

Amsterdam/Churchill Community Planning Group
July 14, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Tim Van Dam, Robin Swanson, Jim Potts, Bob Urich, Rita Vander Molen, Cindy Elliot, Walt Sales, Jack Vander Molen, Warren Vaughan, Carol Weidenaar, Brent Sinnema, Erika Braaksma, Dave Hoekema, Gail Weidenaar, Ada Montague

Meeting Introduction:

- 1) Walt called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm.
- 2) There were no rumors. Warren shared a comment from the County Commissioners, who encourage the ACCPG to adopt core and rural boundaries even if the details within each of them are not yet worked out.
- 3) The minutes were approved as read, with the addition of Cindy Elliot to the attendees present at the last meeting.

Business:

- 4) **Treasurer's Report:** There is a GAP grant (Gallatin Area Planning -- Sonorian Institute) with \$5,000 available. The application needs to be in the mail by the end of this week.
- 5) **Steering Committee Reports:**
 - A) **Water Assessment:** Carolyn DeMartino with the DEQ in Helena has information regarding water quality and the arsenic levels of the public water supply wells in Churchill. Jim reported that MCS has raised their well to 270' and is now 6 ppb, which is under the 10 ppb limit. Warren also reported that he, Ada and Jim had a conference call to talk about ideas to be addressed at future meetings.
 - B) **Sidewalk/Community Projects Committee:** Reece was absent. Warren reported that he has maps etc. to start mapping out obstacles for future sidewalks.
 - C) **Non Profit Committee:** Gail reported that the ACCPG would best fit into a 501-C3 non profit group. Walt spoke with Charlie Pipal and he agreed that a 501-C3 would fit the group's needs. Officers and trustees need to be elected if the ACCPG goes this route.
 - D) **Newsletter/Webpage Committee:** Warren reported that he spoke with the county IT people. There is an option to link the ACCPG page off of the county page, and Jill Ayers can have access to maintain the website if she desires. In the mean time, it was suggested that paper copies of the monthly newsletter be available at the major Amsterdam/Churchill businesses to keep the community updated on the ACCPG's progress.

The July 2008 newsletter was handed out, which provides basic information regarding the purpose and meeting times of the ACCPG.

- 6) **Fire Planning Report:** Dave Hoekema spoke next on behalf of the Amsterdam Rural Fire District. A handout entitled, “Planning for Community Growth and its Effects on Emergency Service” was read and explained. The main points included having new growth help pay for service demands, planning the community for easy access for emergency vehicles, requiring address on new homes with reflective letters visible from the street entrance, having a central water supply for Churchill and Amsterdam, having fill sites for the rural areas, and requiring sprinkler systems for new large commercial or community structures to keep the fire department’s ISO rating down, which has an impact on everyone’s insurance.
- 7) Walt handed out a letter addressed to area resident/landowners owning over 40 acres. He asked that the ACCPG approve the letter as an effort to inform the landowners about the policies suggested for rural Amsterdam/Churchill in the enclosed draft of the Amsterdam/Churchill community plan, as well as to encourage their participation in the planning process.
- 8) **Land Use Map:** Warren handed out an updated core area map. Excluding proposed subdivisions, there are currently 465 acres in the working core area. After lengthy discussion on the boundary, it was decided that Warren will look at access on the north boundary and Tim will call Carl regarding the southern boundary. It was agreed that the northern boundary be changed in Weidenaar’s property to follow the ditch from Walt’s property westward all the way to Churchill Equipment, with the hope of having an easement north of Churchill Equipment, which would have to be approved by the DOT.

Closing Business:

- 9) Future meeting schedules were discussed next. The next meeting is scheduled for July 28th from 7-9 pm at the Fire Hall. Discussion is planned with the engineer of the proposed Churchill NE subdivision regarding sewer and water, as well as discussion regarding overall community sewer infrastructure with Dave Crawford from TD&H Engineering. Boundary finalization will also be discussed if time allows.

The second meeting in August is scheduled for discussion of water infrastructure. The ACCPG hopes to have the core and rural boundaries finalized by September 8th so that they can be ready to go before the County Commissioners.

- 10) The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 pm. Tim moved and Gail seconded. Motion passed. (all 5’s)