MEETING
PIKEVILLE/PIKE COUNTY/ELKHORN CITY
JOINT PLANNING COMMISSION
OCTOBER 14, 2008

ATTENDING: Phenis Potter, Steven Ruth, Bill Blackburn, John Elliott and Mark Sanders.

BILL BLACKBURN:

I'd like to welcome everyone here this evening. This should be a short one. I'll start with the approval of the minutes from the last meeting, you've got those in front of you. Clerk, call the role, if you will.

JUDY COLEMAN:

Mark Sanders?

MARK SANDERS:

Here.

JUDY COLEMAN:

John Elliott?

JOHN ELLIOTT:

Here.

JUDY COLEMAN:

Steven Ruth?

STEVEN RUTH:

Here.

JUDY COLEMAN:

Phenis Potter?

PHENIS POTTER:

Here.

JUDY COLEMAN:

Bill Blackburn?

BILL BLACKBURN:

Here. You've got the minutes before you. Is there any question or comments about the minutes as you've received them?

JOHN ELLIOTT:

Motion to approve the minutes as they are.

PHENIS POTTER:

Just appreciate this young lady writing all those minutes and getting them out to us.

BILL BLACKBURN:

Absolutely. Judy and Rebecca both are getting them in the mail to us and getting the thing in the paper and all that. Motion is made by John. Did you second it, Phenis?

PHENIS POTTER:

I'll second it.

BILL BLACKBURN:

Motion is made and seconded to approve the minutes as printed. No objection. They'll just stand approved as printed. You all received the letter from Rusty Davis and he said we're alright in the action that we took, in his opinion, and that took care of that. Any questions or comments on that?

PHENIS POTTER:

If they're satisfied with it, we are.

BILL BLACKBURN:

One thing on those, that we passed recently, I mean, you all know this, of course it's gonna be some time, I think, before anything is done with that, or not. But they had on there the, I think, planned development multi-use, on most of that we looked at. Usually, what's happened in the past, is the city, on

anything they're developing, they usually get consultants and planning engineers and so forth and they come in and do surveys and all that. It's done very professionally and I'm sure that's one of our jobs, I think, is to help in that planning and how things are; But, I think we'd all agree that professional help is certainly called for in that respect and that's usually what they do. They come in and see what percentage of it needs to go residential, what percentage commercial, what percentage public and so forth and I'm sure that will come before us at a later date. The treasurer's report, Rick is not here this evening. Just a couple of administrative matters, we are glad to have Steve Ruth with us this evening from Elkhorn. He's new to the Planning Commission and we're certainly glad.

STEVE RUTH:

Thank you, appreciate it.

BILL BLACKBURN:

You want to tell us a little bit about yourself?

STEVE RUTH:

Basically, raised in Elkhorn City, been back in Elkhorn City since 1994, moved back to the area and then

graduated from, grew up there, and graduated from the high school. I've been a serving on the City Council during that time. Currently, I'm the Adventure Tourism/White Water Liaison for the city, which sounds grand but, uh, doesn't come with a lot of benefits, but it's a good thing for me to be doing. That's where I come from, at this point. Just very engaged in local activities there. I have written several grants in the last couple of years for the city that we're acting upon now, some pretty major projects. I think that's why the mayor asked me to step in at this time.

BILL BLACKBURN:

Great. How was the turnout for this year for the—

STEVE RUTH:

Well, we're doing, we're looking pretty good. This past weekend was an amazing turnout. Actually, we greatly underestimated. We do a, we try to do something called a bit of appreciation weekend every year where we provide some free food. We build them bonfires and some freebies, that kind of thing. We got ourselves a 270 pound pig to roast up and that sucker was gone in two hours and we had to turn people away. Well, we didn't

actually turn them away. We were out of food, it was just amazing how many people were there. We had, probably, at least 250 White Water folks gathered around. So good crowds come in and this weather didn't hurt.

BILL BLACKBURN:

A young man in my church that goes to Emory and Henry, he's part of a kayaking team there and they came up, I believe, last, or weekend before this past weekend. But he was telling me that what they classify rapids up there are known all over the world. People come from...

STEVE RUTH:

It is very true, I mean, I've met folks from, uh, I've met folks from Japan, I've met folks from Russia, I've met folks from New Zealand and Australia. Right there, you know, right in my backyard. So, it's an amazing thing, they do, they truly do come from all over the world. It's a place that, you know, locally it's not that well known, but in the white water world it's one of the gems. I mean, it's certainly one of the gems.

BILL BLACKBURN:

He said that he was visiting over in New Zealand,

in fact, and a fellow asked him when he was over in New Zealand, said, "Have you ever heard of a place called Elkhorn City?"

STEVE RUTH:

It's true.

BILL BLACKBURN:

He was telling him that he had been over here to ride the, that number, what, five, the five rapids, I think there's three sections?

STEVE RUTH:

Yes, there are three sections, there's an upper section, there's a middle section that is a canyon, the gorge there, and that's where the hard stuff is, that's where all the real excitement is.

BILL BLACKBURN:

That's the highest, isn't it?

STEVE RUTH:

Oh, yeah, absolutely, it's a classified river. It's still the most difficult commercially rafted river in the country, in the United States. There's not that much of the commercial rafting happening in that section anymore. But this, there were two

companies in there this weekend taking paid trips down. But it's high end, it's not for the squeamish and not for the uninitiated, it's pretty scary, as far as rafting. I kayak through it. I don't, I'm in there too, but I wouldn't get on a raft in there for anything. I mean, you can't stay in a raft, you know.

BILL BLACKBURN:

We're glad to have tourism, that's great.

STEVE RUTH:

It's a good thing.

BILL BLACKBURN:

We had one other item, I believe, that John will address, that we tabled from the last meeting.

JOHN ELLIOTT:

One question on that. We're talking about giving the city back some money to reimburse for services that we've received by employees not taking extra time out. Did we want to address that, to give, pay the city -- What did we decide? To reimburse?

BILL BLACKBURN:

The City.

JOHN ELLIOTT:

Did we decide on 14?

BILL BLACKBURN:

We said 1,000; whatever the will of the body is.

JOHN ELLIOTT:

We had discussed about paying the city back for the time spent here, for their employee that doesn't get paid for the overtime, to help pay some extras for her. We've got to pay it to the city and then they can take it to the next direction, but we've got between 14, $15,000.00 and I make a motion that we would reimburse the city 1500 a year as long as we have funds to reimburse the expenses of having a representative here for us.

PHENIS POTTER:

I'll second that motion because I think they deserve it.

BILL BLACKBURN:

Alright, the motion is made and on the table. Any other discussion?

STEVE RUTH:

Can I have just a little more information on that?

They're working overtime, right, and basically, it's not, they're not—

JOHN ELLIOTT:

It's not just the time they spend up here with us. They've got to notify the press, getting these packets, of course, Judy, court reporter, does the transcribing, but then they have to get the information to us on meetings and stuff, and act, pretty much, as our liaison, like us having an office manager. It comes into overtime, you know, when they're here with us. Although this is a quick meeting, we can have meetings that go, you know, an hour or two. We just felt like, we really don't have a lot of income, we don't have a lot of outpouring, but what some of it, these fees that they pay to come into to get tower permits and those kind of things. We kind of built up a little account and we thought that would be one way to help the city cover...

STEVE RUTH:

We've got it to do that?

JOHN ELLIOTT:

Well, as I said in motion, too, it's as long as we have that kind of money in place.

BILL BLACKBURN:

Any other discussion? If not, clerk, call the role.

JUDY COLEMAN:

Mark Sanders?

MARK SANDERS:

Yes.

JUDY COLEMAN:

John Elliott?

JOHN ELLIOTT:

Yes.

JUDY COLEMAN:

Steven Ruth?

STEVEN RUTH:

Yes.

JUDY COLEMAN:

Phenis Potter?

PHENIS POTTER:

Yes.

JUDY COLEMAN:

Bill Blackburn?

BILL BLACKBURN:

Abstain. Any other administrative matters or matters that need to come before us? I want to appreciate Rebecca and the good job she does. Jimmy Kiser did not get a packet, he may have just got lost over there, but it's 146 Main Street, Flood Plain Coordinator, Jimmy Kiser, Flood Plain Coordinator, 146 Main Street, I guess that's the courthouse, it would be, Pikeville, Kentucky. Did you get the packet?

STEVE RUTH:

No, I did not get a packet. Actually, Tim Belcher had parts of a packet. It's here with me today.

BILL BLACKBURN:

Okay. Steve Ruth, and your address, Steve?

STEVE RUTH:

P.O. Box 516, Elkhorn, 41522.

JOHN ELLIOTT:

These forms you sent out, too, Rebecca, can we just give them to you?

REBECCA HAMILTON:

Yes.

BILL BLACKBURN:

If you do have those forms, just complete them there and hand to her and appreciate her taking care of that. What Rebecca does, she does prepare these packets and mails them out to us. She's really the go to person that when I get a question about the towers or the county or city planning, I refer it to her and that's usually where the ball starts and she tells them that, you know, they'll need to pay their fees to get on the agenda for the next meeting and so forth. I don't know if you all saw that in the paper or not, but usually these meetings are in the paper and the agenda is in the paper and that gives everybody the information about community plans that are coming up and so forth. We appreciate her doing all that. Any other business to come before us? Do you like short meetings? Is there a motion to adjourn?

PHENIS POTTER:

I motion we adjourn.

BILL BLACKBURN:

Motion made. All in favor, stand and we'll stand adjourned.