

Canyon Area Residents for the Environment (C.A.R.E.)

Quarterly Meeting Minutes October 20, 2021

The Fall quarterly meeting was held on October 20, 2021 at The Genesee Vista Clubhouse.

The following individuals were in attendance:

Deb Carney (President) - Paradise Hills HOA
Meredith Ward (Vice-President) - Genesee Crossing
Michelle Poolet (webmaster) - Cody Park
Dave Hammond (secretary) - Pinecrest Rd Assoc
Bonnie Saxton (treasurer) - Paradise Hills
Mary Monnet - Genesee Foundation
Ron Rusnak - Hess Ave HOA
Elly Isely - Lookout Mtn Crest HOA
Kathleen Schroeder - Panorama Estates
John Hermanussen - Pine Tree Park
Christine Rayot - Mt Vernon Estates
Stephanie Troyer - Mt Vernon Estates
TJ Carney – Foothills Fire & Rescue Board member

Speaker: Aaron Wolking, Sentry Siren, Inc. Penrose, CO

<https://www.sentrysiren.com/>

was introduced by Deb Carney, who explained that Sentry Siren was contacted because the Grand Jury convened on the deadly Camp Fire in Paradise, CA 2018 found that Code Red failed and sirens would have saved lives by alerting residents to evacuate. Aaron Wolking discussed the report he prepared for CARE illustrating siren coverage areas from the 6 fire stations and the cost of 2 different types of sirens. This report is attached to these minutes and available on the CARE website www.carejeffco.org.

Sentry Siren: manufactures omnidirectional warning sirens that are similar to air-raid sirens, tornado sirens in Midwest. Sirens work for wildfire warnings and also flood warnings post-wildfire. It is necessary to know where the people are and what is the infrastructure in the siren coverage area.

There are 6 fire stations in the Foothills FD & Genesee FD area. The effective range of the sirens is about 1 mile. The sound needs to be 70db or greater to be effective. Effectiveness is affected by topography. Sirens mounted high up tend to have a larger coverage area than sirens in valleys. 123db is max sound level near the siren. The duration of a warning siren is about 3 minutes at a time.

Emergency Response Protocol:

An Emergency Management (ex-Fire Chief) professional decides when to activate. The siren alerts. Residents should go to the Jeffco Sheriff or Emergency Management websites.

Additional information

Different frequencies can be programmed for different warnings. Sirens are radio-controlled, using equipment the fire district already has. Sirens need to be tested monthly. During the fire season, these tests may be a weekly occurrence. A test is just 15 seconds long. Sirens are estimated to have a 25-year life span. Run on AC power. Client provides electricity and insurance.

Sirens need a 45-foot, Class 2 wood utility pole. Difficult to place on existing poles.

Questions:

Can radio or TV towers be used?

How adjustable are the sirens to account for local topography?

If not placed at a fire station, would an easement be needed?

Genesee Mountain – would require working with Denver Mountain Parks

What is the effect on wildlife?

Best to approach this project incrementally to see how it works. Also, to get a better sense of the costs and budget.

Funding

Pricing for Title 32 Districts such as our 2 Fire Departments is less than pricing to groups such as CARE. Grant programs exist for rural development and through Homeland Security. Aaron will send CARE info on who the regional coordinator from Homeland Security. Foothills Fire and Genesee Fire will be informed about Sentry Siren's report and requested to participate. Jefferson County Emergency Management refused to support CARE request for sharing fire "Cutter 4 Colorado" grant funding to help with emergency sirens.

Delegates need to inform their HOA residents about this project. There is an interest to do this in the area. CARE will provide Sentry Siren with locations of residents so Sentry Siren can fine tune proposed siren location.

Regular meeting Called back to order after Aaron's presentation

1. Approval of April 21, 2021 CARE Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve by Meredith Ward_Secoded by_Michelle Poolet_

2. Presidents Report

Regulation Advisory Panel (Deb Carney is a member)

Wildfire Regulation Updates: The wildfire danger overlay is being updated. Will address and creating defensible space around new, replacement or additions to existing structures. What needs to be done about mitigation along roadways?

How much does the roadway right of way encroach on a homeowner's property?

See Proposed Jefferson County Zoning Resolution Section 39, Part D.1.a problems of trees next to roadways.

<https://www.jeffco.us/DocumentCenter/View/2474/Section-39-Wildfire-Hazard-Overlay-District-PDF>

Jeffco has county-wide easement of 8 feet along public roadways.
Email Deb Carney with questions or concerns about regulations, zoning, etc. at deb@carneylaw.net

NEW BUSINESS.

Destroying old CARE Tower fight files from late 1990s to 2004

Deb Carney acted as the attorney for CARE in the massive community effort to prevent increased electromagnetic radiation from high powered TV and FM broadcast antennas of NBC, CBS, ABC, Public Television and Radio, etc in the CARE area. The Colorado Department of Health and Environment Brain and Central Nervous System tumor audit found statistically elevated levels of these tumors in the CARE area in 2 different time frames. Al Hislop, Electrical Engineer living on Lookout Mountain, documented that the broadcasters were exceeding the FCC limits on electromagnetic radiation on numerous occasions. Community members put forth enormous effort opposing these towers.

The public hearings before the Jefferson County Planning Commissions and Board of County Commissioners resulted in thousands of documents. CARE filed numerous lawsuits in Jefferson County District Court regarding Zoning Decisions involving these towers in the late 1990s into early 2020. One of these lawsuits resulted in the Channel 9 radar tower with the radar antenna sweeping the community every 60 seconds with high levels of electromagnetic radiation being taken down. Other lawsuits supported Jeffco decisions against increasing radiation and other lawsuits appealed Jeffco decisions allowing additional radiation. The one on the Mt. Morrison Proposed tower went to the Colorado Court of Appeals.

These thousands of pages of documents have been stored at Deb Carney's home for the last 20 years. The FCC files on individual broadcast towers that have been digitized and summaries will be retained.

The question was raised on current levels of electromagnetic radiation in the CARE Area. Russell Clark with Jeffco Planning & Zoning can measure radio frequencies. Permission to destroy most of these files is requested. The delegates present had no objection.

Modernizing CARE

Michelle maintains the CARE website. Will be looking into creating accounts for CARE on social media, i.e., Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor

Treasurer's Report - \$2,510.03

Delegate Reports

Mount Vernon Estates: Stephanie Troyer and Christina Rayot

the former Alpaca Farm (about 1/4th mile west of Paradise Rd intersection on Hwy 40) Bella Foundation (from California) wants to develop this property into the “Golden Discovery Center”. This center will be built for (what kind of kids??)

Will have potentially up to 11,000 visitors per year (as per Bella Foundation plans). Up to 20 nights per year of camping. Campfire concerns.

The Bella Foundation planning person for this doesn't have any experience in this area. She didn't know what a business plan was when Stephanie contacted her.

P&Z makes recommendations to the County Commissioners.

This facility will have to follow Zoning rules. CARE can sue if zoning rules are violated.

This facility is proposing to bus or shuttle people in. Will this create a traffic hazard on Highway 40. The entrance is just to the west of a blind curve in the highway.

HOA's can ask for CARE's assistance. This will give CARE 10 minutes to speak at the hearing, plus the 10 minutes that the (registered) HOA has to speak. Individuals have 3 minutes to speak.

John Hermanussen, Pine Tree Park, would support CARE assisting Mt Vernon Estates with this.

Michelle: The facility in general could pose a danger to residents. The entrance can pose traffic hazards on Highway 40 due to traffic backups getting into the facility (very limited parking there). Hazard to motorists and cyclists on Hwy 40.

The current proposal has grown about 10 times in size from the original proposal. More visitors, more nights of camping. A huge issue of scale.

Information on this case, case number 20-130856SU - Golden Discovery Center, can be found at: <https://permitsearch.jeffco.us/index.cfm?fuseaction=DevAppProcessSearchByFolder&folderID=1425878&permitNum=20130856%20%20SU&PZPermitCase=SU>

No other delegate reports or committee reports.

Next meeting in January – date TBD. Will include election of officers.

Meeting Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM. Made by Michelle. Seconded by Meredith. Agreed to by all.