

Boulder Transition Advisory Committee (BTAC)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 4, 2016

1. BTAC regular meeting was held at the Boulder City Hall on 2/4/16. BTAC Chair, Drew Dawson welcomed everyone at 8:01 a.m. Introductions were made by the 17 in attendance.
2. January minutes corrections to change the date from 2015 to 2016. Minutes approved by Terry and second by Bob. Motion carried.
3. Bob M. updated everyone on the **MDC Transition Committee meeting** which took place on January 28th. The hope is for BTAC to make recommendations to the Transition Committee which is charged under Senate Bill 411 to make recommendations about the closure of MDC by June 2017, to look for ideas to repurpose the MDC property and other tasks. It was suggested that the BTAC minutes be sent to legislative candidates.
4. Tom H. discussed **Boulder study circles**. A hand-out was provided describing the sessions with a tentative timeline. The group intent will be to get more folks incorporated into the vision and direction for the Boulder Community. The County Commissioners approved \$10,000 for the project and it is hopeful a contribution will come from the City of Boulder. Drew D. emphasized that the Study Circles will look at the future of Boulder and engage community members and elected officials towards a collective vision for the community. The study circles will become a true representation of the community. Boulder is going to change, so how does it change to help ensure Boulder can be a healthy vibrant and economically stable community? Further discussion on advertising and getting student representation was discussed.
5. **Boulder Actions Update** included activities currently underway that promote future stability of Boulder and its economy. Drew D. pointed out that patience, money, an interest in economic development, sustainability, and infrastructure are essential to the viability of the community. Leonard W. discussed recreational trails with BLM and Forest Service and there is a rest area feasibility study in the works. Terry M. added - BART – Boulder Area Recreation Trail – has discussed a walking trail around the fairgrounds and a need for outdoor recreation closer to town. Tom H. discussed the great progress in getting high speed (100 MB) Internet via fiberoptic cable to Whitehall and making it a “gigabyte community”. This infrastructure bodes well for extending this capability to Boulder.
6. Tim N. provided an update on the **Boulder Schools** including the Graduation Matters program, publicity from local news on signing of athletes, Drama Club, Facebook, and Twitter. Tim N. said there is a lot of positive energy. Barb R. added that there will be a Super Bowl party at the school. Other activities included gardening, food backpack, and a community dance on Tuesday night.
7. **Mayor Craft** updated the group on the MOU between the City of Boulder and the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services that was signed at the MDC Transition Advisory Council meeting on January 28th. The DPHHS will pay the City for MDC water/sewer rate for the next five years.
8. Chamber of Commerce–No report.
9. Duane W. discussed the **faith support group** which is meeting on the last Thursday of each month to discuss community visioning and leadership. The location is at the Assembly of God Church.
10. Drew D. presented four (4) suggested **BTAC purposes**, which were outlined on the 2.4.16 agenda which, in addition to reporting on the excellent community activities that are underway, will focus BTAC activities on providing input to the Montana Transition Advisory Council on the impact of MDC closure on clients, employees and Boulder businesses. The BTAC will also look at the opportunities to enhance Boulder’s future. There was BTAC support for the suggested purposes. It was suggested that we begin to assess, through a quantitative analysis, the impact of MDC closure and prepare a Boulder Impact Statement including specific facts and figures including clients, the community and the employees. This will be useful in communicating with our elected

and other officials. The County Commissioners have written a letter requesting the Boulder impacts outlined in statute for facility closure but have received no response. The Study Circles project is totally complementary with these purposes.

11. The BTAC was very appreciative of Mr. Villa's attendance at the BTAC meetings when possible, but was concerned about the absence of representation from and communications with MDC... the community's largest employer. Even though the MDC representative might not be able to comment on the BTAC proceedings, the importance of their presence and sharing of information was stressed. Drew will contact Mr. Richard Opper to request high level DPHHS/MDC representation on BTAC.
12. The BTAC also recognized that MDC employees are not consistently represented on the BTAC. Terry Minow will attempt to obtain employee representation.
13. Meeting adjourned at 9:13.