

Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition

Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting

May 19, 2010

A regularly-scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors of T.H.E. Coalition was held on Wednesday, May 19, 2010 in the third-floor Board Room of the Woodland Park Library. Chairman Dave Martinek called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Dee Breitenfeld, Bill Buckhanan, Jane Lass, Dave Martinek, Mary Menz, George Parkhurst, and Marion Vance. Absent: Barbara Barbaro, Jane Mannon, and alternate Sally Fant.

Dave welcomed the members and noted that a quorum was present.

Minutes of the March 31, 2010 meeting: Bill Buckhanan requested that the spelling of his name on page three be corrected. The correction was duly noted and Bill moved that minutes be approved. Dee and George seconded.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer George Parkhurst presented the Statement of Financial Position as of May 19, 2010. Cash assets of the Coalition total \$11,753.96, held in a checking account in Park State Bank. The "Statement of Activities - Year to Date" shows a shortfall of \$11,128.38 because George paid out funds that THE has been holding for the Victor Penguins Hockey Club, the Woodland Park Hockey Association, and the Two Mile High Club. Those funds were deposited with the Coalition before the beginning of calendar year 2010. Hence, while disbursement appears in the "Expense" column in the Year-to-Date statement, deposit does not appear in the "Income" column. With that clarification Bill Buckhanan moved to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted. Marion Vance seconded.

Membership: George noted that although the three organizations mentioned above have drawn down the funds deposited with THE, they remain dues-paying members of the organization. There ensued a discussion about the distinction, if any, between "members" and "affiliates". The outcome was a decision to use the term "members" to describe any of the various organizations, or individuals, who join the Coalition by virtue of annual contributions or dues.

Committee/Other Reports:

MDAD Committee: Dave reported that T.H.E. Coalition had sought and received from the County a variance allowing us to use a septic tank for a limited time at the Depot, rather than hooking into the sewer system, to avoid disturbing ground until all requisite archaeological work has been completed. Tim Galvin of Underground Solutions will do the work. Pete Kuyper is covering costs.

A Depot work day is planned for Saturday, May 22. Dick Unzelman and John Vance will do prior work on Friday the 21st to expose the waste-water pipe that runs from the east wing to the septic tank.

Trail Easement: An easement to allow construction of a trail along the western boundary of the Clark Ranch (Denny Sponseller's property) has been extended for an additional 10 years. The trail easement is cited in the overall conservation easement held by Palmer Land Trust, but is actually a bi-lateral arrangement between Denny and Teller County. Those two parties agreed to extend the time period which would have expired in December of 2010. As part of the arrangement, the county will dig a detention pond to reduce run-off flowing into Coulson Lake. Board members who are participating in Saturday's Depot work day plan to walk the trail easement line to take stock of possibilities. Unfortunately, it is bounded on the west by a high chain-link fence beyond which is a jumble of county maintenance and storage facilities.

George reported a possibility that the county will consider building the trail in conjunction with major renovations to the county site. The trail is important as, among other things, the connecting link between the America the Beautiful trail and the Hayden Divide Loop. However, specifications in the easement are such that it is impractical to move ahead with our tentative plan to build a provisional trail with local expertise and volunteer labor.

Earth Day: At the request of the sponsors of Earth Day at the Woodland Park Library, THE and RLPG will set up an exhibit table. Dee and Jane volunteered to man the post.

Workshops for nonprofit organizations: In conjunction with the Nonprofit Resource Center created as a partnership between Woodland Park Library and T.H.E. Coalition, we are co-sponsoring a series of workshops for grant seekers. Lynn Harrison of the Library presented the opening workshop on how to identify promising sources for grants. Marion Vance followed up with "Grant Writing 101" on May 4. Both sessions were well-attended and very well received. Over the next couple of months, the series will continue with a specialized workshop on the Common Grant Application, and one on the ins and outs of applying for State and Federal grants.

RLPG/Palmer Land Trust/TOSC (Trails and Open Space Coalition):

Representatives of these three organizations met at Marion Vance's on May 10. A decade-long partnership among the three resulted in the Pikes Peak Conservation Corridor which protects the scenic landscape along Hwy 24 between Woodland Park and Divide. Palmer Land Trust carried the work on to the west flank of the Peak, where several hundred additional acres of historic ranchland have been preserved. The principle vehicle for generating interest in land preservation has been the bi-annual forums sponsored by the partners. The fifth forum in the series will be held in the fall of 2010. A primary goal is to raise awareness of the importance of preserving Teller County's natural heritage.

Non-Profit IRS Notice: Thanks to George, THE is in good standing with the IRS, re: its 501(c)(3) status, despite have been included in a long list of 'delinquent' organizations, which initially raised concerns.

Old Business:

Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month: Dee reported that all arrangements have been finalized for the Saturday, May 22 event celebrating Historic Preservation Month. The event is sponsored by the Teller County Historic Preservation Advisory Board, which Dee chairs, and co-sponsored by T.H.E. Coalition. Marion Vance will act as MC. In keeping with the theme *Landmarks Along the Pathways*, four Teller County landmarks will be featured: Midland Depot, Pikes Peak Community Club, Catherine Costello house in Florissant, and Tunnel #9 on the Gold Camp Road.

Divide Community Betterment Organization (DCBO): Dave reported that Pete Kuyper's attorneys are drawing up Articles of Incorporation for this new organization whose purpose is to promote charitable activities in the greater Divide area, and to support non-profit organizations that are carrying out such activities. As a 501(a)(9) entity, the DCBO would be tax-exempt and would qualify to apply for grants from agencies such as the State Historic Fund. The Articles of Incorporation are to be ready for review at THE Board meeting in July. In addition, Dave Martinek will be working with Dave Conley to craft a written agreement between the DCBO and THE which spells out concretely the rights and responsibilities of each party as we move forward with rehabilitation of the Depot and as one of the "supported organizations" represented on the board of directors of the DCBO. Clear delineation of that relationship and of "ownership" questions will be key to preparing grant applications in the future. It is also important to address squarely the issue of responsibility for repaying Pete the \$200,000 +

which he has invested in the Depot – and especially whether the DCBO and/or its directors would assume responsibility for payment of that sum.

THE Website: Dave reported that he and Jodi Mijares are working with a web designer to fashion a site for T.H.E. Coalition along the lines of the current Divide Chamber site. The key is ease of management to keep the site current and add features as required. The big advantage of following the Divide Chamber model is that Jodi is already proficient in its use. It will be up to T.H.E. Board, however, to determine content and supply photos. Because the web site will become our main window to the world of potential funders and supporters, Marion urged the board to authorize funding sufficient to get a first-rate site.

New Business:

GeoPark - Bill Buckhanan reported learning of a plan -- still in an early exploratory stage- - to designate an area in the Gold Belt/High Park Road vicinity as a “Geo Park” because of some unique features it incorporates. The concept is evidently to be discussed at a meeting of the Gold Belt Scenic Byway on Monday, September 13.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. Next scheduled board meeting is Wednesday, July 28.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Vance, Secretary