

Resorting To Madness- film and discussion

May 3, 2008

Miners Hall

150 est in attendance.

Introduction by K Moore

Moderator: Chris Pistner

Comments by attendees:

- New 7 Summits trail built- ranked as one of the best in North America, built in the watershed, but with all the new visitors where will he be able to take a crap?
- Perfect example of the problems that can be created once a lot of people come to use an area. She certainly applauded the people who were picking up dog doo on centennial.
- Golf course is going to be on 500 acres of deer and bear habitat. If they don't have that area, they will be in town and they will be getting shot.
- I'm a ski area dirtbag- its getting harder for lower income people like me to live here. Must strike balance between development and affordability.
- Encourage local people to buy the buildings before they all are purchased by out of town speculators.
- Make contact with some of the people interviewed in the movie- maybe they have advice/
- Form committees and working groups; have sign ups for special interests- research issues.
- OCP is being revised. Good opportunity to speak up about what you what to see in it.
- Contrast what happened in the movie to what is happening here: CRD is an all volunteer group standing up and finding the words to take on a big corporation with well paid people. We all lead busy lives but I want to thank the CRDgroup for their efforts.
- We are starting to see radical change. Extremely proud of the people who have stepped forward (asked CRD members to stand) How can we support their effort?
- Everyone bring 2 friends to hear the water presentation on Tuesday.
- 2 council members are here tonight- we greatly appreciate that. Are the rest going to have a private screening?
- Get some people to come here to speak (CRD has contacted author of Better not Bigger but fee is expensive)
- Have people sign up to join CRD as a show of support.
- Have councilors go on a study tour- visit other communities like Fernie, Kimberly, Invermere and see if that is what they want Rossland to become. Talk with people in those communities. Do they feel successful? Do those councils feel they made the correct decisions?
- Get the local planner from Revelstoke to come speak. He left due to how unaffordable Revelstoke became. Might be a less expensive speaker and can talk about what happens with growth.
- Support groups in other communities- May day festival in Wynlaw good music, food and fun- they are protesting micro-hydro.
- Discussion groups on the website of the film. Lots of "we need jobs" comments not fact oriented. Put something on the CRD website about grassroots sharing of info: this is what happens about jobs (good or bad experiences) as a result of development. This is what happened other places...draw the correlation to here.

- V2A talks nicely about a robust alpine community – there is lots of vision in the document. We are now called a “resort municipality”. Provide examples of other resort municipalities- can they exist within the context of “community” or is it an oxymoron? Where has the concept succeeded?
- Resort municipality explicitly refers to short term visitors- tourists, not people who will live here. Prov government gave us the designation.
- Definition of resort municipality includes the measure that 60% of the beds available for rent set up for nightly rentals (like hotel rooms)
- Resort Municipality is a long process. Sandy Santori was in office. Process has now evolved to require new guidelines to promote tourism. BC Gov wants to promote activities in crown land- makes it available for anyone wanting to make recreational activities available. It’s a provincially driven process. Alpine Ski area policy now includes golf courses as a part of the resort designation.
- New Denver has lots of dark houses. Community is struggling.
- Can we get our Resort municipality status revoked? What would be the effect? City hasn’t yet complied with all required aspects.
- I didn’t move here to live in a resort municipality- not sure who changed it while I was living here but isn’t happy about it.
- What are the benefits of being a designated Resort Municipality? There is some money tied to it based on the number of beds for rent. Golden, with lots of hotels, got \$2.5m Rossland got \$15k per year for 5 years for signage.
- Need to maintain affordable housing. Buy back businesses sold to out of town people, Are there some examples of towns where you can’t buy unless you live there? [Not sure if she meant commercial or residential or both] Take a look at the ownership of businesses and support the local stores.
- Banff in the early 80’s required affordable housing units. Also most ski resorts offer inexpensive or free shuttles to/from ski hill. Banff had building limits too. How successful was it?
- That’s why Canmore was built and it is a mess.
- Banff is within the national park so it has special rules and limits. Canmore has many more seasonal homes.
- Kaslo is dealing with dark houses too- lots of out of town ownership.
- We always hear about all the jobs that construction creates in a community but end result is a lot of low paying seasonal jobs. The construction guys don’t necessarily stick around and raise families here. Maybe some high school students will get some jobs but its not a sustainable model for the long run.
- Not a lot we can do to restrict ownership of homes. Canmore has the same problem.
- Why do people say Rossland isn’t sustainable? We’ve been a community for over 100 years and in the last few decades the population has fluctuated from 2k-4k. We don’t have to sell ourselves and our natural resources to be sustainable.