

**City of Salida Deer Advisory Committee
August 12, 2013**

Members Present: Jane Elmore, Monika Griesenbeck, Katy Grether, Dale Hoffman, Monica Hutson, Bob Prive, Susan Williams

Members Absent: Jim Elmore

Members Resigned: Butch Roberts, Linda Taylor

Ex Officio: Jim Aragon, Department of Parks and Wildlife

Call to Order by Co-Chairs Monica Hutson and Bob Prive at 5:00 pm in the Methodist Mountain Room of the Touber Building

Public Comment: No one present from the public.

Housekeeping:

Action: Jane made a motion, and Bob seconded it, to approve the meeting notes from August 5th as read. Motion was unanimously approved.

Documentation of the City Deer Issue: The group reached a consensus that we could support deer hunting around the City perimeter through permits issued by Dept. of Parks and Wildlife. Jim said it seems that hunting is more acceptable as long as the meat is used for a good purpose.

Research from Committee Members:

- Jane brought article on the contraceptive GonaCon.
- Katy put two calls in to Doug Ackery, expert at the National Wildlife Research Lab at Ft. Collins, but he hasn't called back yet. It was suggested that Katy ask if Salida could be a possible "test" site for the drug or at least that their experts come and talk to us.
- Katy distributed a summary of her research on other Colorado communities. She couldn't find much. It seems as if only Alamosa tried culling and sent out a survey with utility bills in which 50% responded that there were too many deer in town, but they still stopped the culling because of community protest. The *Deer Friendly* website didn't have much information about actions in any of the states close to Colorado. In the Baltimore area they have run a 3 year sterilization program with almost no does left to sterilize in the third year. Their humane society coordinated it because they saw that deer "spaying" was consistent with their goals of humane treatment for animal control.
- Fencing – Jim passed out information on fencing options and said it is a good individual solution, but any decision to fence them out of their corridors into the City would have to be examined to ensure the overall health of the herd in the area. They could study whether the consequences of diverting the herd to go either north or south from the western boundary of the golf course instead of into town.

Survey: The group decided for now that a survey was premature until we have identified a solution or the City Council moves on our recommendations because that action will require community consent and expenditure of City money. It could be discussed as part of our recommendations.

Writing Up Possible Recommendations for the Next Meeting:

The group decided we are ready to prepare draft recommendations including pros, cons, costs and what issue(s) each solution addresses. We decided to address all known solutions and say why we are or are not recommending each.

1. Increasing Awareness – **Monica and Dale; Bob will write on fencing.**
Includes a broad range of activities from human behavior modification to deer-resistant planting to fencing.
2. Supporting DPW's efforts including an increase in periphery hunting permits – **who?**
3. In-Town Harvesting – not recommended – **Jane**
4. Contraception – longer term solution – **Susan and Jane**
5. Sterilization – not recommended – **Katy**
6. Dog Herding – not recommended for urban, only agricultural areas – **Jane**
7. Do nothing- until we have community "consensus" or more options – **Jane**
8. Eliminating the dog leash law – not recommended – **Jane**
9. Relocating the deer – not recommended - **Bob**

Action Item:

- Bob will send out his template for fleshing out the pros, cons and costs of solutions so that committee members can fill it in according to their assignments.
- Jim will think about how we might do a deer count involving community volunteers.

Next Meeting: Monday, August 19, 5:00 pm, in the Methodist Mountain Room of the Touber Building.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Katy Grether