

Friends of Rathdrum Mountain - Meeting Summary for 07/20/2006

Purpose: Regular monthly meeting of the Friends of Rathdrum Mountain and of the Board of Directors

Attendees:

- Directors: Wes DuCharme, George Holcomb, Toby Kaplan, Jim Ochenkoski,
- Director absentees: Carey Kaplan, Deasa Stein, John Sylte
- Others: Marty Frantz, John Stockton, Pete Stoltz, Kris Storey

Agenda:

1. Guest speaker: None.

2. Old business:

a. Wes and Toby provided a summary of the Rathdrum Days FoRM booth activities. The games and prizes for children were a big hit and afforded parents the opportunity to learn about FoRM. FoRM business cards and copies of our Vision Statement were distributed. \$60 was collected in donations. Linda Ely from Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control participated on Friday and her info was well received. It was considered to be a very positive event and plans will be made to participate in the Fall Festival in September.

b. George provided an update on the Park & Rec Comprehensive Plan. A draft plan is being developed and the City's Mountain property should be included as "open space." George will notify FoRM when the next meeting is scheduled.

c. In regard to the status of the easement exchange between Idaho Department of Lands and JD Lumber, an e-mail from IDL's Forester Ron Fryzowski to John Sylte dated 06/26/06 indicated that this was in the Governor's office for signature.

d. Marty provided information regarding his recent conversation with Jeff Weimer at JD Lumber. Marty intended to discuss with Jeff the benefits of establishing a conservation easement but Jeff stated his intentions to sell the property once he resolves access issues. Jeff also stated that he was not interested in dealing with the City or FoRM. Marty presented himself as a prospective buyer and he should receive a call from Jeff when the property becomes available for sale.

e. Marty provided an update on his Twin Lakes conservation easement proposal that was proffered to the Idaho Foundation for Parks & Land (IFPL). Marty received a letter from IFPL regarding the fees required should Marty decide to work with them. Maps of Marty's conservation easement proposal are still not available.

f. Jim provided an update on the Forest Service's 40 acres that was thought to be eligible for donation to the City. The Forest Service has no means to donate land and can only sell its land with specific congressional authority. Only one such authority currently exists but it is considered unlikely that Rathdrum would qualify without an

ongoing plan to demonstrate such a sale would be in the public interest. City Administrator Brett Boyer presented this info to City Council at their meeting on July 11th and the Council expressed no interest in buying the land.

3. New business:

a. Jim has arranged for Chris DeForest from the Inland Northwest Land Trust to speak at our meeting scheduled for August 17th.

b. Kris has arranged for Linda Ely from the Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control Department to speak at our meeting scheduled for September 21st.

c. Marty expressed a concern that FoRM's Vision Statement did not specifically address the Selkirks and he was curious about the progress FoRM was making toward becoming a land trust. Marty was informed that the Board had decided (on 05/09/2006) not to pursue land trust status at this time due to the time and expense of establishing and maintaining a land trust, and the availability of several existing land trusts willing to service our area. It was also discussed that the FoRM Vision Statement does not specifically include the Selkirks but does make a general statement regarding the "thousands of acres beyond our view." Marty was provided with a contact name for the Selkirk Conservation Alliance to whom he may address the scope of his Selkirk Range ideas.

d. John Stockton provided information regarding a local resident who is concerned about further development on the Mountain and also works for a title company. John will make contact and invite him to one of our meetings.

4. Board of Directors:

a. The meeting summary from 06/15/06 was approved by vote in favor 4, opposed 0.

b. Treasurer's report: No new report was received. The only known change is the \$60.00 received from donations at Rathdrum Days, which is reflected in the following table:

	Checking	NICSC	TOTAL
Beginning Balance	347.87	1200.00	1547.87
Income	60.00	0	60.00
Expenses	0	0	0
Ending Balance	407.87	1200.00	1607.87

c. FoRM's 501c3 application is still in process. Toby is pursuing info from the recent successful application of the Friends of Badger Mountain.

d. Directors Wes, Carey, Toby, Jim, Deasa, and John took a tour of IDL and JD Lumber properties on Sunday, July 16th, with Shelley Tschida of QSI Inc. Shelley provided tremendous insight into these and other properties on the Mountain, including

efforts to curtail unauthorized uses and restore damaged areas. Shelley offered to conduct other tours in the future to further our cause.

e. It was agreed to purchase a canopy for use at the Fall Festival (September 23rd and 24th) and subsequent events. Deasa provided a recommendation for one that is on sale for \$75.00; Wes will make the purchase.

f. Action plan update:

GOAL	ACTION	WHO HAS THE LEAD
Encourage City to determine timber value of mountain property	Follow up with Ken Hayes	Wes
Encourage City to resolve access to mountain property through survey pin placement and/or filing of "Quiet Title Action"	Follow up with Ken Hayes	Wes
Learn about conservation easements	Set up workshop for board and interested citizens and City officials	Jim: Chris DeForest scheduled to speak at August 17 th meeting
Learn about noxious weed programs	Set up workshop for board and interested citizens and City officials	Kris: Linda Ely scheduled to speak at September 21st meeting
Arrange tours of mountain for City Council and others	Set up tour for Brett Boyer & Lance Bridges	Jim
Hold public event on the mountain	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Determine best option after board tour of mountain Publish info re: IEP and other properties 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Board of Directors Jim: Get info from QSI and provide link on website
Increase public awareness of our goals	Present plans and actions to City Council and to local newspapers	Deasa: Make presentation to the Chamber of Commerce
Educate mountain land owners about our goals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Develop list of owners Send them an information packet 	Toby/Carey
Provide suggested guidelines to developers of mountain land	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Find source for information on new development activities on the mountain Develop guidelines Send guidelines to identified developers 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> John Stockton will look for source. Toby to develop, use Marty Frantz document as one potential source of ideas.
Encourage City to define "authorized use" for mountain property	Suggest to Ken Hayes	Wes

Educate local business owners about our goals	Develop and deliver information packet	Deasa provided draft write-up; Wes to edit/compile
Create promotional items	Put our logo on T-shirts, ball caps	Deasa: T-shirts Jim: Ball caps
Pursue donation of 40 acres by Forest Service to City	Follow up with City Administrator	Jim: City action complete; pursue following Park & Rec Comp Plan publication
Pursue Trust for Public Land funding	Follow up with TPL	Jim: Awaiting visit from TPL's Josh Alpert
Pursue conservation easement conversation with JD Lumber	Follow up with Marty Frantz	Jim: Marty awaiting call from JD Lumber when they decide to sell

5. Next meeting: *Thursday, August 17th, 2006 at 6:30 pm in the Community Center at Golden Spike Estates.*

FORM LONG TERM GOALS (established 7 June 2006)

- Facilitate the process of obtaining a conservation easement on the City's Rathdrum Mountain property.
- Help guide the development of a comprehensive park plan so that it supports our vision statement.
- Encourage the use of Quality Services, Inc. (QSI) on the City's Rathdrum Mountain property.
- Encourage the City to accept donations intended to help protect and preserve the City's Rathdrum Mountain property.
- Explore and possibly help initiate a levy or bond issue that the City could use to purchase more property on Rathdrum Mountain.