

Boulder Transition Advisory Committee (BTAC)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 5, 2016

1. The BTAC regular meeting was held at the Boulder City Hall on May 5, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chair Drew Dawson and followed by introduction of the 21 attendees.
2. A motion to approve the April minutes was made by Terri M., seconded by Sally B. and passed.
3. Discussion on MDC related issues.
 - a. Leonard said a copy of the Impact Statement letter was received, but it is unlikely there will be an impact statement completed. Drew added the letter indicates a portion of the responsibility comes from the Department of Labor but mostly Department of Public Health and Human Services. Dan V. said the state will not provide an impact statement until after next Legislative session when MDC is actually closed. Commissioner Wortman pointed out that the county interpretation is that the impact statement should be completed within 90 days after the decision to close, not the closure itself. Drew indicated that an impact statement after the closure would not be very helpful. The initial letter was written on September 17, 2015; however, the Commission didn't get receive the letter until March 28, 2016.
 - i. One of BTAC's roles is a partner in the Boulder Master Plan is to help with ongoing efforts to secure matching funds. Currently work is being pursued on finding a 501 (c) (3) to be the place holder for the fundraising. Suggestions of Boulder Chamber and Heritage Center were brought forward if the Elkhorn Foundation is unable to assist in this process.
 - b. Dan V. provided updates and the Plan recently adopted at the recent meeting of the MDC Transition Committee. Under this Plan and with respect to the Boulder community: 1. The ASU remain open which would employ 70 FTE for these 12 beds and involve the remodel of Building 104. 2. Currently the State does not operate group homes. Under the Plan, the State would get into this business as a place to house persons who could not be housed at privately-based group homes. Group home maximum is suggested to be only four beds and would provide 22 FTE for each group homes where 2 group homes would function together. Two (2) group homes are being proposed for Boulder. Other communities of interest are Helena, Butte, and Missoula. Administrative repurposing needs to be to the Governor's budget by Nov. 15. 3. A one-time economic development grant of \$500,000 is proposed to the City of Boulder.
 - c. Drew indicated he welcomes comments he can relay in his weekly calls with Director Opper. Drew provided notes from his presentation to the MDC Transition Committee. As requested by the BTAC, statistics are up regarding what is happening at MDC; this is consistent with what the BTAC requested from the state as a regular "Report Card". The report card is posted on the MDC Transition Committee link on the DPHHS website. Dan V. added that the updates will happen bi-weekly as they are tracked via payroll.
4. Discussion on MDC employees, clients and businesses.

- a. BTAC welcomes Judy Uhlrich, MDC employee as a BTAC member. Judy thanked everyone and informed the group she does not represent MDC, but is happy to be a part of our meetings.
 - b. Dan V. discussed the State Employee Assistance Program which has been made available to MDC on an group and individual basis. Tentative agreement reached with the unions extended to all employees, essentially job protection – if they have been accepted for another state job, that job will be held open for them, until MDC closes. The first Employee Assistance outreach session reached 10 persons. Dan stressed a big message to the employees is to not have a break in service. Judy stated it was beneficial and the staff were more than happy to have the help. Jefferson High School was thanked for being the facility hosting these workshops.
5. Community economy and well-being:
- a. Micky Z. updated on Action Forum and ongoing startup of subgroups. Four subgroups were establish, Recreation, Marketing, Attracting small business, and MDC Repurposing. Discussion from Drew was to find local outlets to publically notify the community of these group meetings. Jan A. suggested she prefer the paper but, that with timing maybe her Facebook is better. Tim N. added the high school page and Twitter could be utilized. Lastly, advertising on the radio station, 225-4035. Linda N. stated Attracting Small Business Committee will meet on May 10 at 6:30 pm at the Boulder Town Hall. Sally reported the Marketing team met on May 3. The consensus formulated from this group was Boulder is not advertised in statewide publications. The next meeting is scheduled on June 8 at the Boulder Extension office in the courthouse, 6:30 pm. Dee provided an update on the Recreation meeting to take place on May 19, 7:00 pm at the Boulder Town Hall. Drew said he is working on the MDC Repurposing Committee meeting date.
 - b. Rest stop feasibility study in the works. Great West engineers came out to look at the site for possible commercial development.
 - c. Architectural assessment, remodel of Building #6 is progressing.
 - d. Pipestone Trails, surveys out this last weekend, opportunity for recreation, two more survey's to come for what the trails can potentially do. Change the name from Pipestone Trails was a suggestion from Leonard W. Recreation group topic of discussion.
 - e. Whitehall fiber internet link completed. Permission to break the fiber line at Boulder is approved and would expand capability.
6. Information provided from area leaders and organizations:
- a. Chamber – no report
 - b. Schools - Tim discussed advertising for Graduation Matters and is open for suggestions. There is a lunch Wednesday, the 18th at noon at the Outdoor Pavilion. Tim N. commented on the talent of the Jefferson School youth and that their talents need to be exemplified county and beyond. Tonight Cinco De Mayo Taco bar fundraiser for mission to Costa Rica.
 - c. City - Gary discussed MSU Extension and JLDC coming to the Boulder City Council meeting on the 16th to discuss the master plan.

- d. Faith Group Support - Randy stated the group meets the last Tuesday of the month praying for needs they know about. The next meeting is at the Video Café at 7:00 pm.
 - e. Other - Elkhorn Foundation grants due the May 13 with hopeful announcement of recipients by the end of May. Cory K. discussed the series of meetings taking place in Whitehall, Boulder, and Clancy on expansion of the jail to put in 20 new beds. Leonard W. followed up by stating it will go on the Commissioner agenda in a couple weeks and subsequently the November ballot.
7. Public Input – Terry M. mentioned the fair is scheduled August 25-28. Leonard W. added an update on Highway 69 construction. The light at the beginning of town will be moved to other side of Whitetail approach next week. Projection is to have it paved by September.
 8. Cory K. moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Sally at 8:50 a.m. Next meeting will be June 2 at 8 a.m. at the Boulder City Hall.