

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

September 5, 2018 Quarterly Meeting Minutes

This CARE meeting was held on September 5, 2018 at the Mount Vernon Country Club. Unfortunately, a mix up occurred at the club's front desk, which sent some delegates upstairs to the Boardroom while the officers and other delegates went downstairs to the Canyon room to hold the meeting. Our apologies to those of you who came to attend the meeting but left thinking that it had been cancelled. Those who were in attendance in the Canyon room were:

Deb Carney	Paradise Hills HOA Delegate
Dick Bartlett	Genesee Crossing HOA Delegate
Jim Brennan	Mount Vernon Estates HOA Delegate
Wally Terhune	Genesee Foundation Delegate
Marta Schreiner	Weed Committee Member
Kyle Vaughn	Deputy Chief, Foothills Fire Protection District
Shannon & Pete Cline	Panorama Estates Residents

Minutes - Deb Carney called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and suggested a motion to accept the minutes of the June 5, 2018 CARE Quarterly Meeting. Dick Bartlett made that motion and Jim Brennan seconded it, which passed with unanimous consent.

President's Report - Deb gave the Presidents Report' which included:

1. Next CARE Quarterly Meeting -

The final CARE Quarterly meeting of 2018 will be held at the Mount Vernon Country Club at 7:00 pm, **December 4th**. That is a Tuesday night and we have scheduled a guest speaker, Tim Woodward, department of wildlife specialist, to speak with us about the animals up here in the mountains and how we can peacefully coexist with our wildlife. A suggestion was made to broaden that next meeting to include some of the issues below related to crime. Perhaps CARE could get the Sheriff or one of his deputies to give a talk on prevention measures.

2. Treasurers Report -

Dick Bartlett reported that there is \$2,426.25 in CARE's financial accounts.

3. Unprecedented rise of crime in our area -

Deb commented on the increase of crime in our area citing the theft of her own son's car, which was locked and parked in their driveway. Several other garages and cars were also broken into that night and this trend is still continuing. Many gunshots are being heard in the Paradise Hills area, Panorama Estates, and along Lookout Mountain Road (LMR). Homes are being hit by gunfire. In fact one neighbor walked Paradise Road and filled up two bags full of shell casings.

Sheriff deputies spoke to the Paradise Hills HOA meeting recently and reported that they routinely sweep Lariat Loop for people in parked cars. During one sweep near Windy Saddle, they caught five gang members who were firing weapons and arrested them for probation and parole violations. They indicated that with this dramatic rise in crime, they are stretched to the limit, personnel wise. One of the suggestions to help the Sheriff Department fight crime is for neighbors to film illegal activity and then forward the footage to them. And of course if you see something illegal, report it.

Recently there has been a dramatic increase of high-end sport cars racing up Paradise & Charros Road at night reaching speeds between 60-90 mph. The county put up a radar speed sign with a halo camera to record speeders but it was not clear if the camera is a live feed or not. It was suggested that these LPR/LPC (license plate recognition/capture) cameras could be installed in neighborhoods with signs warning of video recording. These cameras can range in price from \$500 to \$2,500 and have various features.

In addition to the criminal elements present in our neighborhoods there has been a noticeable increase in the number of homeless and transient individuals panhandling and camping out. Dick noted a pop-up VW camper, which had been parked at the I-70 exit #254 Park & Ride. A call to the Sheriff's office brought out a deputy who had the individuals move on. Deputy Fire Chief Kyle Vaughn of the Foothills Fire Protection District (FFPD) noted that there is a homeless camp behind the Rainbow Hills fire station. Transients are also staying in the Wal-Mart parking lot near Swede Gulch. They reportedly had a disabled car blocking traffic so that panhandlers could more easily ask drivers for money. He said that his fire department (FD) got a call about a transient who parked his car on Cold Springs Gulch and made a campfire in the middle of the road.

5. Wildfire Protection and Safety –

Deputy Fire Chief Kyle Vaughn discussed the problems that increased call volume pose to his department's ability to respond to emergencies. Calls are on track to total 600 this year when only a few years ago they averaged 500. This is due to more people in need of their services, more accidents, more open campfire calls, etc. His biggest fear is wildfire. Most transients are either unaware of Jeffco's stage 1 fire restrictions or unconcerned about them. Another issue for his department is when there is an accident on I-70 that closes down the interstate, it can take 30 minutes or more to clear it with no fatalities but up to 6 hours if there are. Currently, smart phone apps such as Google & Waze provide alternate routing around an accident, which funnels traffic through neighborhoods and even unsuitable thoroughfares. The FFPD is attempting to work with the above app providers to de-list those routes as suitable for traffic. He suggested that all residents sign up for the "**CODE RED**" notification system. Also, the County's emergency evacuation system has been simplified to two CODE RED alerts, pre-evacuation (get ready to leave your home) & evacuation (leave now!) The County has also improved its evacuation zone methodology, which will help the FFPD make evacuation decisions for neighborhoods during a wildfire.

Another major issue facing the FFPD is funding! The Gallagher Amendment, which directly affects the department's ability to provide emergency services to our community, is financially strangling the FFPD! Below is an explanation of that amendment.

What is the Gallagher Amendment?

The Gallagher Amendment, passed in 1982, was designed to maintain a constant ratio between the property tax revenue that comes from residential property and from business property. To simplify a set of complex formulas, the effect of Gallagher was to reduce the assessment rate (the percent of property value that is subject to taxation) whenever statewide total residential property values increased faster than business property values. As a result of the Gallagher Amendment, the assessment rate for residential property has declined by more than two-thirds over the years because of Colorado's population growth and because of increases in residential real estate values. The net effect has been a marked decline in revenues collected from property tax, which prior to Gallagher, **provided the majority of school funding.**

And I would add, **provide the majority of fire protection services funding too.** His department would like to "De-Gallagherize" the funding process so as to allow an increase in the mill levy rate to compensate for the lost revenue his department needs and which our constituents demand. That would require a vote on the TABOR Amendment, "which prohibits any tax increase without a vote of the people".

CARE Needs Volunteers for its Wildfire Committee!

4. Traffic Road Noise -

Many residents along Lookout Mountain Road and I-70 have complained about road noise. In the case of LMR, loud motorcycles ride up Lariat Loop to U.S. Hwy 40. The Sheriff deputies in cooperation with Jeffco highway planners say speed bumps along LMR and even Paradise/Charros Road are not feasible due to snowplow trucks hitting them in the winter and the steepness of grade in certain places. Even if the deputies do stop a car for speeding, there is no place to safely pull off the road and ticket the offender. With respect to road noise on I-70, Dick Bartlett explained that much of it comes from highway surface wear, which creates a rough road for tires to ride on, which creates tire noise. Dick also suggested that CDOT be petitioned to install concrete cement “jersey” barriers in the median along I-70, which wouldn’t affect noise but would certainly prevent head on collisions that have occurred recently. Deb suggested a joint letter from CARE and Foothills Fire Protection District to CDOT encouraging them to consider installing these dividers on I-70. She also pointed out that when accidents occur in our neighborhoods, unless the highway patrol is notified, there is no investigation, no reports are generated to CDOT and no additions are made to the accident database. This in turn relegates the funding priorities of Jeffco traffic engineers for safety issues in our neighborhoods. Kyle Vaughn mentioned that any accident they respond to usually generates Colorado State Highway Patrol participation at the scene.

5. Lookout Mountain Water District (LMWD) Lateral Water Lines -

The LMWD board held a 2018 Lateral Planning Round Table last month at the Crystal Rose for residents served by the Water District. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the current issues involving aging lateral water lines and come up with a plan to address those issues. The District Board of directors also made available Planning Grants to all owner(s) of laterals to assist with how the serious needs of lateral pipelines will be addressed. If you missed the meeting you can find the presentation materials at:

<http://www.lookoutmountainwaterdistrict.org/private-laterals/>

A recap of the meeting accompanies the August 2018 water bill. According to the recap, “The strongest message from the residents in attendance was the desire to have the District take over the maintenance of all the private Laterals on Lookout Mountain. Most people believe this would be ideal – but very costly.” “The Board heard this message and will consider authorizing a feasibility study on Lateral ‘de-privatization’ with main improvements. The feasibility study results would be taken back to the community to determine if a TABOR election would be well received. A TABOR election and bond is costly, so any plan should be polled prior to putting such a matter on a ballot.”

Committee Reports –

Weed War Committee – Although there was no official committee report, Marta Schreiner did mention that Nexdoor has online classes about using native plants to Colorado for landscaping. She also said the noxious weed sandwich board usually seen on Paradise Road is in the shop for repairs and should soon be on display again. Deb asked if there was any solution to control “cheatgrass” and Marta said she would look into it. Marta also pointed out that the product “Roundup” is now considered a carcinogenic and should be handled very carefully. Wally Terhune mentioned that Genesee has a special blend of grass seed called Geneseed that residents are encouraged to use when re-seeding. Perhaps their HOA would be willing to sell their mix to the general public?

Delegate Reports – Due to the MVCC front desk mix-up mentioned earlier, there were not enough delegates to submit reports.

New Business – No new business was introduced. The next scheduled quarterly CARE meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 4th** at the Mount Vernon Country Club. Additionally, these minutes will soon be available in PDF format on CARE’s website:

<http://carejeffco.org>

Meeting Adjourned – Deb asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. Shannon Cline made that motion and was seconded by Dick Bartlett. Motion to adjourn was unanimously approved at 8:40 pm.