

SALIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
July 15, 2009, 6:00 PM
APPROVED MINUTES

Planning Commissioners Present: PT Wood, Chris Tracy, Mary Ann Bavaria, Ted Richardson, Greg Bayne and Fred Rasmussen

Planning Commissioners Absent: Judy Everett

Staff Present: Don Reimer, Dara MacDonald, Michael Yerman and Kim Antonucci

Members of the Public Present: Connie Cole, Gary Higgins, Dee Miller, Ron Dobson, Rob Treat, Jim Aragon, Dave Potts, Rick Roberts, Lucy Lovell, Jim Treat, Paul Crabtree, Lori Isenberger, Frank Holman

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Salida City Planner Michael Yerman gave an overview of the process leading up to tonight's public hearing, which began at the August 2008 meeting of the Salida Regional Planning Commission (RPC). Chaffee County Development Services Director Don Reimer gave an overview of each chapter of the plan.

Community Development Director Dara MacDonald discussed that the purpose of tonight's public hearing was to evaluate the agency reviews that have been received to date, which were compiled into the two staff reports that were provided. The staff is recommending that the RPC continue the public hearing to give staff time to incorporate the appropriate agency review comments into the document so that the RPC has an opportunity to see the document in its final form.

Approximately 25 agencies were sent a copy of the draft Salida Regional Transportation Plan, and to date 14 agencies submitted review comments. Many of the comments received can be easily incorporated into the Plan, i.e., language revisions, existing trails, non-contentious trail and road connections, construction standards, appendix information, typographical/grammatical changes. However, some of the changes will need to be discussed by the RPC including the proposed collector road adjacent to Franz Lake and concerns expressed by the Town of Poncha Springs.

The public hearing was opened at 6:54 p.m.

Paul Crabtree, 625 D Street, Salida addressed the RPC. Mr. Crabtree stated that he will make written comments, but wanted to make oral testimony regarding sprawl vs. smart growth/sustainability. He stated that the grid is proven to make a community by providing a variety of route choices, and that on the other side, the system that made sprawl is a dendritic network. He preferred mixed-use neighborhoods and suggested that the Salida Regional Transportation Plan look at where the neighborhoods should be instead of where the roads should be. He also suggested that the travel lanes should be 9 to 10 feet which encourages people to

drive at safe speeds, for pedestrians and bicyclists. The cross sections show wide lanes. He also suggested that Highway 291 in town should be a local road.

Commissioner Maryann Bavaria asked Paul how to define neighborhoods in this Plan? Paul said that it can be difficult. He said that a "Pedestrian-shed" is where one can walk to a cornerstore, which is located at every ¼ mile.

Rob Treat, 7802 County Rd. 120 was concerned with the width of the 80 foot collector and asked if the open space could be eliminated. Mr. Treat also wanted to confirm that proposed trail locations would move based on site specific development.

Lori Isenberger, 9355 CR 178A, Salida discussed the need for more transit stops in the City of Salida and the changing demographics of the increasing 60+ age group.

Lucy Lovell, 525 W 16th Street, Apt. 41, Salida, CO discussed the need for better construction standards and more transit stops for better handicapped accessibility.

Rick Roberts, Town of Poncha Springs, expressed the need for transportation connections along the south side of Highway 50 between Poncha Springs and Salida and requested a specific meeting between the Poncha Planning Commission and the RPC. Mary Ann Bavaria suggested incorporating The Town of Poncha's suggestions for proposed roads and trails on the Overall Map.

Jim Aragon, Colorado Division of Wildlife, expressed concerns regarding the proposed collector adjacent to County Road 154, which is the main access for the Mt. Shavano Fish Hatchery, including feed delivery trucks. Mr. Aragon expressed concerns regarding proposed water structure improvements and the need to protect the spring water source to keep the hatchery whirling-disease free. In that regard, the DOW would be opposed to the road crossing the hay meadow in that area. Discussion ensued among the planning staff and the RPC regarding the proposed collector as it is a substantial emergency transportation connection to the hospital and alternatives need to be considered. A specific meeting with the Division of Wildlife and the planning staff would be helpful in identifying alternative language or collector roads in the Plan.

The public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Chris Tracy moved to continue the public hearing to August 18, 2009 at 6:00 p.m to give staff an opportunity to revise the Plan. Mary Ann Bavaria seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.