

**City of Salida Deer Advisory Committee  
First Meeting July 15, 2013**

**Members Present:** Jane and Jim Elmore, Katy Grether, Monica Hutson, Linda Taylor, Susan Williams

**Members Absent:** Monika Griesenbeck (Bruce Feldman standing in), Butch Roberts

**Guests:** Dale Hoffman, Bob Prive

**Ex Officio:** City Administrator Dara MacDonald, Department of Parks and Wildlife Area Manager Jim Aragon

**Call to Order** by Dara at 5:15 pm in the Methodist Mountain Room of the Touber Building

**Committee Charge:** Dara explained that the advisory committee reports to the City Council and that we are to present recommendations within 6 months of the pros and cons and associated costs of 3 to 4 options for addressing the deer population in town.

**Introductions:** A wide range of opinions about the deer population was expressed, and all areas of the City are represented by the members. Jim Aragon agreed to provide technical advice to the group. The two guests expressed a desire to be on the advisory committee, and Dara said she would recommend them to the City Council and they should have no problem with approving them in early August. Dara suggested we need a Chair and Secretary. Bob Prive volunteered to be Chair (after he is appointed to the group), and Katy Grether agreed to take meeting notes. The notes need to contain actions, not conversation.

**Meeting Times:** Monday evenings at 5 pm in the Methodist Mountain Room of the Touber Building, 1 ½ hours maximum, **next meeting is July 22, then July 29<sup>th</sup>.**

- Meetings are open to the public.
- We should allow time for public comment, probably at the end, limit to 15 minutes total.
- Notes will be published on the City website.
- The City will publicize the meetings via its normal media outlets.
- Opinions publicly expressed by us should be opinions of the Advisory Board.
- Best way for committee members to communicate is by email.

**Jim Aragon's Report:** His number is in the phone book and we can call him.

**FACTS:**

- Second time in 10 years that Dept of Parks and Wildlife has been called by the City to advise about deer in town.
- Deer are browsers more than grazers and the city meets all their needs.
- People feed the deer which is against state statute and encourages them to stay.
- There are no predators to check the population and the herd stays in town.
- 25 years ago there were few "suburbs" and people could hunt deer at edge of the city.
- Growing up in Salida, Jim didn't see any deer in town.
- Local deer survival study north of town shows mtn. lions as biggest obstacle. Deer survival rate is higher in town than in the wild due to multiple factors.
- Mtn. lion study on Front Range shows lions fairly comfortable around towns, people, but no correlation yet between more lions and less deer.

- Common thread of complaints – 4 or 5 deer are okay, but when more, not okay.
- Threat of Lyme disease – No, it's a different tick that carried it, not the deer tick.
- Deer droppings are as likely to pass Ecoli as dog or other animal feces.
- The potential human safety problem should not be downplayed.
- Field trip to the Mesa area of the city would be helpful to see the larger herds.

#### SOLUTIONS:

- “Liquid Fence” – a product that controls deer entry pretty well (see handouts from Jim with more suggestions).
- In Trinidad, CO, there were no deer in town when Jim worked there because there was no leash law and dogs chased them out.
- Alamosa tried a hunting season on the golf course with limited success.
- In Craig (northeast CO) hunting is popular, but 67% responded to a survey that they had no problem with the deer.
- Hunting, trapping and fishing are the main tools of the Department of Parks and Wildlife for animal control. P&W has offered additional doe licenses in the past 2 years to hunt right on the periphery of Salida and BV which was very successful in BV and slower to succeed in Salida. This year they increased the licenses around Salida on public land from 40 to 60 and on private land and had pretty good luck with private land owners.
- If we recommended sterilization, we would have to petition with State Wildlife Commission for permission, thus it hasn't been tried yet as a solution.
- Targeting bucks for sterilization could be tricky because 1 buck can service 30 does.
- If you move the herd too far away, 70-80% die.
- Cannot extend the hunting season into November because mountain deer come down.
- If we do nothing, the deer will reach their density dependence and will reproduce less.
- Public awareness and education are important tools.
- Being aware of our surroundings and deer behavior will minimize risk of injury to humans.
- Costs of various solutions are available on the internet.

#### ***Our Homework:***

1. We each must articulate the problem in our own terms, then outcomes and options.
2. Go to Wal-Mart and count how many people are not paying attention to where they are going!

***Meeting Adjourned:*** 6:40 pm.

*Respectfully submitted, Katy Grether*