

MEMBERS	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Carolyn Riggs, Chair	X		
Erik Niemeyer	X		
Erich Ferchau	X		
Andy Tocke	X		
Bob Beda	X		
Greg Larson	X		
Councilor Ed Seymour	X		

OTHERS PRESENT: Community Development Director Steve Westbay, Planning Technician Pam Cunningham.

**I. CALL TO ORDER AT 7:03 PM BY CHAIR CAROLYN RIGGS**

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

**III. CONSIDERATION OF THE JUNE 27, 2012 MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Larson moved and Commissioner Niemeyer seconded to approve the June 27, 2012 meeting minutes as presented.

Roll Call Yes: Ferchau, Tocke, Riggs, Beda, Seymour, Niemeyer and Larson

Roll Call No:

Roll Call Abstain:

Motion carried

**IV. UNSCHEDULED CITIZENS**

There were none

**V. COUNCIL UPDATE**

Councilor Seymour updated the Commission on recent Council business. The Council:

- took action on the agreement with Western State Colorado University for the paving of Escalante drive;
- signed letters:
  - o accepting the City audit;
  - o supporting the Governmental Entities Center in Gunnison Rising;
  - o supporting the RTA air program;
  - o to the Tourism Association regarding voting rights of elected representatives; and,
  - o signed the Annexation Reimbursement Agreement for the Gunnison Rising Highway Access Control Plan.

The Council also:

- Took action on funding issues for the USA Pro Cycling Challenge. Discussion followed on whether or not the USA Pro Cycling Challenge has resulted in economic benefit to the community as much as was expected. Commissioner Ferchau stated that increased revenue wasn't realized last year in restaurants and retail stores and that closure of streets didn't generate revenues. Councilor Seymour responded that there is a long-term bigger picture and that he thinks there will be more value this year. There will be a lot more international exposure because NBC will be covering the race daily. Also the race will go around the campus and Western will get their name out on international television. Another big draw is that the USA Pro Cycling Challenge will be the last race for George Hincapie.

Commissioner Ferchau said that “We need to have a forward thinking vision and we should convey that.” He said that the ski area does that successfully but the City, County and Western don’t. Council Seymour said that the City has a lot more events this year that people can participate in. He also said that Gunnison is in competition with other host communities that are spending a lot more money to get people from the Front Range to visit their towns.

- In response to a question from Commissioner Larson, Councilor Seymour explained the changes that Crested Butte and Mt. Crested Butte want on the Tourism Association Board.

**VI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

- Commissioner Ferchau said that “We need to get away from the idea of generating a subsidy for seasonal airline travel and figure out how we have a community that can support year round travel to multiple hubs. We need to change the focus from the constant battle of everyone supporting big flights to Gunnison to how to make it sustainable.”
- Commissioner Beda said he would like to see the Tourism Association work with the County to market the airport and have someone to pay us to use the facility. Commissioner Larson said that the military and high altitude and cold weather testing contributed a lot to the local economy.
- Commissioner Larson said he just completed the Region 10 Stronger Economies Together training and he was nominated by the County Commissioners for regional economic development.

**VII. PLANNING STAFF UPDATE**

Director Westbay updated the Commission on recent activity in the Community Development Office:

- Management Staff met this week on the capital improvement plan;
- The County is considering lifting the fire ban next Tuesday;
- He met with the Library Board to work out an Annexation Agreement for realignment of Quartz and Spencer; and
- Staff has been working on the Highway Access Control Plan Reimbursement Agreement.

**VIII. ADJOURN.** Chair Riggs adjourned the meeting to Work Session at 7:28 p.m.

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Carolyn Riggs, Chair

Attest:

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Pam Cunningham, Secretary