

# Community Building Development Team

## Minutes

Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2015 Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Cedar Springs Public Schools Board Room, Hilltop School, Cedar Springs

### MISSION:

The Community Building Development Team (CBDT) exists to construct buildings and spaces where the greater Cedar Springs community can gather for cultural, educational, recreational, commercial and family/community events.

### VISION:

The Vision of the Community Building Development Team (CBDT) is to retain the small-town character of Cedar Springs, incorporate natural features, link neighborhoods and people, enhance characteristics that already define our community and make it easy for families, youth, senior citizens, organizations, and all community members to gather, celebrate and serve each other.

- I. Call to order: 6:05 p.m.
- II. Roll call – Introductions –  
Board Members Present: Kurt Mabie, Tom Mabie, Betty Truesdale, Carolee Cole, Sue Wolfe, Dale Larson, Tom Holloway, Nick Andres.  
Board Members Absent: Sally Howland.
- III. Approval of minutes from January 20, 2015 Team Meeting: Dale Larson moved to approve the minutes as stated. Tom Holloway seconded. Approved.
- IV. Treasurer's Update:
  - A. An anonymous donation of \$170,000 was received in February.
  - B. As of the closing of the month of January there was a total of \$486,375.70 in both the savings and checking accounts.
  - C. Expenditures were a check for \$23.20 for printing and another for \$1,775.00 to South Peat Environmental.
- V. Review and Approval of Agenda: Report on the type of fund we are investing the CBDT money in and the Appraisal of the Coxon property were added to the agenda. Tom Mabie made a motion to accept the agenda with these two changes. Dale Larson seconded. Approved
- VI. Josh Zuiderveen and Mark Luttendon Ph.D., professor at Grand Valley State University, presented information on a \$50,000 grant for a trout habitat study in Cedar Creek.
  - A. This is a grant to identify where the brook trout are in Cedar Creek when the water is 76 degrees.
  - B. The process would be to surgically and safely implant a radio transmitter and thermometer in several fish allowing the fish to be tracked, and the temperature of the water at their location to be identified at all times through radio telemetry. Usually, the locations where cold ground water is coming into the creek, is where the fish want to be. This study will identify whether brown trout and brook trout act the same in Cedar Creek as they do in the Au Sable River, which is the most famous and storied trout stream in the mid west.
  - C. The group doing the study still needs \$4,700 to purchase the transmitters in order to do the study. TU will pay for part of the \$4700 cost but would like to share the cost with other entities.
  - D. Kurt Mabie announced that \$2,000 has been donated to be used for this study. The Team expressed their appreciation for this gift.
  - E. The project will start in mid to late May with tagging of the fish. Residents are welcome to watch the surgical procedure.
- VII. Reports
  - A. Johnson Property: The property has piles of dirt with cement and blacktop in them and a couple of buildings that will need to be cleaned up as soon as the weather is suitable.
  - B. Coxon Property: Final papers will be signed on Feb. 25. The property appraisal will be done this week. This property will also be groomed in order to make Cedar Creek visible from both 5<sup>th</sup> and Pine streets.
  - C. Library Building – Rep. Becky Powell, Duane McIntyre and Board Members Present:

1. The Site Plan should be complete in a couple of weeks.
  2. The 100 Year Flood Plain report, which was requested by the DEQ, has been ordered.
  3. Bob Ellick, Supervisor for Solon Township, told library board members they probably wouldn't be able to start building in the spring, but may be able to in the summer.
  4. The proposal will be ready in 4-6 weeks. We need to know how much money we're going to need to raise. Operating costs will be built into the fund-raising.
- D. Amphitheater – Tom Holloway –
1. There can be no further updates until we have a final site plan.
  2. Amanda Gerhardt talked to some bands who will be performing at the summer concert series. The Sparta structure was commended.
  3. Suggestion to contact other bands who use amphitheaters around the State and ask them what they like about amphitheaters they use.
- E. Discussion regarding the City of Cedar Springs Master Plan.
1. City Manager, Thad Taylor, shared that he is planning a visioning/strategic planning session in the fall to be hosted by the City Council. While this would not be centered around developing the update to the Master Plan it might be part of the process.
  2. The Planning Commission will initiate the update to the master plan later this year.
  3. Mr. Taylor assured there will be ample opportunity to give input.
  4. Question regarding whether we might be able to meet with those who will be initiating the process sooner as we hope to influence the process as well as the plan.
  5. Someone from the CBDT will attend a Planning Commission meeting.
- F. Natural Spring / Rain Garden / Beautification – Tom Mabie and the Historical Society:
1. Steve Anderson will start the design of the sculpture in April.
  2. The Rain Garden will hopefully be started in the spring.
  3. There was a Blandings turtle found in town which give us extra points toward the possibility we will obtain one of the grants we applied for through Trout Unlimited.
  4. Tom Mabie expressed his desire to get started as early in the year as possible and his concern that it might not be in our best interest to wait for grants to do this particular project.
  5. Josh Zuiderveen stated that if we build this rain garden area with our own money it could affect the grant. Josh said if we wait for 2 months he should know whether we have won the grant. He has heard positive information regarding the possibility we will be given the grant! We finished 3 out of 8 in our district!!
- G. Walking Trail Along Creek – Perry Hopkins and DDA – Tabled in Mr. Hopkins absence.
- H. Fire Barn – Dale Larson – Moving forward with plans to put it next to the current library. There is plenty of room to put the building they are designing and to expand.
- I. North Country Trail – Carolee Cole – The NCT board has expressed its commitment to bringing the NCT to Cedar Springs.
1. We will begin the optimal location review process this spring.
  2. The next thing is to request to be a Trail Town. Question as to who will champion that part of the process, the city or another entity within the city or the CBDT.
- J. City Council – Council Members Present – Rose Powell and Bob Truesdale expressed their appreciation for all the CBDT has done.
- K. Website Development – Carolee Cole – Please submit articles and topics to be included on the website.
- L. Question regarding whether we are staying with the Railroad theme.
1. Bob suggested using box cars as cabins for the camping area.
  2. Question concerning whether the library will take up the train theme. Duane and others expressed their expectation from preliminary information that the library will look more like the buildings in town.
  3. Sonia Cronkright suggested a covered bridge/railroad trestle look over the White Pine Trail at 17 Mile. Would need to get DNR approval and then the planning commission is likely to approve it.

4. Dave Ringler suggested creating an entrance into town at Maple off the trail that would be marked and also could be a RR trestle or covered bridge look.
- M. Design Committee – Sue Wolfe – Doug Gordon passed around excellent drawings of possible concepts for the community building.
- N. Reports Goals / Strategies Team – Review and Approve tweak to Mission Statement. The Goals and Strategies committee met and are recommending the following small change to the mission statement. Tom Holloway made a motion to change the wording of the mission statement as shown below. Support by Dale Larson. Approved.  
(change in red/bold) “The Community Building Development Team (CBDT) exists to ~~construct~~ **advance the construction of** buildings and spaces where the greater Cedar Springs community can gather for cultural, educational, recreational, commercial and family/community events.”
- O. Public Relations – Sue Wolfe – Planned press releases:
  1. The \$170,000 donation.
  2. The study of Brown and Brook Trout in Cedar Creek.
  3. Coxon property purchase.
  4. Amphitheater.
  5. North Country Trail
- P. Capital Campaign Committee – See VII. C. 4. Above
- Q. Review/Questions from February 10, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – None
- IX. Other Old Business – None
- X. New Business
  - A. Questions regarding whether the CBDT wants to have a presence at Community Night.
    1. There was a lot of interest last year so it seemed like a good idea to obtain a booth again.
    2. There was a suggestion to use the train that was used in the Red Flannel Day parade as a prop.
    3. No one was identified to take charge of the event.
  - B. Suggestion that we ask Judy Reed of the Cedar Springs Post to attend a Team meeting and do a story on the collaboration of the CBDT

Next Team Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 6 pm at Hilltop School Board Room

Adjournment: 7:53 p.m.