equipment and mining product along that road, with the port of Tucson as the probable destination for mining ore. No precise timetable has been announced as yet.

The Mayor and Council have no requests of Planning and Development at this time, the Mayor did state that Council would keep in close touch with P and D and have requests from time to time.

Old Business-

The basic revision of the Town Plan was completed this spring by P and D, but has not yet been considered by the full Town Council.

David Budd will make contact with Mayor and Council within two weeks, with an end to finding out the timetable for Council consideration of the matter, and the possibility of exploring a joint meeting of the Committee and the Council.

New Business-

The Paton Hummingbird Center, under the auspices of the Tucson Auduban Society, is applying to the Town for a Use Permit to substantially refurbish the Center property. The plan is to raze existing structures, and in their place build back essentially the same square footage of new construction, better suited to the Center's needs. New construction would include two apartments, one meeting hall, a public bath facility, and minor storage structures.

The next meeting of Planning and Development, Tuesday, September 1st, 2020, should be an Open Hearing of the Paton Center Proposal, followed by a resolution/ recommendation to the Town Council on the Center's application for a Use Permit.

There was a discussion of the possible future functions for the P and D Committee, especially in light of the difficult economic times that Patagonia, like many small towns, is experiencing.

One possible direction is to ask certain committee members to actively engage with the infrastructure issues of the Town, make recommendations for improvements, and help identify resources for those improvements if possible. Such an informal group within P and D might be the Research Group or Research Volunteers on Infrastructure, it was suggested.

Additionally, the possibility of the committee engaging more with economic development was discussed. It was agreed that a starting point for those discussions would be the Town Plan and the precedent of recent years.

The Plan and other factors have discouraged some businesses from establishing a future in Patagonia, while other types of business have been encouraged. It may be time for a more thorough review of the official, and unofficial Town posture toward business and business development.

Possible Future Agenda Items:

- 1) Ongoing discussion of the Town Plan with Mayor and Council
- 2) Discuss how the Committee can be more knowledgeable about and helpful in regard to Town infrastructure..
- 3) Discussion of Planning and Development's role in economic development
- 4) On September 1st, hearing and resolution on the Paton Center

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM, next meeting September 1st, 2020.