

Vail Chamber and Business Association
MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SPONSORED BY *Blue Moose Pizza*
Tuesday, June 10, 2008
Location: Town of Vail Council Chambers

Board Members in Attendance: Craig Cohn, Lourdes Ferzacca, Mike Glass (late), Susie Tjossem, Ron Weinstein, Paul Wible (late)

Board Members Absent: Steve Rosenthal

The meeting was called to order at 8:16 a.m.

This meeting was sponsored by Blue Moose Pizza. If your business would like to sponsor a membership meeting, please call us at 477.0075. **Our next meeting will be Tuesday, July 8, 2008.**

Town of Vail Update: Stan Zemler (8:17 – 8:37 a.m.)

Mr. Zemler gave a Town of Vail update. He stated that according to last year's sales tax, Town of Vail businesses exceeded expectations and had a good winter. Mr. Zemler went on to give updates on a couple of town projects. The North Day Lot project is going through the process of figuring out the numbers on how to finance the project, as well as refining a design. Mr. Zemler also addressed the future of Timber Ridge. The Town of Vail has formed a seven person committee for the Timber Ridge project, which has been "collapsing under its own weight." This committee's hope is to create a much clearer direction the next time the project moves toward the RFP process. Through studies of existing utilities and maximum acceptable occupancy, the committee will hopefully create the communication vital to finalizing a product that will work for the Vail community. The next project discussed was the Chamonix Project. This project is utilizing a committee like Timber Ridge which will focus on the project's goals, which include an opportunity for more housing and a concept for a fire station. Finally, Mr. Zemler also spoke on the I-70 Collaborative Effort he has been involved with. The forum was directed under Governor Bill Ritter and has worked to provide a "consensus view" of what should happen on the I-70 corridor. By establishing a plan of action, this will allow for the next step in the process to take place.

Guest Speaker: Dan Gibbs, State Senator (8:38 – 9:35 a.m.)

Senator Gibbs began by explaining that now he is no longer the state representative for Eagle County. Last October he put his name in the hat for a vacancy in the state senate and through a vacancy committee, was elected. This also marks a move from Congress to the Senate and his territory includes Summit County and Clear Creek. For Eagle County residents, the House Representative is Christine Scanlon and the State Senator is Jack Taylor. Senator Gibbs sits on many committees including Transportation, Judiciary, and Gaming commissions, to name a few. Mr. Gibbs discussed the legislative process at the capital in Denver. Legislative sessions occur for 120 days out of the year between January and May. The Governor can elect to increase that amount, though it is rare. The sessions include a morning session which is usually preceded by committee meetings. Legislative sessions begin around nine or ten in the morning and will last until noon. The afternoon comprises of more committee meetings. Each state senator has the opportunity to introduce as many as 5 bills. Senator Gibbs' bills have included actions on childhood nutrition, credit card fraud and identity theft, and his main concern, forest health, which he has a first hand look as a part time fireman. He went into detail about bills that he has proposed. House Bill 1130 focused on financing fire mitigation. House Bill 1110 gives a tax break for anyone who needs to treat forest around their home. House Bill 1269 gives tax incentives for beetle killed products and affords better opportunities for wood.

Lastly, Senator Gibbs elaborated on the I-70 corridor. He expressed displeasure in the two I-70 toll booth bills and pointed that one of the main problems was that these bills did not state how the money collect from the toll booths would be spent. His belief is that it is essential for I-70 to remain a free roadway. I-70 is a "vital artery" and according to Colorado statute you cannot toll an existing roadway.

Guest Speaker: George Ruther, Town of Vail Master Plan Update (9:38 – 10:30 a.m.)

Mr. Ruther spoke at length about the Vail Village Master Plan Update, which is a plan of development for the Vail Village. In short the document is a "guide for future redevelopment." The document was created in 1990 and every 3 years, it is to be updated and reviewed to propose any changes or amendments. The document is meant to keep the Vail Village's unique character, as it differs from even the LionsHead area. Mr. Ruther has spent time meeting with various Vail groups and committees to receive public input, sharing the information with as many people as possible. After collecting as much public input as possible, Mr. Ruther will then recommend to the Vail Town Council any updates or amendments to the document.

Raffle (10:31 a.m.)

Matthew Drummet from the Mountain Haus won the raffle and received a \$50 Gift Certificate to Blue Moose Pizza.

Minutes taken and submitted by: Matt Greene, June 10, 2008