

May 23, 2018
MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Attendees

Community Working Group members present:

Bruce Wittig – Queen Valley Fire Department
Jim Schenck – Rebuild Superior
JoAnn Besich – Superior Optimist Club
Anthony Huerta – Town of Superior
Hank Gutierrez - Superior Copper Alliance
Pamela Rabago – Superior Chamber of Commerce
Pam Bennett – Queen Valley Community Liaison
Arlynn Godinez – Superior Unified School District Board / Maricopa County
Fernando Shipley – Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center Board
Jeff Bunklemann – Central Arizona College
Todd Pryor – Town of Superior

Community Working Group members not present:

Karen Kitchayan Jones – San Carlos Apache Tribe
Tom Spridgen – Rotary Club of Superior (resigned)
Henry Munoz – Concerned Citizens and Retired Miners (resigned)
Roy Chavez - Concerned Citizens and Retired Miners
Rick Cartier – Superior Chamber of Commerce alternate
Sylvia Werre – Top of the World
Fred Gaudet – Arizona Trail Association
Tiffany Rowell – Superior community
Cecil Fendley – Queen Valley Water Board
George Martin – JF Ranch
Lynn Martin – JF, JI Ranch

Resolution Copper Company:

Hesston Klenk – Communities Manager
Filomena Cornelio – Communities Manager

Facilitators – Godec, Randall & Associates (GRA)

John Godec, Debra Duerr

Speakers:

none

Public Guests:

Mila Besich-Lira – Mayor, Town of Superior
Jesse Garcia – resident, Superior Planning & Zoning Commission

Introductions & Housekeeping

John Godec welcomed everyone, and asked members to introduce themselves. Jesse Garcia is visiting tonight, and John talked with him about ideas for additional new members. Godec asked the group to let him know if they have any suggestions. A member asked if we need to keep it in a certain geographic region. Godec said it's probably more important to make sure we have a broad range of perspectives represented, like the Retired Miners. A suggestion was made to contact Dara, the assistant director at the Arboretum, as a possible candidate instead of Gaylyn Yanke. The Mayor offered to canvass their Board members to see if anyone has interest in joining the CWG. Godec reported that we're continuing to work on finding transportation for Karen Jones.

In local news, the girls team won the basketball championship. Also, it was reported that the Film Commissioner is coming to Superior on June 19.

Dr. Will, who is a large property owner in town, was here last week and indicated that he might be willing to transfer his 7-acre floodway property between Old Phoenix Road and the US 60 park to the town for improvements to the park.

Anthony Huerta reported that the Superior public pool will be opening Memorial Day weekend, with free hot dogs on Monday.

Recreation User Group, Historic Preservation, Community Monitoring Updates

The RUG met today. Their plan for the next meeting on July 25 is to have large-scale readable maps of the entire plan.

The Community Monitoring Task Force will do the next well sampling tomorrow, May 24, at 7:30 AM. The new Martin well will not be sampled as the water level is very low and Resolution is concerned that pumping it may produce too much silt, as well as taking a long time. Casey McKeon provided a graph showing drop in water levels at that site over the last month.

Update on Town of Superior/Resolution Historic Preservation Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Godec reminded the group that they did not want to proceed with planning this initiative until a Memorandum of Understanding had been agreed between the Town of Superior and Resolution Copper. The Town Manager reported that the MOU has been signed. (Copies are included in the CWG packet for this meeting.) He did not feel that the document has "a lot of teeth". Some timetables for actions are included. He called it an agreement to make an agreement. However, the company has committed to assisting in redevelopment of the US 60 Park. The Council had a robust discussion but approved it. Everyone feels that it's now important to stay on schedule and show a commitment, and the CWG is specifically mentioned

as a vehicle to support development of alternative concepts. The deadline is September 15 for completion of 3-5 preservation concepts.

Discussion on Superior Historic Legacy Project - Where do we go from here?

The Town representatives reported that there has been an agreement to refer to this project in future as:

Cultural Heritage Program

CWG members discussed the historic legacy questions developed at previous meeting. Their responses and ideas are attached to this summary.

Community Working Group Outreach

The group agreed that the CWG will need to do publicity and outreach to make sure they get community input on ideas, and the CWG will then submit ideas to the 'committee' established by the MOU.

The Mayor suggested going to visit with people at the Senior Center. People will come if we offer pastries. To get a scheduled meeting at the center, work with Todd Pryor to arrange it with Carol. There are usually about 20 people who might come. Tiffany has offered to facilitate a session like this.

Another target audience is young people. This will be difficult. Outreach methods might be social media, a happy hour or other event. It will be hard to meet with school-age children now, since school ends this week. The Student Leadership group from the High School meets over the summer, and school will be back in session at the end of July. It was suggested that an officer of this group could also be approached to be a member of the CWG. Arlynn Godinez pointed out that community service is a requirement for graduation, and this would be a good way for someone to get that.

Superior Memories *Facebook* page includes people who no longer live in Superior but have an interest. The Town and Rebuild Superior also have Facebook pages. We could do a Facebook poll to solicit ideas and vote on priorities. Advertising space can also be purchased on the Copper Area News online edition.

There is probably a group of people in the community who need to be consulted, as well as people who would come to a public meeting. A 'less traditional' meeting approach would be worth considering. Second Friday is attended by a lot of people, as are Little League sporting events and the 4th of July Pool Party. Fernando Shipley mentioned that Pioneer Days in Globe starts promoting eight weeks ahead and organizers offer incentives for participation; for example, we could ask each question separately and give a prize for answering the most of them.

Members could go to Porters on karaoke night and talk to people. The VFW is another venue where many people congregate; “just don’t interrupt bingo night”. Tom Sprigden is a member and might be willing to help. The group asked if Rebuild Superior might be willing to facilitate a public meeting.

Todd Pryor suggested that this effort might be similar to a branding program; Superior doesn’t have a ‘brand’ like Wickenburg. What should the Superior brand be?

Action Items & Next Steps

The CWG agreed to keep working on this project as input to the Cultural Heritage Committee (which hasn’t been set up yet).

The facilitators will prepare a summary of outreach suggestions and task assignments for discussion at the next CWG meeting.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Future Meeting Planning & Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for:

*Wednesday, June 13, 2018
Superior Chamber of Commerce
6:00pm*

The group will continue its discussion of cultural heritage and historic legacy. Kami Ballard from Resolution will present the video simulation of the mine site subsidence.

ATTACHMENT

CWG Superior Cultural Heritage Project Discussion & Ideas

1. If someone asked you to describe the history of Superior, how would you describe it, from your perspective?
 - Pre-Columbian
 - Native American
 - Mining
 - Hispanic
 - Not a company town

- Silver Queen & Silver King mines
- Pinal
- Cavalry (Picket Post)
- Transportation, first million-dollar-a-mile highway
- Railroad
- Boyce Thompson Arboretum

2. How would you describe the culture and personality of Superior as it is today?

- Dynamic & Resilient
- Diverse
- Strong sense of community
- Proud
- Big sense of caring

3. In 50 years, what of Superior’s legacy will you want your great-grandkids to know and experience?

- Sense of community
- Caring & compassionate culture
- Lake Superior Mining Company namesake
- Pioneering spirit
- Family histories
- Family stories
- World-class recreation trails
- History of innovation
- Hard lives, sacrifice, dangerous jobs

4. What parts of the demolition of the west plant will be missed the most?

- Smelter Stack (7)
- Aesthetics:
 - Miss the black slag and the dimension it has (3)
 - The nostalgic horizon behind the smelter, which is the background for many Superior pictures
 - I won’t miss any of it, but the stack is kind of an “awe”
 - The sense of historic workings – Once it’s gone it won’t be relevant.
 - The beautiful “stack” against the evening horizon
 - Seeing the stack when you drive into town
 - View of the stack from Gonzalez Pass and all over town
 - The smoke coming out of the smelter
- Buildings:
 - The historical brick buildings – potential for community use
 - Red brick buildings
 - Power house
 - Pay shack
 - Main plant building
 - Brick housing

- Smelter
- Train station – really need it to be a future attraction
- Train:
 - The train (2)
 - Magma engine
 - Steam locomotive
- Air Horn

5. What hardware/physical attributes of Superior’s legacy are most important to preserve?

- Railroad Related:
 - Locomotive (4)
 - Railroad train (3)
 - Preserve track (2)
 - Train station
- Red Bricks:
 - Story of the red bricks
 - Building development – red bricks
 - Preserve bricks from the old buildings – use in other projects (2)
- Ore carts
- Existing historic mining equipment
- Old relics
- Other mechanical things used underground

6. How do you picture the legacy of Superior being preserved?

- A monument to show replica of the smelter
- Remember the stack with holographic stack every night (2).
- A town complex including a train station, museum, commercial space
- Develop the first holographic museum.
- Have “stack” historic events.
- A vibrant, living community
- Preserve and rehabilitate the downtown buildings.
- Preserve downtown “look”.
- Put the railroad back in service as a tourist train (4)
- A museum
- Preserve the Harding School (4)
- If Harding School can’t be preserved, use the bricks in a reconstruction.
- Construct a “symbolic” cell phone tower of 297 feet high, reminiscent of the stack.
- Develop a complex on history, mining, Superior as an incubator of new methods.
- Education complex that teaches about mining
- Create a “branding” scheme for Superior, e.g. Wickenburg cowboy town.
- Construct a viewing tower of West Plant site
- Create a 3-D visual of mining history and practices.
- Create connections with recreational trails and tourist opportunities.
- Improve the multi-generational center.
- Think about: What does “museum” mean?