

Envision Cameron

Meeting Notes

June 20, 2022

10 am MST

1. Call to Order

Kelsey Lee called the meeting to order at 10:10 am. Attendees included Kelsey Lee, Eileen Tohonnice, Mae Franklin, Rhonda Harvey, Chris McKibben, Lula Neztosie, Bobby Robbins, Robert K. Black, Jr., Patsy Yazzie, Denise McClellan, Waylon Honga, Bailey Anderson and Brian Cole.

2. Administrative Details and Reports—Tolani Lake Enterprises/USDA Rural Development

Aletha Johnson was not able to attend, but Kelsey Lee, Aletha Johnson, Mae Franklin, and Native Community Builders were able to meet with the new intern and showed her around Cameron. During that meeting Kelsey Lee said that Aletha noted that we need to refocus our placemaking project since she has not heard from USDA RD on the old mill building.

Brian asked a clarifying question related to the focus on the old mill building. The ensuing discussion concluded that there is consensus that Swaback should proceed with its work on the old mill building. The conclusion from USDA Rural Development related to the eligibility of use of funding for the Placemaking Advisors given a determination that the activity was site analysis rather than placemaking planning.

Chris also expressed that Swaback has made progress and they are still moving forward. He then asked if there was a broader listing of what the placemaking advisor could do. He stated that they could use some help in tracking down mapping and other tasks that would be approved for a “placemaking advisor.”

Chris explained that what Chuck Howe was proposing was checking into the status of the site as well as other technical components. The group talked about taking out the specific components and going with the bigger picture that would be part of the project.

Brian suggested having a call with key people at USDA so that we can get permission and move on with the placemaking advisors portion of the project.

Brian then talked about the Native Community Builders reporting and asked if anything needs to be reported. Waylon Honga noted that Bobby and Raymond met with TLE on the level of detail that needs to be reported to as they continue to do outreach. Native Community Builders is prepared to report that level of detail in the future.

3. Work Session on Current/Urgent Topics

a. Planning for July Community Gathering

Chris noted that they are currently working on the July meeting. They need the same setup as before, and it would be great to get more people at the meeting as this meeting will have more graphics and more ideas to get more people creatively involved.

Mae Franklin noted that there is difficulty getting people to attend to these meetings, and maybe we could get more attendance by putting some of Swaback’s graphics on the

flyer. She noted they can do outreach, but it is hard to get people to actually come to the event.

Chris noted that Swaback will strategize on what can be on the flyer. They can't be put anything on the flyer that isn't official without talking with community members first. Chris also noted that we could put in some more intriguing words to try and get people more interested.

Chris and Rhonda will pull together a few options and send out the graphics to everyone for review. Kelsey also noted that getting the PSA out might help too. Brian said he would get a draft of that sent out today.

b. Innovation Implementation Challenge Project Discussion

Kelsey stated that we are still working to see how we can use the Placemaking Advisor on this.

c. Report on Project Facebook Page

Kelsey Lee said that she made a post last week and we got a lot more feedback. She thinks people are still warming up to our grant and starting to realize that we are around. The comments on the post have changed from "what is this" to "we would like to see..." Kelsey noted that hopefully people will be more engaged and excited about this project.

Kelsey Lee explained that she would put together a list of what people want and send it out to the group so we know what the community wants from this grant.

4. Project Activity/Programming

a. Swaback

Chris reported that they have made a lot of progress for design ideas on the new community center and producing many graphics. He also noted that they have been talking about plants and the garden that could be incorporated into the community center in the future.

b. Building Communities

No additional report.

c. Native Community Builders

No report.

d. Cameron Chapter/CLUP

No report.

e. Placemaking Advisors

No report.

5. New Business

a. TLE Support Resolution

Kelsey Lee noted that she continued to coordinate with the Chapter CLUP and Chapter Officials related to the possibility of consideration of the resolution. She noted she hopes to bring this up at the next meeting.

b. Kelsey Lee Report to CLUP-C

Denise McClellan reported that she just had a meeting with Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation, and they brought up getting booths built at the round about and visitor center premises. Vendors then would be able to bring in tourists and keep people in the Cameron area longer. This would address how some booths are not maintained and make the space more of an eye sore. These new booths could help the area look better.

Eileen noted that it would help Cameron to improve the vendor booth. She noted that the communities pick places to sell their product according to convenience. She noted it would help the community to improve vendor spots all over Cameron.

c. Presentation by Waylon Honga

Waylon Honga then provided a presentation on economic development.

6. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting was scheduled for July 4, 2022 but since that is Independence Day, Bailey Anderson will reach out to the group to see what day might work instead.

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 am MST.

Envision Cameron Meetings

1st and 3rd Mondays at
10 am MST