

Palouse Scenic Byway Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 27, 2008 at 6:00pm in Colfax

1. Introductions

2. Byway Grant Updates

- A. Gateway Signs** – Tim met with the Whitman County Planning Department. No SEPA is required for the Gateways, however a NEPA is required. The NEPA paperwork was completed and sent out last week. No word on any additional requirements has been received.

3. Community Meetings

- A. Uniontown** – The Dahmen Barn Evaluation Project with the architects is in its final stage. Tim brought copies of the architect's document on the Barn for Byway members to view. The architect met with Uniontown 3-4 times on this project.
- B. Oakesdale** – Oakesdale has met with the architects 2 times. They are waiting to hear on a date for the next meeting. The architects are working on a final draft of the project and will meet in Oakesdale to present their material.
- C. Next Communities** - The next communities to focus on have not been identified yet. Colfax and Rosalia were both interested but have not confirmed if they are ready to start the process. Rosalia representatives (Pat, Pete and Ron) noted they were ready to begin. Tim will contact the architect and set up a meeting date. The meetings can be open to the public. The group/people involved need to be able to make decisions and keep the project moving forward.

4. Community Updates

A. Historical Society

- Working on creating a tour, based on the 1858-2008 Steptoe Campaign.
- Working on the Trinity Chapel Roof in Palouse, and the Perkins House in Colfax.

B. Uniontown

- Dahmen Barn's elevator is physically in, but not operational. The hayloft opening will be enclosed with glass and the door will be redesigned to slide up/down.
- Solar panels were installed on the Barn's sign.
- The upstairs of the bank building is being turned into apartments, downstairs a food development firm will be going in.
- A lease has been signed for the Café for an herbal production facility to go in.
- Eleanor's is open and still for sale.

C. Rosalia

- Battle Days will be the 1st weekend in June; it is the 125th anniversary of the Indian war.
- Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Lion's Club on March 22nd
- Half of the Red Brick was converted into the Pittman Town and Country Flower Shop.
- Motorcycle Rally planned for July 18th with a new promoter.
- Pat's Books has Jean Flanagan signing books on May 15th from 2pm-4pm

D. Oakesdale

- Fighting snow with all available pieces of equipment.
- Restaurant open on a month-to-month basis.
- Council is looking to obtain a 501C3 status to build an Assisted Living Center.

E. Pullman

- Antique Mall to reopen in the space that Ken Vogel occupied.

- A Mongolian restaurant to open in the vacant Burger King building.

F. Palouse

- Addition project is wrapping up.
- Developers interested in creating a pocket community with affordable housing.
- Whitman Street is to be paved.
- The City made an offer to purchase the mobile home park and restore it to a natural state.
- Egg Hunt and St. Patrick's Day parade are planned.
- The Chamber, America West Bank and a local business are working to bring in an ATM.
- Business space is becoming hard to find.
- The tavern was purchased and the upstairs will be turned into apartments and office space.

G. Colfax

- Zips moving into the Wells' Café building.
- Wells' Café is looking for a space to relocate.
- Pearson Fence opened up an office in the old grain elevator.
- Brown's construction/split rail fencing/LT Carpet Care opened up an office downtown.
- Mill Street project looks like it will take place thanks to help from the State.

H. Whitman County

- The Bill Chipman Palouse Trail had several five-foot drifts across the pathway so equipment was rented and the snow was removed. Normally the Trail is not plowed.

5. Other Items

A. Matching Dollars – Obtaining the match for our grant will be a challenge. When the grant was initially submitted, the full amount of project, including the match, was submitted. As a result, Tim had to renegotiate the architect's rate at a lower amount. Public Works helped with the map development for the architects, which also saved money on the grant. The Whitman County Hotel Motel Tax Committee contributed \$5,000 to be used as grant match. Any community interested in providing match dollars should contact Tim.

B. Grant Approval – Entities authorized to sign off on Federal Grants in our county is the Whitman County Public Works Director and City of Pullman Engineer. The Washington State Department of Transportation may be able to sign. If communities apply for a federal byway grant they will need to designate someone to manage the grant. There is lots of paperwork involved in the grant and the Parks Department does not have the ability to manage any more grants. Communities interested in applying for the federal byway grant may be more successful if applying as a group. Communities can also apply for non-federal grants, which do not require a federally authorized signature. Don Hendricks with WSDOT will be invited to attend the next byway meeting to answer questions surrounding authorized signatures. The Public Works Director needs to be contacted to see what support he and his department are able to provide.

C. Property Acquisitions – In order to utilize federal funds to improve property, the property acquisitions had to have followed federal guidelines. Tim brought up this subject so that communities keep this in mind when working with the architects during the site selection process. At this time the parks department is going through this process for a different federal grant received.

6. Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, April 23, 2008 in Colfax at the Public Service Building, Kitchen.

With no further business to discuss the meeting concluded at 7:00pm. -Janel