

WORK SHOP
FEBRUARY 18, 2010
6:00 PM
Wetmore Fire Station

WETMORE PROJECT

The purpose of the Work Shop is to share information and answer questions about the purchase of the .61 acre parcel of land in Wetmore located at 26278 State Highway (SH) 96, on the south side of the intersection of SH-96 and SH-67.

Present: Lynn Attebery, Jim Austin, Carole Custer, Kris Lang, Sandra Attebery, Gayla Day, Alden Gray, Nancy Kreuz, Nancy Davenport, Courtney Davenport, Don Iden, Joy Iden, John Bradford, Freia Hooper-Bradford, George Draper, Leona Draper, Jeannie Culpin, Peggy Martin, Virginia Trujillo, Dave Trujillo, Mary Kattnig, Debbie Livengood, Jerome Wiegel, Bernadette Castillo, Ricardo Castillo, Judy Tabutteau, Bob Senderhauf, Julie Fall, Loel Gray, Chas Clifton, Mary Currier, Brian Withrow, Charlie Judge, Fred Jobe, Matthew Peterson, Twyla Petersen, Nathaniel Brown, David Domosio, Carol Trujillo, Kevin Day, Allen Butler, Pat Aldred, George Withers, Vicky Donley, Bill Donley, Dianna Gray, Deanna West, Marlene Smith, Carolyn Shellenberger, Jim West, Kathy West, Jim Little, Burl Stearns, Irene Stearns, Ed Kreuz, Ruth Ropen, and Cecilia Sanders.

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Custer introduced Diana Laughlin and Lauren Howell from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs / Colorado State University Extension Rural Technical Assistance Program. She explained that she had invited Ms. Laughlin and Ms. Howell to come tonight, and that if the audience would like, the ladies were prepared to present a set of ideas for a conceptual design to begin a discussion regarding the potential use and possible community park on the .61 acres. Commissioner Custer asked the audience if they would like to see and hear what these ladies had to say and provide input. Commissioner Custer went on to say that the Commissioners are asking the Wetmore community and surrounding area citizens for input to help develop a plan for the county property.

Commissioner Attebery said that Custer County had purchased the structure and the property and that all the contents were county assets. He stated that the county entities may request any of the contents prior to the demolition of the structure. He said the remaining contents could be part of an auction or a bidding process. The general consensus of those present was the auction process. Commissioner Attebery advised that the Lone Pine window sign had been requested by the historical museum.

Commissioner Custer said the structure and property were purchased by the county through the Custer County Conversation Trust Funds monies. The guidelines for the use of those funds when the county purchases the land are that the property remains an open space.

Debbie Livengood, Clerk and Recorder explained that Conservation Trust Funds can be used for county owned recreational purposes.

Commissioner Austin thanked everyone for attending and said they were sincerely interested in the opinions of all those attending the work shop.

With the general agreement of those present to proceed Lauren Howell and Diane Laughlin presented their illustrated design ideas to those present. The preliminary design idea included realigning the highway, creating walking paths, play area, gazebo, pavilions, picnic benches, a bridge over the creek area, a possible water pond and plants for xero-gardening and xeriscaping. The ladies asked for feed back, and received some. The ladies then invited the audience to provide feedback and they explained that they brought post-a-notes and asked the audience to come and share their ideas on the notes. Ms. Laughlin and Ms. Howell agreed to leave the design drawings with the community to display at the community center for further review and encouraged citizens to share their ideas, suggestions or opinions on post-a-notes left with the design boards.

The citizens present expressed appreciation to the county for purchasing the property and were in complete agreement that the unsafe and health hazard structure on the property should be demolished. They inquired whether the county Road and Bridge Department would be responsible for the demolition. Commissioner Attebery responded that a private contractor has offered to demolish the structure free of charge. He said minimal services would be requested from the county Road and Bridge Department and volunteer labor will be requested for the clean-up of the area.

The citizens in attendance expressed safety concerns regarding the proposed highway realignment; cost and maintenance of the community park; water and restroom facilities; water lines; irrigation ditches and shrubs that would attract bears.

Commissioner Austin acknowledged the time and effort spent by Commissioner Attebery, Commissioner Custer, County Attorney John Naylor and Bob Senderhauf to bring this project to where we are today.

The Work Shop ended at 7:20 PM.

Debbie Livengood, Clerk and Recorder
Attest

Lynn Attebery
Chairman