

Amsterdam/Churchill Community Planning Group
May 12, 2008

Attendees: Ada Montague, Glen Flikkema, Gail Weidenaar, Brenda Darby, Robin Swanson, Tim VanDam, Mark Kimm, Jason Kimm, Warren Vaughan, Walt Sales, Cindy Elliot, Rita VanderMolen, Jack VanderMolen, Bob Urich, Carol Weidenaar, Dean Sybesma, Keith Venema, Erika Braaksma

Meeting Introduction:

- 1) Walt opened the meeting at 7:14pm
- 2) Everyone was asked to share any rumors they had heard.
- 3) There are four corrections to note from the April 21st minutes:
 - a. Item 7 should read, “The Treasurer’s Committee should go ahead and come up with a recommendation for which specific type of 501 non-profit group should be formed, and then bring it before the ACCPG committee for approval before moving on it.”
 - b. Item 8 should have the title “County Commissioner” before County Commissioner Joe Skinner’s name.
 - c. Item 9 incorrectly lists Gene Reichert as a possible volunteer for the Sidewalk Committee, and should list Gene Bennett instead.
 - d. Item 10 relates to electing a committee chair. It should read, “Walt recommended that the ACCPG committee wait to elect a chair until the 501 non-profit group is formed and directors are elected.” There was a vote taken on the amendment. Jason moved, and Bob seconded. Motion passed (all 5’s).

Business:

- 4) The treasurer’s report was given next. Gail said that she has a \$40 mail order waiting to be sent in with the 501 application. This should leave a balance of \$9, but a check for \$50 has never been appropriately rewritten to the county mailing service. Therefore, Carol moved that Warren and Gail should transfer money from the ACCPG to the county to pay the outstanding mailing bill. This means the ACCPG needs to raise more money to cover the 501 application fee. Gail will add \$1 to pay the total \$41 due to the county. Keith seconded and the motion passed (all 5’s).
- 4) Dean Sybesma made a request, on behalf of Reece Miller and himself, that he and Reece be able to switch off in attendance at the meeting in order to maintain voting status. In the case that they are both at a future meeting, they would vote as one. After lengthy discussion, their request was denied and no vote was taken.

- 5) There was discussion of creating a website and/or newsletter as a way to let the community know what the ACCPG is doing. Bob volunteered to write the newsletter and any other needed information for the website. Gail volunteered to post the information. Gail and Bob will start working on the website together. It was decided that Bob, Gail, Walt and Tim be members of the Website/Newsletter Committee.
- 6) There is no new news to report from the Community Project/Sidewalk Committee. Potential volunteers and the committee itself still need to be confirmed.
- 7) Gail reported that the Treasurer's Committee has not met yet. They will soon meet to decide which type of 501 non-profit should be formed. Walt passed Gail some information regarding the Sonoran Institute, which helps fund groups such as the ACCPG.
- 8) Ada Montague reported on her work regarding water assessment in the community. Based on data from the Montana Groundwater Information Center, she found that most of the wells in Amsterdam/Churchill are for domestic use, while the majority of the used water in the area is for irrigation purposes. She also spoke with Jim Potts, who has some local well data to share with the group if the owners of the wells give him permission. Jim is interested in being on the Water Assessment Committee. During her research, Ada also spoke to John Metesh from the Bureau of Mines and Geology as well as Kirk Waren, who did a study on Central Park's water. She hopes to bring a map of existing community water to the next meeting.

Discussion:

- 9) Comments on the rough draft of the community plan were entertained next. Discussion included:
 - a) That a request that a map be included with the plan for referencing.
 - b) A question to everyone in the group, asking if each person had actually read the plan
 - c) Chapter 5, Section 2.2 The definition of a setback was discussed. It could possibly be used as open space, to hold outbuildings, and/or have roads through it. However, setbacks cannot have residences within them because they are designed to protect agricultural land uses. It was agreed that setbacks need to be defined specifically, according to each different kind of agricultural use they are designed to protect. It was suggested to look at states such as Michigan that have these types of things in use already.
 - d) Chapter 6 Fire protection within the Public Facilities Chapter was also discussed. It was reported that the Fire Board is excited with what the ACCPG is doing. Warren said there needs to be discussion regarding systematic placement of fill sites.

- 10) It was reported that the large landowner meeting has not yet taken place. Walt proposed that the meeting be rescheduled for June, and will include a 15-20 minute slide show to explain the benefits in order to get large landowners back at the table.
- 11) Discussion of the land use map and core boundary was next. After much discussion, the group narrowed down the core boundary even farther. Warren will bring a new map of the amended core boundary to the next meeting.

Closing of the Meeting:

- 12) The next ACCPG meeting will be held on Monday, May 19th from 7-9pm at the Amsterdam/Churchill Rural Fire Hall. **Note that this is a deviation from the normal meeting schedule.**
- 13) The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm. Tim moved and Carol seconded. Motion passed (all 5's).