

MEETING SUMMARY

Thermopolis Master Plan -- Thermopolis Planning Commission

Fourth Meeting -- April 22, 2010

Persons Present

Planning Commissioners: John Dorman, Ann Hardesty, Kathy Wallingford.

Staff: Ron Vanderpool, James Michel, Fred Crosby

Consultants: Ken Markert

Also present: Mayor Bill Malloy

Brief Summary

The meeting concerned committee review of inventory reports on infrastructure and land use. The committee also reviewed the results of the citizen survey.

Discussion Items

1. Ken presented the inventory report on Infrastructure. It was noted that Bresnan Communications also provides internet service to Thermopolis and that RT Communications is part way through laying fiber optic cable in town.
2. Ken presented the inventory report on Land Use. This included a map of vacant land in town.
3. Ken presented the results of the citizen survey. Over 60% of the surveys were returned. The results of the survey are representative of the whole town with a +/- 5% level of accuracy. Extensive written comments are also included in the survey report.
4. Ken reported on the Wyoming Planning Association conference held in Thermopolis April 22-23, 2010. At the conference, Ken led a session about Thermopolis. Planners from across Wyoming contributed ideas for planning in Thermopolis (a summary is attached).
5. Meeting dates were discussed. It was decided to keep the May and June meeting dates unchanged but move the meeting location to the office of Engineering Associates. A date was selected for an open house meeting to update the public on progress with the plan. The scheduled meeting dates are as follows:

May 13th, 5 PM, Engineering Associates office

June 10th, 5 PM, Engineering Associates office

June 17th, 7 PM, Open House Meeting (location TBA)

Next Steps

- The consultants and master plan committee will meet next on May 13th at 5 PM in the office of Engineering Associates.
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Corrections

If you would like to have corrections or additions made to this summary, please contact Ken Markert (307-587-4480; markert@mmpianning.com; 2319 Davidson Ave., Cody, WY, 82414) prior to the next meeting.

Suggestions from Wyoming Planners participating in the WYOPASS conference session on Thermopolis, April 22, 2010.

- *More retirement offerings*
- *Solicit geothermal companies*
- *Try to attract high tech data centers*
- *Participate in the Wyoming Main Street Program*
- *Promote Thermopolis out-of-state*
- *Diversify the economy*
- *Maintenance of the state park*
- *Control growth out in County*
- *Joint county-town development review in border areas*
- *Acting desperate (it appears as if town will accept any development regardless of quality or appropriateness of location)*
- *Annexation agreements with water service*
- *In-lieu of annexation (legislation change?)*
- *Reimbursement for utility extension*
- *Evaluate refinery site for non residential uses (phase 1 & 2 environmental review)*
- *Check EPA district for funding (brownfields investigations)*
- *Tourism can you, dinosaur, state park - package for weekend tourists*
- *Change Town zoning to allow RV parks*

WYOPASS Conference, Session Information:

Thermopolis: Past, Present, and Future

Ken Markert, AICP, Cody

This session is designed to familiarize the participants with the planning challenges Thermopolis faces and to brainstorm possible solutions. Participants will learn about the Town and its unique history as a place that developed because of the health and recreation benefits of the hot springs. Ken will provide an overview of the current situation including the Town's declining population and efforts to reverse that (background information will available prior to the session). The session will also include a driving tour of the Town. The session will conclude with an opportunity for the planners in attendance to offer and discuss their observations and ideas about planning in Thermopolis.