

SPOKANE VALLEY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2010 MEETING MINUTES

Terry Lynch called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m. He introduced Mayor Dan Mork who was asked to speak on the vision for Millwood and the revitalization of Argonne Road and the downtown business area.

The Mayor began with a brief personal history of growing up in the Seattle area in a lighthouse. When he was three, the family moved to the Spokane area where all members of his family, except him, worked for the paper mill.

He was elected to the Millwood City Council eight years ago. The population of Millwood is 1670. The Council recently did a survey and received an 83% approval to go from a volunteer fire department to annexing to Spokane Valley Fire District #1. Issues of importance to the community are fire protection and police. Concerns have to do with crossing of Argonne due to the heavy volume of semi-truck traffic. They need to look at a number of traffic calming devices. Because of the traffic, the school district provides bus rides for all of the children. They are not changing the speed limit as slower traffic would have an impact all along the corridor. However the lights need to be synchronized. Other things they are looking at to improve the business district are signage and vegetation which would help to slow the traffic. It also is important to keep the identity of Millwood. The paper mill provides over half of the revenue received by the City. Millwood has a group that is working on projects for the City.

Other projects are creating a trail from Felts Field to Liberty Lake. They will need a piece of land from Spokane County to accomplish this. They want to hook up with the Centennial Trail on the north end. Also they are considering purchasing flashing signs that show the speed as a way to get people to slow down. It would cost \$1000-\$1500 a week for extra police traffic control. Looking at putting in "period lights" in the historic area over the next couple of years. Per capita, Millwood has the most coffee shops. He has been working on the relationship with the school district which has improved. They did some remodeling of city hall but retained the character of the 50's look.

The Mayor talked about the replacement of the Argonne bridge. During construction, everyone met weekly with the construction people and the citizens on the progress of the work. They were able to add sidewalks that were funded by state and federal dollars.

There followed a discussion on how the new TMDL rules would impact the City of Millwood especially as to the operation of Inland Empire Paper Co. There would be substantial fines if the new standards can't be met.

Terry Lynch thanked the Mayor for his presentation.

Dick Behm reported on the Spokane Valley City Council meeting and said the Council will take over the filming of the meetings on a month to month basis. He stated that Councilmember Grafos made a speech, asking for the Council to put forth a ballot measure on the one way traffic. Mike King spoke on the study he did on Sprague vacancies over a ten year period looking at how the one way impacted the businesses. Bill Gothmann said he wanted to do a graph of this for the Council showing the vacancy rates as he feels the zoning was not the reason for the vacancies as a majority of the Council feels. John Carroll will plan to do a presentation on how the one way has impacted from a revenue standpoint. Terry said if the Council does do a ballot issue of the one versus two way, the SVBA will need to do an information campaign. Dick Behm reported on a letter from the Halsted's on a zoning issue. He also stated that he had done the filing with the Secretary of State's office so the organization was good for another year!! And with that the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 a.m.