

**Boulder Transition Advisory Committee (BTAC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, November 5, 2015**

BTAC regular meeting was held at the Boulder City Hall on 11/5/15 at 8:05 am. Commissioner Cory Kirsch opened the meeting by welcoming the attendee's. There were 22 people in attendance. An email directory continues to be developed and participants were encouraged to check their addresses. October's special meeting minutes were reviewed and motion made and seconded to approve with one correction. Motion passed.

1. Commissioner Cory Kirsch reviewed participation in the MDC Advisory meeting on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Tim Norbeck shared there was a good turnout from the community and that the Advisory group listened intently to the ideas brought forth by BTAC. Tim N. was thanked for being the committee spokesperson at the MDC Transition meeting. Concerns about maintaining a single voice for the community were raised and a suggestion was made to get more word out in the community about the function of BTAC and encourage residents to bring their thoughts to these meetings. It was agreed the focus of the group in regards to MDC should be to keep the facility serving Montana in the function it has been used for in the past. Commissioner Mullen shared that there is currently a restriction on the facility that it can only be used for mental/developmental disability services. He also shared the State does not currently have a plan for the facility, and that the BTAC has an opportunity to play an integral role in the decision process.
2. The group discussed current reutilization options and agreed more research needed to be done to determine what the possibilities of a new function might be. Discussion about possible deed restrictions on the property occurred. It was discussed the MDC Transition Committee will probably need assistance with repurposing of facilities and BTAC can assist. Dan Villa, Chair of the MDC Committee, indicated he was listening to the discussions to get ideas.
3. Commissioner Wortman shared with the group that Montana Department of Transportation has hired someone to do a feasibility study regarding putting in the I-15 rest area at the Boulder exchange. Overall the group was very excited about this and is looking forward to the opportunities it could give Boulder for developing across the freeway.
4. Tom H. updated the group on some of the work underway in Boulder by Jefferson Local Development Corporation and the County. The South Campus is getting ready to do a feasibility study on renovating and or expanding the Building 6 that could increase the workforce. . A Pipestone Trail study is underway to determine how the area is currently being used, and to collect data that can be used to propose future use and management of the area to generate tourism in Boulder. Leonard W. gave the group some background on the idea to open the area up for more multiple use. Tom H. also said there is work being done on a fiber link through the county that could break near Boulder and eventually provide high speed internet to the area.
5. The group looked at its long term vision for the community, noting there is a lot of options for Boulder beyond being a state care facility community. The group agreed to start looking at a 3 to 5 year plan that includes more than just preparing for the MDC Closure. Some of the ideas and current projects included expanding the fairgrounds with a bike shelter for touring groups. The group agreed a master plan and resources were necessary and should be part of future discussions.
6. Tom H. led the group in a S.W.O.T. analysis. The group pinpointed the Boulder areas Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. The Exercise was very productive, with the overall findings that Boulder has a lot more strengths and opportunities than weaknesses and threats. The data will be compiled in a separate report and made available at the next meeting.
7. Tom H. shared some of the Boulder area demographics with the group. The group agreed the data was very insightful and agreed the information should be kept in mind when looking toward the future of the community.

The meeting was very productive and positive. It adjourned at 9:30 a.m. The next meeting date was set for Thursday, December 3, 8:00 am at Boulder City Hall.