

**2012 Sky Valley Planning & Economic Development Comm. (PEDC)  
Timeshare Conference Room  
April 24th, 2012**

**MINUTES**

**Present: Ray Becker, Linda Durrence, Barbara Kobacker, Al Lee, Frank Norton, David Spears and Neil Howard, Chairman.**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Agenda was adopted, after adding the reading of PEDC Minutes of April 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Chairman's Remarks:** Neil Howard thanked all who submitted a listing of Sky Valley's benefits and what they feel is needed to attract future growth to our City. The purpose of our committee is to assist the City of Sky Valley to stabilize and grow. Subcommittees will be formed to study conditions where City services, or City involvement, would improve growth potential. Recommendations resulting from such study will be presented to the city council for consideration. A group of private property owners has formed to purchase the golf course, the unfinished clubhouse and other properties presently held by BB&T Bank. Neil expressed support for this effort, and asked members of this "Founders" group in attendance, for an update.

Frank Norton and David Spears stated that an offer was made by the group, and verbally accepted by the bank. A letter will be sent by the group within a week explaining this new Corporation to all, and what can be done to support this effort. The group desires to control the golf course and the amenities, and make phased improvements as funding permits. Both audience and members applauded this effort.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Neil provided a summary of Sky Valley's benefits and needs as provided by Committee members and others interested parties. Fourteen persons participated. The more significant issues mentioned are as follows:

### **Sky Valley's Benefits:**

- 1. Weather:** Having four seasons with enjoyable summers, moderate winters and good air quality.
- 2. Scenic Mountain Beauty:** Nearby waterfalls, parks and lakes; beautiful sunsets and mountain vistas.
- 3. Quality of Life:** Safe, small town atmosphere, relaxed life style, active summer social season, no congestion, open green space, low crime rate.
- 4. Community:** Caring and helpful neighbors, a Chapel for all faiths, a Pavilion for social gatherings, a quality golf course and a swimming, tennis and fitness center, reasonable home prices with close proximity to Atlanta, Asheville, Greenville and Knoxville.
- 5. City Services:** Trained, responsive, helpful and effective police force, strong planning, zoning and ordinance structure, quality water system, reliable garbage and snow removal services.

### **Sky Valley's Needs:**

- 1. Improved Road Surfaces:** The City recently increased the budgeted expenditure for road resurfacing for 2012.
- 2. Waste Water Management:** A local treatment facility and/or access to sewer connection on the valley floor is essential for attracting future development.
- 3. Control and stability of the golf course, pavilion and amenities:** Need to support and encourage a long term committed purchaser.
- 4. Removal of the old lodge:** Increase pressure on Mr. Merrill to demolish the abandoned structure prior to condemnation. Continue the City's beautification efforts in other areas.
- 5. Improved telecommunications and Wi-Fi Access:.** This is essential to bringing a younger population to Sky Valley.
- 6. Marketing:** The Georgia Mountain Regional Development Commission was identified as a source for the city to utilize in planning and obtaining such grants. The University of Georgia was mentioned as another possible marketing resource. Nancy Plate, a local person with marketing expertise, has been recommended as a source for our initial planning. Chairman Howard will meet with Ms. Plate prior to our next meeting to explore interest.

The PEDC will soon establish sub-committees to research and find possible solutions to the above and other City needs.

Chairman Howard encouraged all attendees to invite their neighbors and friends to attend and participate in the PEDC meetings to increase the Committee's effectiveness. The minutes of our meetings will be posted on the Sky Valley website for all concerned. Timeshares management will be invited to attend future PEDC meetings as their involvement is also vital to our efforts.

Next meeting will be May 15th at 2 PM in the Chapel of Sky Valley Fellowship Hall. The City Council will also meet that morning at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Kobacker, Secretary