

**MINUTES-SPECIAL MEETING
BOONE TOWN COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 17, 2010**

A Special Meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 6:06 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 1500 Blowing Rock Road. Mayor Loretta Clawson presided. Council members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Lynne Mason, Stephen Phillips, Jamie Leigh, Andy Ball, and Rennie Brantz. Town staff in attendance were Town Manager Greg Young, Deputy Clerk Kim Brown, and Finance Director Amy Davis. Town Attorney Sam Furgiuele was also in attendance.

Mayor Clawson invited Janet Pepin to begin the presentation of the MSD Special Task Force recommendations. Prior to making the presentation, Ms. Pepin recognized the members of the task force present: Jill Reeves, Nancy Rivenbark, Andy Stallings, Cherry Johnson, and Marsha Walpole.

PRESENTATION OF MUNICIPAL SERVICE DISTRICT SPECIAL TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Janet Pepin, who facilitated the meetings of the MSD Special Task Force, presented a power-point containing a brief description of the process used by the task force, as well as the recommendations offered by the task force. **(A copy of the power-point presentation is permanently on file in the Clerk's Office.)**

PUBLIC HEARING ON MSD SPECIAL TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Mayor Clawson opened a public hearing at 6:27 to hear public comment on the recommendations of the MSD Special Task Force.

The first speaker was Sheri Moretz, a member of the Downtown Boone Development Association (DBDA) Board of Directors. She stressed that she was not speaking on behalf of the DBDA Board. Ms. Moretz urged the Council to utilize the experience of the current DBDA Board of Directors. She indicated that the Council can make changes to the DBDA by-laws to achieve the desired results. She also stated that she feels the public will not be as involved if the process is administered by the municipality.

Dempsey Wilcox, current president of the DBDA Board of Directors, presented letters from Jason Berry and the proprietors of The Lucky Penny, who could not be in attendance. He also stated that he was not speaking on behalf of the DBDA Board. Mr. Wilcox stated that although he was pleased with the recommendations of the task force, he feels much knowledge and experience will be lost by the creation of a new non-profit board. He agreed that the Council could modify the DBDA by-laws to incorporate the changes it desires to obtain.

Abbie Crumrine of 118 Navajo Trail stated that she feels the DBDA has helped to create a sense of community, supported local businesses, and offers many other worthwhile services. She stated that the DBDA is an effective program and urged the Council to keep it.

Jean Bohrman, a member of the DBDA and a downtown business owner, stated that she feels it will be counterproductive to disband the current DBDA Board. She urged the Council to keep the existing organization and to make changes through revisions to the DBDA by-laws.

Bob Meier, also a member of the DBDA and a downtown business owner, expressed appreciation for the efforts of the task force. He asked the Council not to waste effort in "reinventing the wheel." He also urged the Council to continue to solicit the involvement of stakeholders.

Andy Stallings, a downtown property owner and member of the MSD Special Task Force, voiced his appreciation at being included in the process; however, he stated that he did not support the final recommendations but felt the process was fair. He suggested that the Council continue to utilize the DBDA. Mr. Stallings stated that the salary of the administrative personnel should come from the Town's general fund, not MSD tax funds, and urged the continuation of the Main Street Program.

Benji Burrell, who recently relocated to Boone, stated that he wants to see such downtown activities as the “Art Crawl” and “Music at the Jones House” to continue.

Jamie Goodman, an employee of a downtown business, stated that she was involved in the creation of the “Art Crawl” event and that the DBDA took over the administration of the event when the initial efforts encountered financial difficulty. She advocated the provision of resources by the Town so that the DBDA can accomplish its set goals.

John Cooper, a downtown business/property owner, outlined the history of the DBDA. He described the creation of a “downtown merchant’s association” as a grass-roots effort to save a dying downtown after the loss of several major businesses. Mr. Cooper pointed out the efforts of the group in creating additional parking which has always been at a premium in the downtown area. Mr. Cooper stated that the current make-up of the DBDA Board of Directors is very diverse offering an array of experience and input. He challenged the Council to create a more diverse board than what currently exists on the DBDA Board. Furthermore, Mr. Cooper cautioned the Council against focusing on a single program as an example such as the process employed by the City of Lenoir.

Roger Wright, a downtown property owner, stated that he was a member of the DBDA Board for a number of years. He applauded the efforts of Mary Baker, the current administrator of the DBDA, by citing that she often works more than the standard “40 hours per week” including working holidays.

With no other comment offered, Mayor Clawson closed the public hearing and adjourned the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Deputy Clerk

Mayor