**MEETING MINUTES**

**TOWN OF PATAGONIA PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 2, 2021**

Zoom Meeting I.D. 957-511-4862 Password 338501

1. Meeting Called to order 7:01

2. Present: David Budd (Chair) Laurie Monti (Secretary) Georgette Larrouy, Patrick O’Neal,

Town Manager: Ron Robinson

3. CORRECTION AND/OR APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM: JANUARY 5, 2021 Melissa moves to approve the minutes. Patrick seconds. All in favor. Minutes approved

4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC Chuck Klingenstein attending.

Zander Ault and Gabe Krenza- Presented a concept for a proposal to the Forest Service “Patagonia Trails Project“ for funding to develop an interconnected trail network based out of Patagonia- the proposed trail system would be non-motorized and multi-use connecting to existing trails. The proposed route would be leaving Patagonia NW to hills of Temporal Canyon continuing to Red Rock Canyon and north to the AZ Trail. The trail would increase opportunities for the town of Patagonia. Their plan is to present a full plan, proposal to Forest Service in the near future. The full final proposal will be available to P&D Committee Feb 12.

Mr. Ault and Mr. Krenz are residents in Patagonia working with bicycling enterprises, The Cyclist Menu and The Spirit World 100. Gabe has a background in strategic planning and natural resource advocacy and wilderness education with the Natural Resource Council.

*Justification & Benefits*- according to state statistics the non- motorized recreation industry generates $8 Billion- estimated value added— in revenue annually for the State. The project would contribute to the personal health and education for Patagonia youth and honors the cultural fabric of the town. The trail system would include pre- existing roads on Forest Service lands and avoid disturbance. Environmental benefits

*Challenges* that could arise include working with and educating private landowners that are needed to collaborate to connect private and public land. The team would seek to use conservation easement designation as a tool to preserve the integrity of the system.

**Action:** David suggests that Zander, Gabe and the team bring the full proposal for review to the Friday meeting with a local ad hoc “Trails and Circulation group”. Georgette agrees to join the group on Friday to have a more in depth discussion. Patrick and David will also represent P&D in this group discussion. They will report back and the next P& D meeting.

*Contact information* for Gabe and Zander- gkrenza@gmail.com; zander@chefzanderault.com

5. CHAIR PERSONS REPORT ON CURRENT EVENTS

**OLD BUSINESS**

6. DISCUSSION OF USE PERMITS, AND ENABLING LANGUAGE IN CHAPTER 14 OF TOWN CODE, AND FUTURE OF USE PERMITS IN PATAGONIA.

David discusses the current use permit process and sent a summary of it by email to committee members. Information is found in Chapter 14 of the Town Code.

7. DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TEMPORARY USE PERMIT. Deferred to next meeting to further develop details such as fee structure.

8. DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES FOR PATAGONIA AND AREA, WITH DIRECT COMMITTEE INPUT.

Collaboration with SEAGO to develop priorities for the state. This Economic Development Association make funds available for community projects that strive to support local economic development. Examples: internet & tourism. How can we get input from what you see economic development priorities.

**Action**: David will send out a survey template for members to provide input.

**NEW BUSINESS**

9. INITIAL DISCUSSION OF PATAGONIA FALL FESTIVAL AS A MATTER OF TOWN PLANNING, AND DISCUSSION OF OTHER POTENTIAL TOWN SPONSORED EVENTS.

**Fall Festival Discussion**- Questions: What would be the future of the October event? How we should shape future events?

*Context:*  Ron describes the 2019 event- 20,000 people attended that provided about $15,000 in tax revenue to Patagonia, the largest income producer event.

Festival management- SITA (Sky Islands Tourist Association) contracted with the Southern Arizona Arts & Cultural Alliance (SAACA) a private company. The event contractor received at least 30,000 in income-twice the amount that Patagonia received ($15,000).

*Details and Logistics-* Ron: The parking is becoming unmanageable. Trash volume is an extra ½ ton of garbage. Overall administration cost of $2,400 includes managing business licenses. SAACA is supposed to donate $500 to the Town. The Event has grown to support more outside artists than local artists to highlight our town. Georgette states that there is local dissatisfaction with the outside organizers.

*P&D Committee role*-- take the pulse - assess local opinion of the community leaders, businesses and Sky Island Tourism Association (SITA) makes decisions.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS Laurie suggests that we invite knowledgeable individuals to provide a more detailed input to help us consider options for potential recommendations.

10. Move to Adjourn by Laurie, Georgette second. Meeting adjourned at 8:07.