



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE KETCHUM
URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY
March 17, 2014**

Commissioners present: Chairman Mark Eshman
Commissioner Anne Corrock
Commissioner Tim Egan
Commissioner Baird Gourlay
Commissioner Gary Lipton
Commissioner Jim Slanetz

Absent: Vice-Chairman Trish Wilson

Also present: Ketchum Mayor Nina Jonas
Interim Executive Director Ray Silver
Attorney Paul Fitzer
Treasurer/Secretary Sandra Cady
Ketchum Special Projects Manager Lisa Enourato
Minutes written by Ketchum Recording Secretary Sunny Grant

1. This meeting of the Ketchum Urban Renewal Agency was called to order by Chairman Mark Eshman at 4:31p.m. at City Hall, Ketchum, Idaho.

2. **Communications from the Board of Commissioners**
No comments from the Board

Communications from Staff:

3. **Recommendation to approve the 2013 Ketchum Urban Renewal Agency Report**

Idaho Code requires the URA to present an Annual Report every year before March 31. Presentation of this report was noticed in the newspaper.

The Annual Report, written by former URA Board member Trina Peters, details the URA's activities in the prior calendar year (FY2013-14), and includes financial statements. When the Board accepts the Annual Report, notice that it has been filed with the City of Ketchum will be in the newspaper.

Commissioner Tim Egan moved to approve the 2013 Annual Report of the Ketchum Urban Renewal Agency. Motion seconded by Commissioner Baird Gourlay. The brochure is used for Community and Economic Development presentations and was included in the CED annual report. **Motion passed unanimously.**

4. **Summary of Broadband Project – Next Steps**

*Also Present: Broadband Committee member/ Community Library IT Manager Aaron Pearson
Ketchum City and URA IT Manager Todd Mandeville*

Ketchum Mayor Nina Jonas related the history of the effort to get high speed broadband in Ketchum. The Committee put out a Request for Qualifications and hired Magellan Advisors in April, 2013 for \$25,000 to do a feasibility study, scopework and the beginning of a strategic plan.

Mayor Jonas said Magellan should now continue their work and a pilot project for \$50,000 to provide cost-benefit, partnership and financial analyses. Mayor Jonas feels this is a great project for the URA because of its potential for economic development and job creation. There is \$30,000 in the Contingency and \$15,000 in Capital Improvement Projects. Magellan guarantees they will not exceed \$50,000.

Aaron Pearson said the study would allow the Broadband Committee to implement the project and save significant money by inserting the fibers into the Ketchum Spring Water system infrastructure. Pearson said providers are sometimes willing to install for free if they stand to gain customers or edge out a competitor. He feels the most sustainable model for local providers is for Ketchum to provide the infrastructure and make it equally competitive for all providers who wish to participate. Ketchum wants to do what it can to provide the lowest cost for end user businesses. Some businesses won't locate here because high speed internet isn't readily available at a price they can afford. Many businesses already here would subscribe but can't afford the huge installation expense.

- Chairman Eshman said he wasn't sure high speed internet would draw business to Idaho as much as a highly-skilled workforce and easier transportation in and out of the area. He wasn't sure the Ketchum URA was in a position to spend \$35,000 on an implementation plan.
- Commissioner Gourlay asked how the providers would partner with the City once the infrastructure was installed. He asked that Sustain Blaine do a study of potential marketplace and job creation.

Pearson said the Magellan Study would research who would lay the fiber optics, if they would be pulled through Ketchum Spring Water lines, how providers would partner with Ketchum to pay for it, and initiate a pilot project. Ketchum could have fiber optics infrastructure in and high-speed internet available in three to four years, depending on how fast Ketchum gets users off the Spring Water system.

- The URA Board asked for more information, especially from Sustain Blaine, before making a decision. Commissioner Slanetz asked for next steps, and how they would be paid for.

Pearson said the Magellan study would provide this information. He added that this kind of technology would allow visitors to stay longer; and would open up diverse new businesses in Ketchum that don't rely on tourism, and can attract a skilled and well-paid workforce.

4. Comments from the Public

No public comment at this time.

5. Consent Calendar

Commissioner Tim Eagan moved to approve minutes from the February 18, 2014 Joint Ketchum City Council/URA Board Meeting and the February 27, 2014 URA Board meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jim Slanetz, and passed with seven in favor. Commissioner Baird Gourlay abstained since he was not present for the meetings.

6. Executive Session

Commissioner Baird Gourlay moved to go into Executive Session, pursuant to Idaho Code 67-2345 1(c). Motion seconded by Commissioner Tim Eagan. Roll call: Commissioner Gourlay yes, Commissioner Eagan yes, Chairman Eshman yes, Commissioner Corrock yes, Commissioner Lipton yes, Commissioner Slanetz yes. Motion passed unanimously.

Amend Agenda

Commissioner Baird Gourlay moved to amend the agenda to include Executive Session 67-2345 1(a) Personnel, 1(c) Land Acquisition and 1(f) Potential Litigation, to discuss information just received this afternoon. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jim Slanetz, and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Baird Gourlay amended his motion to go into Executive Session, pursuant to Idaho Code 67-2345 1(a) Personnel, 1(c) Land Acquisition and 1(f) Potential Litigation. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tim Eagan. Roll call: Commissioner Gourlay yes, Commissioner Eagan yes, Chairman Eshman yes, Commissioner Corrock yes, Commissioner Lipton yes, Commissioner Slanetz yes. Motion passed unanimously.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Baird Gourlay moved to adjourn at 6:00pm. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jim Slanetz, and passed unanimously.



MARK ESHMAN,
Chairman

ATTEST:



SANDRA E. CADY, CMC
Secretary/Treasurer