SCCC Minutes 12.17.24

Snowmass Firestation and Zoom

Board Members present: Ned Andrews, David Chase, Michael Kinsley, Martha Ferguson, Judy Frey, Chris Collins, Jen Rupert, Sierra Flanigan, Judy Lovins, Jill Sabella

Guest: Forrest Thomas

CONSENT AGENDA

The Minutes and Treasurer’s Report of November 19 were moved for approval by Michael, seconded by Jen and approved by all. The Treasurer’s report showed as of the end October there was a total fund of $29,383.44 with $23,956.66 in the Unrestricted account, $4,144.70 in the Water Studies account, and $1,282.08 in Dark Skies Fund.

In November there was a $1,000 donation. Expenses were $337.52. The total as of November 30th is $30,045.92.

UPDATE TO CAUCUS BY-LAWS

Ned and Sharon have reviewed the bylaws and noted the bylaws stated on the Caucus website are outdated and incomplete. This could be an issue if the Caucus were to be sued or if there was a county conflict. Ned suggested forming a committee to review the bylaws.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CAUCUS TREASURER AND ACCOUNTING SERVICES

Accountant Kim Clinco is ready to start doing the books and Alpine Bank will be doing the bill paying after we meet with them soon and set up an official system, i.e. signature cards, post office keys, etc.

BOARD ELECTION

The election voting will close January 7. At the meeting January 21 the selection of officers will be made.

The location of the next meeting will not be at the Snowmass firestation because the El Jebel forestation will be using it while they have renovations on their building. No location was chosen for our next meeting but there are several options to explore.

DARK SKY UPDATE

Martha has this week submitted our application to Dark Skies International. David reviewed the application as well as Aaron Watson of Paonia who is our Dark Skies contact. Martha has done a tremendous amount of working putting together all the information needed - like night light readings, organizing educational events and getting local endorsements. Pitkin County is scheduled to do their first reading of their updated lighting code this week and scheduled in January for their final reading. This includes a 10pm - 7am outdoor lighting restriction. The County may be adding code enforcers on staff to enforce this.

STATUS OF ST. BENEDICT’S MONASTERY

David made a presentation to the Board of a potential buyer of the monastery property which is 3,840 acres and includes the retreat center, the main monastery house, and other ranch buildings and small retreat houses. No offer has yet been made but the interested party has a conservation vision that the Friends of the Monastery group supports.

David has been a great liaison to this potential sale, being a member of the Friends of the Monastery and also former director of Aspen Valley Land Trust. He said that all of us love and appreciate the monastery for their stewardship of the land and what the monks and the retreat center have given to thousands of visitors who came for spiritual retreats. Most of the land potentially would be put into conservation easements. The County and Open Space & Trails have been working with the monastery’s Order to find solutions to private ownership.

Jen commented that hopefully any new owner would consider working with longterm local ranch families as far as advice and employment because of the depth of first hand knowledge these families have of the land, water and wildlife.

The Board expressed great thanks to David for all his time and interest in this potential buyer.

The meeting was adjourned.