

Notes on Public Meeting March 5, 2009

A public meeting was held on Thursday, March 5, 2009 at the Mazama Community Center, to initiate discussions regarding future development of the Mazama “core” or “corners” area. This area is the three way stop at the junction of Goat Creek and Lost River Roads.

Twenty five community members were in attendance. Jim Gregg discussed the background information for this project:

Several landowners hold important properties in this area. The landowners include Art Gresh, Bill Pope, Bob Monetta, the Devin families, the LeDuc family, Bill Persich, and the Mazama Community Club. MVSTA also has a vested interest in the trailhead parking; the current parking lot is on Monetta-Pope property. The County owns a two acre piece to the East of the Mazama Community Club building, which is reserved for recreation promotion.

The landowners have met with members of the Mazama Advisory Committee to begin discussions regarding future development of these properties. No decisions have been suggested, and all options will be considered. The property owners are cognizant of the need for development to further the interests and needs of the community.

Jim then went through a list of “Planning Needs”, which is attached. The MAC wishes to initiate discussions before development occurs, to assist in orderly and well planned growth, changes which will enhance the community, not detract from it.

Attendees were give three ‘stick on’ dots, and were asked to rank their personal favorites of the planning needs, which included:

County Roads

- Speed
- All season pedestrian access
- A 4 way sto
- No spray zone

Public Space

- Efficient parking
- Shared use
- Understandable access and flow

Public Restrooms

Community Green Space

- Play area

Private Ownership

- Align/coordinate commercial
- Preserve a commercial core
- Residential interface
- Low income/employee housing

Support Services

- Signage
- Utilities and parking
- Drainage and snow storage
- Maintenance and landscaping

The dots handed out were three colors: red, yellow and green, with red the highest priority. For simplicity's sake, I have assigned numerical values to the dots, with red receiving 3 points, yellow 2 and green 1.

The following list shows the numerical totals:

- All season pedestrian: 22
- Community green space: 22
- County roads: 14
- Public Space: 12
- Traffic speed: 7
- Align/Coordinate commercial: 6
- Preserve a commercial core: 6
- Play area: 4
- Signage: 4
- Public restrooms: 3
- No spray zone: 2
- Private ownership: 2
- Low income/employee housing: 2
- Support services: 2
- Utilities & parking: 2
- Efficient parking: 1
- Understandable access & flow: 1
- Maintenance & landscaping: 1

Needs not listed were not assigned a value.

Jim then introduced Claire Bunney and Midge Cross, who have offered to write a "Planning Only" grant. This would be a CDBG grant through CTED, for the express purpose of hiring a professional planner to assist this process.

Claire handed out a list of criteria for hiring a planner; Midge spoke to the lack of planning ability within the MAC, and the need for thoughtful development. Once a planner has been hired, more community involvement will be solicited.

Two members of the audience spoke to the possibility that one or more of the property owners could develop regardless of community wishes and desires. Jim acknowledged that there is always a chance for that when private property is involved.

Many attendees expressed thanks to Jim for his work in assembling the group, as well as appreciation for the landowners who are willingly involved in discussions of the future of Mazama's "town center" area.