

FRIENDS OF TWIN LAKES
January 17, 2015 MEEETING

Board of directors in attendance: President John Kester, Vice President/Treasurer Anita Mason, Secretary Kelly Sweeney and at Large Representative Ahmad Ghais.

Minutes: Kelly moved that the minutes be approved; Susie Kester seconded and they were approved.

Commissioner Hix' Report on Southern Fire Station:

- The DOLA grant application did not get submitted on December 1st due to the late arrival of the final design drawings and estimates in late November. The construction estimates from 2 Front Range contractors came in around \$2 million while the anticipated 1st phase grant application was drafted for \$1 million with \$250,000 from Lake County and \$5000 from FOTL. There was not enough money from other sources to meet the 25% funds from other sources for the DOLA grant and there was not enough time (nor is there remaining budget) for the architect to revamp the drawings.
- The Commissioners and Fire Chief see this as a setback, but not the end of the project. Currently, they are pursuing additional budget estimates for the 1st phase from local contractors who are familiar with the labor force and construction costs in the area. They are asking them to price the 1st phase so that nothing other than what is needed to park/protect fire trucks/equipment would be done in phase 1 and the rest would be pushed to phase 2. Certain identified budget savings would be eliminating things like spray foam insulation and changing the siding design to something less expensive. It is planned that this will be ready to go for the next round of submissions in April.
- Additional options under consideration: Bruce spoke with the DOLA representative about the tier 2 grant that can go up to \$2 million and you can ask for a hardship waiver if you are unable to meet the 25% non-DOLA contribution. Alternatively, we could ask for something smaller to be designed that could be built upon, however, that will result in additional fees for the architect as such a task would be beyond the original scope of work or anticipated minor tweaking to the design.

Bruce extended special thanks to the tremendous time and effort by FOTL member Judy Leaming for her efforts on the draft grant.

FOTL expressed great appreciation to the Board of Lake County Commissioners for their efforts to make the fire station a reality and looking for all possible options/funding to implement things that are best for Lake County.

(Plans for the new fire station were on display and will be brought to subsequent meetings.)

Clarion Hotel: We received payment for the architect's work in late December and have paid Avenue L. The draft assessment was submitted to the Forest Service and History Colorado in August of 2014. We have met and will continue to meet with the Forest Service to develop a strategic plan for staging and implementation of recommendations acceptable to the Forest Service. In the final assessment that we are still waiting to receive, it is hoped that there will be prioritization and joint "staging" of recommendations to maximize what can be accomplished. The ability to move forward has been impacted due to the unfilled local archeologist position for this District and the designated Forest Service liaison being tasked to other functions. The November meeting was cancelled and we plan another meeting in February when Lisa Corbin completes her tour of duty in the Salida office and returns to the Leadville Ranger office. Once it is determined what the Forest Service will support completing and their timing for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance/approval, etc., we can seek grants and collaborate with other local volunteer groups to accomplish the tasks.

On Friday, Kelly participated in a call with Allison Stewart from the Forest Service who is trying to create a partnership and coordinated effort for Arkansas Valley Volunteers on Forest Service projects. Kelly informed Allison via email of our current projects and potential need to align with other groups to get more volunteers to work the Red Rooster. The call seemed to focus primarily on trails (John suggested and consensus was that we might be very interested in partnering with other organizations to build a trail to the upper lake from the visitor center and/or improve the start of the Willis Gulch Trail). If there is a next meeting, Kelly will try to attend in person.

School House Grant Application to Freeport McMoRan Climax-Area (C) Community Investment Fund: We applied for \$20,000. If successful, the funds will assist in making the Schoolhouse both a more beautiful and safe location for FOTL sponsored activities and encouraging greater tourist traffic in the village to see this historic gem. The funding would contribute greatly to our ability to paint the exterior and remediate the lead based paint issues/flaking; cover the asbestos tile on the floor; seal the foundation; repair the concrete stairs, etc. Ongoing work continues to make the building more usable in its present state.

Curling: John is organizing interested persons to attend the training/introduction session at the Leadville skating rink at 9:30 on January 25th, please contact him if interested.

Budget Related Issues:

The 2014 budget was available for viewing. We just paid the insurance for 2015. We maintain a separate account for our History Colorado grant money and payments. We earmark funds within our general account for things like the Historic District (\$2,171.52) and being cognizant of the \$4,750 in contributions from members and interested persons toward the fire station. We have approximately \$17,300 in the general funds.

There was a lot of discussion about our budget, issues with projections/revenue assumptions, separation of projects, etc.

- Ahmad made a motion seconded by Lawson Gagnet that the FOTL Board draft a budget for 2015 for approval by the members at the next meeting in March. The motion passed unanimously.
- Now that we have a better handle on how much money was contributed toward the fire station and since we have time to collect additional funds, Kelly moved and John seconded that all funds collected previously (\$4,750) and any subsequent contributions given specifically to FOTL for the fire station will be used toward our total contribution for the fire station project/DOLA fire station grant which will have an additional \$2500 added to it from the FOTL general fund (not comprised of earmarked funds or fire station contributions). The motion passed.

MARCH MEETING IS SATURDAY THE 28TH AT 10:00 AM (NOTE TIME CHANGE) AT THE SCHOOL HOUSE.