

**SPECIAL JOINT INFORMATION PROCEEDINGS
TOWN COUNCIL AND BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES**

JULY 9, 2018

JACKSON, WYOMING

The Jackson Town Council met in conjunction with the Teton County Commission in a special joint information session in the County Commissioners Chamber located at 200 S. Willow at 1:32pm. Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

MAYOR & COUNCIL: Mayor Pete Muldoon, Jim Stanford, Bob Lenz. Hailey Morton Levinson and Don Frank were absent.

CHAIR & COMMISSIONERS: Chairman Mark Newcomb, Natalia Macker, Smokey Rhea, Greg Epstein, and Paul Vogelheim.

STAFF: Sherry Daigle, Erin Weisman, Alyssa Watkins, Heather Overholser, Darren Brugmann, Mari Allan Hanna, Billy Kirk, Steve Ashworth, Amy Ramage, Cark Pelletier, and Shelley Fairbanks.

II. Workshop – Visitor Impacts

Chair Newcomb opened the workshop stating this meeting is not about the Travel and Tourism Board or the Chamber of Commerce. It is about how the visitors impact this community and how they benefit this community. It is also about how visitors are being presented with the opportunities in our community such as transportation -START Bus / START Bikes, pathways, minimize wildlife deaths with Wildlife Crossings Master Plan and slower driving zones, and recycling - Road to Zero Waste.

Rick Howe, Vice President-Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce (JHCoC), addressed the Joint Board regarding the Chamber's strategic plan. In 2017, the JHCoC was visited by over 515,000 visitors, over 26,000 phone calls, 16,000 emails, and mailed information to over 12,600 people. The website receives over 1,000,000 views. The Jackson Hole Visitor Sustainability Practices are followed by Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Grand Teton National Park, Bridger-Teton National Forest, and the Grand Teton Association.

Discussion between the Joint Board and Mr. Howe included maintaining a sustainable community and natural environmental resources, website does not show START Bus, START Bike.

John Eastman, Jackson Hole Airport Board member, addressed the Joint Board regarding sustainability efforts at the airport. These efforts include wastewater treatment system, re-engineered the old storm drainage system. The board has a park committee, Park Environmental, ensuring all work at the airport is participating in sustainable efforts.

Discussion between the Joint Board and Mr. Eastman included website has no mention of START.

Heather Overholser, Superintendent of Solid Waste and Recycling, addressed the Joint Board regarding Road to Zero Waste. The initial goal is to reach 60% waste diversion by 2030. They reach visitors mainly through business: airport, hotels, the Chamber, retail, resorts, restaurants, tour companies, public land managers, and Grand Teton National Park. There are programs in place to support this initiative. The Zero Landfill Initiative, Grand Teton National Park is one of the three pilot programs in parks, along with Yosemite National Park and Denali National Park, has done a lot to expand recycling infrastructure in the park. Infrastructure is expanding around the Town of Jackson.

Discussion between the Joint Board and Ms. Overholser included conveying message about reduce and reuse, how to engage those who don't participate in RRR, overview of recycling and composting, other counties in Wyoming doing composting.

Mari Allan Hanna, Waste Diversion and Outreach Coordinator, addressed the Joint Board regarding the crossroads between ISWR programs, Chamber programs, and other community programs. This effort includes sharing logos on each other's websites and a collaborative newsletter.

Anna Olson, Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce, spoke about green energy.

Kelly French, Jackson Curbside Recycling, addressed the Joint Board regarding getting the word out and funding the recycling bins.

Discussion between the Joint Board and Ms. French included funding towards getting the message to visitors, communication with foreign visitors, JHCoC helps get information out in packets, recycling bins at visitor centers.

Tim O'Donoghue of the Riverwind Foundation, addressed the Joint Board regarding the Teton County Sustainability Plan, guidelines needed to make this destination sustainable, resources needed to do this work, destination management, recommending a sustainability action plan.

Discussion between the Joint Board and Mr. O'Donoghue included what would the program look like, multi-disciplinary council with 10-20 members, policy direction drafted by the entities on council and adopted by the Town and County elected officials.

Jason Wilmot, Bridger Teton National Forest, addressed the Joint Board regarding interfacing with people on Shadow Mountain and in Curtis Canyon, putting out fires, human/wildlife encounters, trailhead signs – certain behaviors expected, management options to help minimize damage to landscape.

Discussion between the Joint Board and Mr. Wilmont included getting the message out – signage and patrolling, other ways to partner with other entities, JHCoC and JHTTB help get word out.

Anna Olson, Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce, noted that the monthly board meetings have every entity represented and report to visitor services.

Denise Germann, Grand Teton National Park, addressed the Joint Board regarding the mission of the Park – to preserve and protect all the resources in the park and to keep those, not only for this generation but for another generation, increased visitation every year – 5,000,000 visitors, challenge to maintain or improve what we have, talking to the visitors and community, and walking the talk.

Discussion between the Joint Board and Ms. Germann included share best practices, close of a resource if over used, compliment the park on placing recycling bins at more locations, opportunity through ISWR – Zero Landfill Initiative.

Chair Newcomb addressed the lack of visibility of START from many of the other entities. Councilman Stanford addressed the missing of the opportunity with START. Mayor Muldoon spoke of a community-based organization and plan, help mitigate the impact of tourists, attracting a different kind of tourist, visible impacts of tourists.

Commissioner Vogelheim left the meeting at 2:49pm.

Brian Medina and Kate Sollitt, Jackson Hole Travel and Tourism Board (TTB), addressed the Joint Board regarding shopping totes branded Jackson Hole but with sustainability credo, START Bus and public transportation, possible START Bus from the airport, targeting and talking to winter visitors, have visitors sign a conservation pledge – gives them something to take home with them, how we keep Jackson wild, does not target summer visitors.

Discussion between the Joint Board, Mr. Medina, and Ms. Sollitt included reduce and reuse, being mindful of what people will actually use, infrastructure of START has to be there to make something work, local ambassadors, program funding for the JHCoC, promotional funding should be to help all programs, public transportation options.

Mayor Muldoon left the meeting at 2:57pm.

Chair Newcomb addressed the workshop speaking about who should drive the formulation of policy and what that policy should be, policy goals for mitigating visitor impacts, more effort on the part of START to help meet its commitment to the ITP, different directions visitor impacts can take, a lot of opportunity to better educate the visitor about sustainability.

Discussion among the Joint Board included ending the workshop with solid next steps, does not believe it is TTB's responsibility to get the group together, it will take the whole group and a working meeting to plan the next steps.

Chair Newcomb asked that the group come up with a type of plan needed, is bureaucracy already in place or does it need to be created, Destination Management Plan.

Adjourn. On behalf of the County, a motion was made by Commissioner Macker and seconded by Commissioner Rhea to adjourn. The vote showed all in favor and the motion carried on behalf of the County Commission. The meeting adjourned at 3:12pm.

TETON COUNTY

ATTEST:

Mark Newcomb, Chairman

Sherry L. Daigle, County Clerk

minutes:sdf