

**City of Salida Deer Advisory Committee**  
**July 22, 2013**

**Members Present:** Jane and Jim Elmore, Katy Grether, Monica Hutson, Butch Roberts, Linda Taylor

**Members Absent:** Monika Griesenbeck, Susan Williams

**Guests:** Neil McClure, Dale Hoffman, Bob Prive

**Call to Order** by temporary Co-Chairs Monica Hutson and Bob Prive at 5:05 pm in the Methodist Mountain Room of the Touber Building

**Public Comment:** Neil McClure was referred to our committee by Jim Aragon. He developed a goose deterrent system that is being used at Ft. Logan National Cemetery in Denver and soon will be used along the deer corridor highway outside of Durango. He now has a grant to develop such a system to deter deer from people's yards. He develops the software to recognize a deer approaching and it sets off a signal – sound or motion – that will motivate the deer to move away. He has a grant to develop the system in conjunction with engineers and biologists at the USDA Wildlife Research Center in Ft. Collins. He asked for volunteers who would allow him to come to their yards and photograph deer and then to have his monitoring box placed in their yards when he is ready to test it in a couple of months. Katy and Bob agreed to have Neil come by their yards.

Mr. McClure has a private company and is from Boulder County and his phone is 303-594-9989 and email is [nmcclure@comcast.net](mailto:nmcclure@comcast.net). The website to see how the Goose Guardian works is [www.GooseGuardian.com](http://www.GooseGuardian.com)

**Documentation of the City Deer Issue:** The group reached almost a consensus that there is a community problem with the growing deer population in Salida, not the deer themselves. The growth in human population in the county near the City is also a factor that drives the deer into the City and makes hunting them nearby more difficult. Most agreed that there is a human problem too that needs to be addressed with more education about not feeding the deer, learning what vegetation is most deer proof, and learning to be safe around the deer.

**Committee Members' Opinions about Possible Solutions:**

- Issue more doe hunting licenses near the City.
- Issue buck hunting permits near the City.
- Increase the hunting area around the City.
- Change city dwellers' attitude of entitlement to control the outside environment.
- More education.
- Consider birth control for does (not sterilization). (Some of the literature we have been reading makes a good case for birth control and some good products have been developed.)

**Actions:** The group decided that we need to collect more information and be clearer about what we want to learn before we consider doing a survey of community opinions.

**Observations:**

- Hurling projectiles at the deer (sling shot, etc.) is illegal in Salida.
- There is some degree of agreement/observation that there is a higher concentration of deer on the Mesa than in the rest of Salida.

**Our Homework:**

1. We need to answer the question as to why we want the deer in the City.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, July 29, 5:00 pm in the Methodist Mountain Room of the Touber Building.

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

*Respectfully submitted, Katy Grether*