

Ashton Urban Renewal Agency
Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2016
Ashton, Idaho

Chairman Mark Chandler called the meeting to order about 4:30 PM.

Attendance

Board Members: Mark Chandler, Mayor Teddy Stronks, Roz Jenkins, and Sara Bowersox.
Visitors: Michele OMalley, Sara Reinke, Brandon Hoffner, Garth Blanchard, and Sheryl Hill
Administrative Support: Katie Cook from ECIPDA

Agenda Amendment

At the beginning of the meeting, Mark Chandler asked to amend the agenda adding Brandon Hoffner on to the agenda at the end of the meeting. Teddy Stronks made the motion to approve the amendment to the agenda, Sara Bowersox seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mark Chandler asked for approval of the meeting minutes from March 31, 2016. Sara Bowersox made the motion to approve the minutes, Roz Jenkins seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Bank of Idaho Account Changes

Due to the changes in Board membership, it is necessary to change the signers on the Bank of Idaho account. Katie Cook also suggested that the Board consider opening a second checking account for the Historic High School and City Park Plan to help keep the funds separate. Sara Bowersox motioned to remove Stacy Wynn as a signer on the bank account and to add herself, Sara Bowersox, and Cherie 'Roz' Jenkins as signers and to keep Teddy Stronks and Mark Chandler as signers. She also motioned to open a second checking account. Roz Jenkins seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Consideration of Payment of Invoices

Two new invoices were presented to the board for payment: \$26.69 To the Standard Journal for the annual report publication and the other was for \$490 to Elam & Burke for legal counsel. Teddy Stronks motioned to approve the 2 invoices presented. Mark Chandler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Board Discussion

Mark Chandler sent a study out to the board that was done to see the impact that fishing has on the local economy. He feels that it is an untapped resource for the City of Ashton and would like to see more done to cater to more of those dollars being spent in Ashton. He wants to make sure that the pocket park is not mundane, but something unique and memorable.

Mark also feels that a bronze statue of a cutthroat trout in the pocket park at a cost of about \$24,000 would be a great addition. The board as a whole felt that it may not be the best use of public funds to spend that much on a bronze statue. Sara Bowersox voiced her opinion that the park, as designed now, will not be mundane but that it will be a nice park and an improvement to that lot. It also does not need to be the end result; the park can be added to as the need arises. She also said that there are so many good things that the URA can be involved in throughout the districts. Public and Board comments did indicate that art would be a great thing to have in the park and it would be good to plan now for future plans in the park. It would also be good to tap in to the local talents of those in the community to help with the art at a later time.

Sheryl Hill expressed concern about the land being used in the future for development and she suggested having an environmental study done on the land to test for asbestos because if that land is ever developed, a developer will want a study to be done. She suggested that a permanent pocket park may be the best solution since the ground underneath the lot, that may be contaminated, would not be disturbed.

Consideration of Bids Received for the Pocket Park Project

Five bids were received from landscape companies from the request for proposal that Sara Bowersox sent out. They were each given the same scope of work and most of those bidding the project were present for a meeting at the lot with Sara Bowersox and Teddy Stronks to discuss details. The bids came in as follows: Swiss Precision \$34,865, Merrill Quality Landscaping \$17,072, Grover Landscaping \$14,439, Creative Design: \$27,621.50, and KS Sprinkler & Landscaping \$28,827.12. There were also 2 bids submitted for the concrete work (sidewalks) on 5th Street that will need to be done before the landscapers can get started. The bids were: Kevin Virgin \$10,741 and 3H Construction \$9,648.

The Board is required to take the lowest bids for the work. Teddy Stronks motioned to accept the landscape bid from Grover Landscaping and the concrete bid from 3H Construction. Mark Chandler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Henry's Fork Foundation

Brandon Hoffner, a representative from the Henry's Fork Foundation, presented a request for a possible partnership between the Ashton URA and the Henry's Fork Foundation for assistance on developing the "Old Hospital Area". They are in negotiations with the sellers for a purchase of that property. They see it becoming the new corporate headquarters and they anticipate using the building for offices, laboratories, meeting and conference rooms, equipment storage and temporary residences for interns and visitors. They also envision having a learning center where people could come in and learn about the area.

Brandon presented the Board with a "Preliminary Request" document which is documented with these minutes. They hope that the Ashton URA will assist with an environmental hazards assessment, various inspections on the plumbing system and roof, and possibly other assistance.

Sara Bowersox motioned to investigate further the possibility of partnering with the Henry's Fork Foundation. Teddy Stronks seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Other Business and Next Meeting Date

The meeting was adjourned at about 5:25pm and the next meeting date was not set.

Meeting minutes prepared by Katie Cook

Minutes accepted by:

Mark Chandler, Chairman