

CITY OF
BENSON MINNESOTA
CITIZENS ADVISORY PANEL

Minutes
Citizens Advisory Panel
February 26, 2002

Members present: Bruce Holgate, Barry Jungwirth, Brian McNeill, Carolyn Lee, and Leroy Noreen
Members absent: Renee Hayden, Jan Lundebrek, Lynette Hofland, Allan Saunders, Ray Millett, Steve Verhelst, and Bill Lee
Also present: Fibrominn: Anne Donato and Greg Langmo,
City of Benson: City Manager Rob Wolfington and Marge Scheffler
Visitors: Steve Claussen

Approve minutes from previous meeting

It was moved by Noreen, seconded by C. Lee and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2002 CAP meeting.

Permit Status

Water Appropriation Permit - Rob Wolfington briefed the Board on the water appropriations permit. He informed them that the well tests will be conducted for a shorter period of time than the initial 7-day test.

Airport - Rob Wolfington informed the members that he and the Mayor had met with the Office of Aeronautics and a number of legislators to discuss the FAA determination of the Fibrominn stack. The FAA has given the City 60 days to complete a study to address whether the stack would be identified as an air hazard.

Air Permit – Rob Wolfington informed the members that the draft permit language hasn't gone to the Commissioner yet. He feels that the draft permit is still a couple of weeks out.

Fibrowatt/Fibrominn Web Site and CAP Web Site

Anne Donato gave a demonstration of the Fibrowatt, Fibrominn and CAP web sites. She distributed a list of frequently asked questions and answers that are to be included on the CAP web site.

Update on the Benson Home Show

Anne Donato informed the members that the Home Show was well attended and both she and Greg Langmo felt it went well. The most frequently asked questions were: 1) when are you going to start construction and 2) what about employment?

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Update on Visitors' Center

Anne Donato informed the members that a proposal has been submitted to their Board and they hope to receive a response soon. Their plan is to operate their office out of the west half of the Johnson building (1204 Atlantic Avenue) in lieu of a site office during construction. Once construction is completed, they plan to operate the office as a visitor center with the Chamber office providing support staff. The Johnson building could be ready as early as May 1st.

Upcoming Events

The members were informed that the group from Manitoba will stay overnight at the Country Inn and Suites on March 19. There should be some participation by the CAP group but the details have not been finalized yet.

Swift County Township Annual Meeting on March 8.

Morris Renewable Energy Workshop on March 12.

Midwest Poultry Convention on March 20-21.

Next meeting date and agenda items for next meeting

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, March 21, at 6:30 p.m. Carl Strickler is expected to be in Benson to talk about financial closure and the final phase of the project. It was mentioned that possibly Rupert Fraser may also be in attendance.

Steve Claussen attended the meeting and asked a number of questions regarding the Fibrominn project. The questions related were made as a concerned citizen and business leader expressing interest in the contractual arrangements that will help ensure that Fibrominn is successful in the long term. Steve was also and an interested in emissions controls. The questions were answered sufficiently by Anne Donato, Greg Langmo and Rob Wolfington.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.