

Boulder Transition Advisory Committee (BTAC)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 3, 2016

1. BTAC regular meeting was held at the Boulder City Hall on 3/3/2016. BTAC Chair, Drew Dawson, welcomed everyone at 8:05 a.m. Introductions were made by the 16 in attendance.
2. A motion to approve the February minutes was made by Terry M. and seconded by Sally B. Motion Carried.
3. **A.** – Bob M. provided an update on the February 24th MDC Transition Committee. Highlights from the meeting included discussions on various myths that exist. A great discussion took place regarding the budget which is \$13.7 million and costs to replace and move the facility are much greater. Repurposing of the MDC facilities has not yet been discussed/addressed. Employee layoffs could begin June 30, Clients are not being admitted to MDC anymore. Many people have made comments that they will not work at other potential locations. MDC already struggles with retaining staff yet they have a core group of people who are established in Boulder.
B. – Jefferson County Commission has yet to receive a follow up letter to the Montana Department of Labor and Industry regarding the data and information to be provided to the community of Boulder and affected local governments within 90 days of a closure decision. There was a discussion again about the need to conduct our own impact statement. The Extension Office agreed to look into finding a company, possibly, Headwaters Economics, to do an analysis of the impact of the closure of MDC on the Boulder community.
C. – As a follow up to the last meeting's discussion, Drew D. will begin discussions with Richard Opper, Director of Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS). Issues which the BTAC suggested Drew discuss with Mr. Opper and bring back to BTAC include: What can we do with the property? Who is the owner? Discussion on economic impact. Is the June 30 date being adhered to? What is happening to clients and the workforce?
D. – Discussion regarding school impact and other area business impacts occurred.
4. **A.** – Terry M. is working on finding an MDC employee who will come to BTAC meetings. MDC engagement with this group is important. Terry M. also discussed having a MDC employee appreciation event sometime in June partnering with the Boulder Chamber of Commerce.
5. **A.** – Micky Z. discussed Making Boulder's Future Bright. The kickoff event on March 1. was a successful and well attended event. Additional information regarding the study circles, facilitator training, and what is this all about will be formulated and submitted to the newspaper and other media outsources. Drew D. concluded that this process will help us to decide Boulder's destiny. Discussion on getting a copy of the outcomes of the Horizons project was addressed. Mayor Craft suggested sending out an informational flyer in the next water bills. The Extension office will work on a newspaper draft as well as flyer updates.
B. – Leonard W. discussed the rest stop updates and that there is a feasibility study in the works.

- C.** – Tom. H. discussed the RFQ for an architect assessment will soon be submitted for a building on the South Campus.
- D.** – Leonard W. reported on the trails project and that he had met with a trail user group that has most of the trails GPS ready. He has been in contact with the Forest Service about road maintenance to help improve forest access.
- E.** - Tom H. updated everyone on the Whitehall Gigabyte community and opportunity for the fiber connection to Boulder. Discussion took place on coordinating with Century Link. Leonard W. invited Tim N. to send his Information Technology staff person to the next county Science and Technology meeting.
- F.** – Rob Rule gave a brief presentation on Diamond City. Boulder is in a delicate situation and Diamond City is proposing a possible solution for building the economy. Drew D. suggests Rob R. present a Prospectus of his plan to the BTAC committee which would include a more detailed description of his vision including information on him, his team, finance, etc.... BTAC is looking for Diamond City's Business Plan.
6. **A.** - No Report from the Chamber of Commerce
- B.** – Tim N. reported he would look into getting some student involvement in the Study Circle process. He discussed the need for high-speed internet at the school and they are working on increasing capacity.
- C.** – Mayor Craft reiterated spotlight flyers to go out in the next billing cycle for water bills.
- D.** – Duane W. reported a group gets together at the Boulder Assembly of God church to discuss leadership and community. All are welcome. The meeting takes place at 6:30 p.m. on the last Thursday of the month.
- E.** – Final thoughts were to keep the meetings to one hour
7. Meeting adjourned 9:26 a.m. Next meeting will be April 7th at the Boulder City Hall.