

Canyon Area Residents for the Environment (CARE)
Wed. April 15, 2020 7 PM
Location: Zoom Conference Call

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Deb Carney

Attendance:

Deb Carney (President pro-tem) – Paradise Hills HOA
Dave Hammond (Secretary) – Pinecrest Road neighborhood
Wally Terhune – Genesee Foundation
Michelle Poolet – Cody Park Neighborhood Assoc
Ellie Isley – Lookout Mountain Crest
John Hermanussen – Pine Tree Park
Ron Rusnack – Mount Vernon Estates
Mary Monnet – Genesee Foundation (alternate)
Annette Mickle – Moss Rock Road HOA (N Chief Hosa)
Meredith Ward – Genesee Crossing
Marta Schreiner-CARE Weed Committee Chair

1. Wildfire Speakers

Cindy Latham-member of Jeffco Wildfire Risk Reduction Task Force, Bd member for Wildfire Prepared Home Assessment Program, Member of Fire Adapted Colorado/Community. Chair of Rotary Wildfire Ready Project & Leader of Rotary Wildfire Ready Education Committee.

Alan Anderson-Fire Chief of Foothills Fire Protection District on 2008 Community Wildfire Protection Plan https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/atoms/files/ffpd_cwpp.pdf

Cindy Latham:

Cindy lives in Evergreen but some of the wildfire risks mentioned here can be applied to the whole CARE area.

In Jeffco 2020 – average fire risk for 2020 due to higher than average snowfall. (Jeffco is not currently under drought conditions as of April 16, 2020)

The Front Range used to have a fire adapted ecosystem. Now there is too much fuel in Jeffco. 3 to 5 times more trees now than 100 years ago. There has been complete suppression of wildfires since 1917 in the area.

Recent fires in Jeffco:

Bald Mountain fire, September, 2019 – 17 acres

Apex Fire, November, 2019 – 16.9 acres

There was an Arson fire that was started south of Conifer about 5 weeks ago.

COVID-19 is having an effect on wildland fire response and firefighter resources.

Incident Command Posts (where wildfire managers are stationed) are restricted due to COVID-19.

Lessons Learned from Camp (aka Paradise (CA)) fire, November, 2018

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camp_Fire_\(2018\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camp_Fire_(2018))

Started at 6:30 AM by a downed power line under very windy conditions.

Arrived in the town of Paradise 90 minutes later, about 5 miles from origin.
Paradise is very similar in size and population to Evergreen.

Paradise has 3 main roads to be used as evacuation routes.
2 of these had completed mitigation along and next to the roads – saved lives
Burning and falling trees blocked roads.

(many roads within the CARE area have trees close to roadways)

First responders should have access to heavy equipment to move fallen trees

Heavy equipment in Jeffco is held down at the Jeffco Sheriff's office

Emergency Communications:

CodeRed is inadequate as a primary notification method. Lack of cell service (cell towers were damaged in the Paradise area), people not having their cell phones with them.

CARE is investigating other methods of notification such as sirens.

Updated building codes in Paradise saved properties – 58% of newer structures survived

Less than 10% of older structures survived

More evacuation routes or 'safe zones' are identified in Paradise than in the Evergreen area.

Paradise residents were aware of these routes and safe zones.

CARE area Challenges :

No municipal government in the foothills area. Puts a lot of pressure on local volunteer fire departments.

Financial obstacles:

manual mitigation is very expensive; Jeffco Sheriff is the fire marshal.

Budget cuts in sheriff's office has reduced capability

Public will have to do more mitigation

There are discussions going on about eliminating slash program in 2021

Alan Anderson, Foothills Fire chief since Fall 2018

Looking at coordination and partnering with Genesee Fire

Strategic plan needs to be updated

The CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan) for Foothills Fire District was completed in 2008. Foothills is working on obtaining funding for updating the CWPP. Last time grant money was used. Now these dollars are proving difficult. Other ideas being discussed: donations, fund raisers, borrow from FFPD funds. Grant money is not coming though thus far. Estimated that \$50,000 - \$55,000 is needed to fund the CWPP. Funding for Foothills FD comes through property taxes.

A company has been found to do the updated CWPP. Same company used by Evergreen for their CWPP. Foothills Fire Board meeting next week (week of April 20) to discuss this.

Cindy Latham: the updated CWPP needs to be supported in order to better identify evacuation routes.

Annette Mickle: Urge FFPD Board to fund the update to CWPP.

Motion to approve proposed by Eli Isley, seconded by Dave Hammond Motion passed. Deb Carney will prepare CARE letter to FFPD Board (letter attached)

2. Approval of January 15, 2019 CARE Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve by Michelle Poolet__Second by Eli Isley. Motion passed, minutes are approved.

3. Upcoming CARE Meeting Dates-Please mark your calendars

July 15, 2020

Oct 21, 2020

TBD if these meetings will be in person (at the Genesee Vista Clubhouse) or by Zoom conference

4. President's Report

March 12-Requested Jeffco use staff to help community with COVID-19

March 17 Jeffco Regulation Advisory Committee (RAP) Virtual Meeting

Updates of Comprehensive Master Plan Mixed Use-(could concentrate residents, parking and change character of neighborhood.

Updates of Comprehensive Master Plan Water-reviewed by CARE volunteer

Cynthia Miller-Corbet

*Change Legal parcel/Subdivision date of May 5, 1972 to Jan 1, 2000 to eliminate time consuming administrative process but does not make exempt from other Requirements

*Jefferson County Planning & Zoning is beginning a Regulation Amendment process pertaining to the Land Development Regulation (LDR) Section 1. This regulation update includes a change to the Legal Parcel Date and other clarification/minor updates. We are very interested in any comments or concerns that you or your agency may have with these proposed changes.

You can view the proposed amendments by clicking this LINK. Please send comments or questions to PZRegRev@jeffco.us by April 30, 2020.

Thank you for taking the time to review this information.

Kind Regards,

Laura Armstrong

Jefferson County Planning and Zoning

Civil Planning Engineer

303-271-8715

Upcoming Zoning Resolution Amendments-Administrative Exceptions for setbacks up to 25%, Longer public notice, Agricultural Zoning-need min lot size for commercial activity, Accessory Dwelling Units, Design Criteria for Mini houses, auto lots, criteria for landscape berming.

Short Term Rentals. Planner Nick Nelson argues that since there are lots of Jeffco short term rentals are illegal. It will benefit the public to make it easier to get a permit so sheriff, fire dept knows where they are. Will have an online survey. Wants us to explain to BOA why we think STR should be owner occupied.

Lots of push back from RAP (Jeffco Regulation Advisory Panel) members. STR is a business, rather than a residence, not enough single-family housing, STR occupiers do not care about fire danger. Should have the same strict requirements that Bed and Breakfasts must meet, violates Residential Zoning.

April 2-Response from Deborah Churchill on behalf of BCC

I have been in touch with our Planning & Zoning Director. Short term rental meetings have been canceled. They are currently looking at ways they can hold virtual meetings, depending on how conditions change... Additionally, I spoke to the Director of Development and Transportation. They are going to discuss other ways to reach our citizens about these canceled meetings, as well as others sure to come.

5. Treasurer's Report-Bonnie Saxton-\$2,212.51

6. COVID 19 Impact on CARE area-What can we do?

- a. People living alone
- b. People to recognize for their service
John Hermanson proposes recognizing First Responders:
Foothills Fire
Highlands Ambulance
Postal delivery

7. Delegate Reports

- a. Dave Hammond, Pinecrest Rd – no changes with Association. Cindy's presentation made me think about our one escape route in the event of a wildfire and how many trees there are along the side of the road. Not only on Pinecrest but on many areas along Colorow Road despite the efforts by Jeffco Open Space to thin many trees on their properties near the Nature Center.
- b. Elly, Lookout Mtn Crest – no issues
- c. Ron Rusnak, Mt Vernon Estates – no issues
- d. Wally Terhune, Genesee
 - i. Concern for short term rentals, parking spaces, will be a board hearing about these issues
 - ii. Genesee by-laws need to be changed to block short term rentals
 - iii. Water district wants to increase their water storage, old treatment pond
- e. Michelle Poolet, Cody Park – the area is howling in support of first responders
- f. Annette Mickle, Moss Rock – submitted Firewise application to NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) for \$500 community wildfire preparedness grant. Community chipped in on a dumpster to deposit slash, pine needles. Wildfire Preparedness day is May 1
- g. Meredith Ward, Genesee Crossing – issue on outdoor lights. One neighbor wants to put up outdoor lights, flashing colors
- h. John Hermanson, Pine Tree Park – Recognition of first responders (see previous note in section 6). Mail theft a frequent issue in his area (along Lookout Mtn Rd by

Krestview). Neighbors not willing to chip in for locking mailboxes. Some of John's mail was found in a ditch up by the Nature Center. Short term rental market is very slow right now. John is making some of his units available to first responders that may be affected by COVID-19.

8. Committee Reports – no reports

9. New Business – no new business

Motion to adjourn @ 8:10 PM made by: Michelle Poolet, Seconded by: Eli Isley Vote: all in favor

A big thanks to the Genesee Foundation for the use of their Zoom account!