

The Battlement Mesa Service Association

The Battlement Mesa Service Association...Wants your help!

By Keith Lammey, President, Battlement Mesa Service Association

Editor's note: This is the first in a regular column by Keith Lammey about the Battlement Mesa Service Association's (BMSA) activities. Since Battlement Mesa is not a town or city but is unincorporated, the BMSA is its governing body.

The Battlement Mesa Service Association, ('BMSA'), is seeking committee members and chairpersons for its seven new committees. Are you interested in our community? Do you want to make a difference? Do you have some great new ideas? If so, then the BMSA needs your help.

The BMSA board understands that many dedicated committee members have worked hard for the community; often in silence and with very little recognition or direction. However, our community's needs are changing thus our committee structure needs to adapt to these changes.

Further, the board believes that in order to become a city/town instead of a bedroom community, we first have to think and act like a city/town. So, the board asked, "If we were a town, what kinds of things would we do and how would we group those activities. After a couple of workshops, we decided on the following committees:

1. Architectural/Covenants
2. Natural Resources (Oil and Gas)
3. Public Works
4. Public & Community Relations
5. POST (Parks/Open Space/Trails)
6. Finance
7. Planning

In order to foster effective committees, the board decided that a different structure was needed. The BMSA Legal advisors recommended a Charter format. The committee charters define seven parameters: Report To, Organizational, Authority, Purpose, Responsibility, Meetings and Reporting.

- The **Report To** is obvious. All committees assist the BMSA in making decisions and accomplishing goals so naturally they report to the BMSA.
- The **Organizational** structure has two basic criteria. First, the committee's size is limited to five members and second, a minimum of one and a maximum of two of these members can be BMSA Board Members. Although it isn't prohibited, board members are discouraged from serving as the committee chairpersons.
- The **Authority** that each committee has is granted in the BMSA's Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions and the Amended and Restated Bylaws.
- Each committee's **Purpose** differs depending upon the committee's focus but now is more broadly defined. A broader scope is needed because these seven committees cover the full spectrum of what the BMSA is responsible for, or should be. By creating committees with a broad vs. narrow scope, the BMSA hopes to find more BMSA Members who will have an interest in, and knowledge about at least one aspect of that committee's purpose (scope) which should make it easier to recruit BMSA Members to serve on these committees. For example, it is hard to find someone who has an interest in "roads" but if the scope is increased to "public works" you open the door to far more potential BMSA Members.
- Committee member recruitment is always difficult, thus the fifth parameter, **Responsibility**, is critical. The Responsibility of each committee is directly tied to the committee's Purpose. In order to create an environment that fosters participation, new ideas and meaningful contribution, committee members must believe they **can** and, in fact, **do make important contributions to our community**. Committee members

are all volunteers thus the only compensation they receive is the satisfaction of making a difference in our community! It is critical that we help make that possible.

- The last two parameters, **Meetings** and **Reporting**, are important because volunteers need to understand that it doesn't require a lot of time to serve on a committee and the board wants committee members to know that it is interested in what they are working on and is willing to provide additional assistance if it is needed.

At this point, the Charters have all been written and at least one board member has volunteered for each of the seven committees. The next step is to staff these committees. The BMSA is actively seeking volunteers that are passionate about Battlement Mesa and who truly want to make a difference.

To learn more about the committees and to participate in the effort to identify solutions to our challenges, call the Association Management office at 970.285.9432 or call Keith Lammey, at 970.285.7482. The BMSA needs your help!

(Originally published in the Grand Valley Echo).