**MINUTES-TOWN OF PATAGONIA PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING**

**APRIL 6, 2021 7:00 P.M.
Zoom Meeting I.D. 957-511-4862 Password 338501**

**1. CALL TO ORDER** Present: David Budd (Chair), Todd Norton (Vice Chair), Laurie Monti (Secretary), Georgette Larrouy, Patrick O’Neal, Melissa Murrieta, Gerry Isaacs

Others Attending: Ron Robinson-Town Manager Community Members: Linda Shore, Matt McGuire, Paisley McGuire, Chuck Klingenstein

**2. CORRECTION AND/OR APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM: FEBRUARY 2, 2021**  Item 4, paragraph 3 should read: *Justification & Benefits*- “according to state statistics the non-motorized recreation industry generates $8 Billion- estimated value added— in revenue annually for the State.

**3. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**: Matt and Paisley McGuire request the committee to consider paving the unpaved alley behind their home on 278 Naugle. A survey was conducted with 10 families, 2 businesses indicates that all would like to pave the alley. This alley is the only unpaved alley in the Town of Patagonia.

**Action** Ron Robinson suggests that the group submit the proposal with a cost estimate to Town council for consideration in the 3 year capital plan for the budget.

**4. CHAIR PERSONS REPORT ON CURRENT EVENTS** None

**5**-**6. OLD BUSINESS** DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO SUPPORT (THE ORGANIZATION WHICH PROMOTES TOURISM), THE NEED FOR A LARGER VISITOR CENTER, AND THE FUTURE OF EVENTS AS THE FALL FESTIVAL AND OTHERS.

A. Visitor Center- Linda Shore representing S.I.T.A. Sky Island Tourism Association presents a summary financial challenges of the current location of the Visitor Center, and potential opportunity for a new location in cooperation with the Town of Patagonia. The Center has a strong volunteer base. At issue is the financial solvency and sustainability of the Center. The center is a private sector organization, currently a 501-c3 and has a grant from South 32 mining that is covering the rent of $6,000/ year during 2021. The proposal is to seek funding so that the Town could host the Visitor Center at a new location and receive rent income. A stand-alone visitors center is a requirement of Arizona office of Tourism. Is there an opportunity for a larger grant to the town to build a Visitors Center?

*Discussion:* Would town own the facility? Yes. SITA would pay rent and recruit volunteers to run the center, similar to the way the building run by the Senior group in Patagonia. A new Visitors Center could address the lack of meeting space in Patagonia.

A caboose located in Casa Grande may be donated to the town and could be restored to house a Visitors Center. David Budd provided a sketch of such potential building. The Town Mayor is supportive. Overall committee sees a positive opportunity. At issue is thefunding and logistics to get caboose here and set on tracks. Recommendation: form a sub group of 1-2 people to figure out the finances and logistics.

**Action**: Gerry will lead the feasibility exploration of funding and logistics of transportation and renovation work.

**B. Fall Festival**-- Ron and Linda have a meeting with SAACA event planner to consider options. SITA would like to see a festival more consistent with Town roots. The committee is in favor of a shift towards smaller venues once a quarter with different events tied in with seasons and local artists.

**7. DISCUSSION OF COMMITTEE “GUIDE BOOK” ON USE PERMITS AND OTHER DUTIES OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**. David will follow up on this.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO TERMS, AND POSSIBLE STAGGERED TERMS, FOR THE P & D COMMITTEE.

David Budd announced his term as Chair and a Committee Member both end effective this April meeting, and he will not be requesting appointment to another term of service. Town Manager Ron Robinson will play an interim role in assisting the Committee. The Committee members expressed appreciation and gratitude to David for his long and capable service.

**9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Election of officers and new members. Ron Robinson will shape agenda for next meeting.

**10. ADJOURN** Motion to adjourn Mellissa, seconded Georgette.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05