

**City of Salida Deer Advisory Committee
July 29, 2013**

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

Members Absent: Susan Williams

Guests: Dale Hoffman, Bob Prive

Ex Officio: Jim Aragon, Department of Parks and Wildlife

Call to Order by temporary 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:

A request was made to send out the agenda to the group before the meeting so that members can have input.

The committee agreed that the meeting notes need to be approved by the group so they can be posted on the City website.

Action: Jane made a motion, and Butch seconded it, to approve the meeting notes from July 15th and 22nd as corrected. Motion was unanimously approved.

Action: Jane made a motion, seconded by Monica H. limiting total public speaking time at each meeting to 15 minutes and a maximum of 5 minutes per person. The motion was unanimously approved.

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.

Other Issues Identified by Individuals on the Committee:

- Growing human population
- Plants being eaten
- Deer droppings
- Human attitudes
- Appearance of the City (high fences and eaten down shrubs, trees)
- Threat to human health and safety
- People feeding the deer
- Health of the deer

Discussion about Possible Recommendations:

1. Contraceptives – Jim Aragon says that none have been used in Colorado yet and it would probably be necessary to tag the animals injected. The process would have to be approved by the State Wildlife Commission, and Jim only has a field staff of 6 to cover our Area 13 which is from Leadville to the Fremont County border. Darting can be dangerous and the tranquilizer is a scheduled substance, requires strict monitoring and recordkeeping.

2. Deer Herd Growth Projections – the committee wanted to know if it can be predicted if and when the City herd will max out or level out. Jim says he doesn't think they've reached deer density yet, but when they do, it could either reduce the birth rate or the health of the deer.
3. Deer count in the City – Jim says that DPW can make a rough estimate of the population and can help do a count.
4. Awareness – Jim says this is one of the biggest problems and his staff spends a lot of time educating people.
5. Human Health and Safety – trumps everything, per Jim, and when there is such a risk, that is when he has to decide whether to remove or put a wild animal down.
6. Risk of Increasing Predators in the City – The correlation between increased deer and increased predators coming in has not been proven in the Front Range studies they have been conducting.
7. Interrupting Deer Corridors into the City – Co. Rd. 120-140 from the west, ridgeline on 120 from Poncha, and Mt. Shavano Fish Hatchery to Golf Course are the main corridors, per Jim – how to interrupt?
8. Fencing – can put a single strand fence inside another fence and that creates a barrier that the deer might not want to jump over.
9. **Action: Jane made a motion, and Katy seconded it, to support DPW's continued interest in the City deer population. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

Meeting Adjourned: 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Katy Grether