

**Action items bolded**

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF  
THE WILDLIFE COMMITTEE OF  
EAGLE RANCH ASSOCIATION

A Meeting of the Wildlife Committee of the Eagle Ranch Association (the “Association”) was held on February 12, 2024, at the Eagle Ranch Office, 1143 Capitol Street, Eagle, CO 81631, or via video/teleconference.

Committee Members Present:

Scott Turnipseed, Eagle Ranch Association  
Brian Lieberman, Town of Eagle  
Derek Rose, Eagle Ranch Golf Course  
Brian Wodrich, Colorado Parks and Wildlife  
Hugh Fairfield-Smith, Eagle Valley Wildland

Others Present:

Shelley Bellm, EWH Assistant Community Manager, Eagle Ranch; Wildlife Coordinator  
Kate Sheldon, Resident  
James Harrison, Resident  
Bert Christianson, Resident  
Traci Knoll, Resident  
Nick Close, Ground Up Solutions  
Lany Ellis, Ground Up Solutions  
Shawn Bruckman, Ground Up Solutions

The order of business was as follows:

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. MDT. A quorum of Committee members was present.
2. Election of Committee Chair. Derek moved to nominate Hugh Fairfield-Smith as the Committee Chair for the calendar year 2024, seconded by Scott. Hugh accepted the nomination. Motion carries 5-0
3. Approval of Minutes. Derek motioned to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2023, Wildlife Committee, seconded by Brian W. Motion carries 4-0-1 (Hugh abstained).
4. New Business
  - a. Enforcement Officer.  
Kate Sheldon presented her request to the Wildlife Committee for the issue of ongoing major problems with off-leash dogs in Eagle Ranch and for an additional temporary closure on the golf course.

Issue #1: Funding for a pilot program for an enforcement officer. Kate provided a summary of the documents provided for the meeting. The cost for the pilot enforcement

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officer would be \$65 per hour and the estimated cost for 2024 would be \$25,000 and the cost for 2025 would be \$50,000.

Board Discussion:

Brian W.:

Agrees that enforcement of off-leash dogs in Eagle Ranch is a concern. He has spoken to Animal Control and has found that they are understaffed for the total area they are tasked with enforcing, and has had an officer state that they were not going to get out of their truck to enforce leash-laws on the golf course.

The funding proposed is temporary and there is a need for enforcement funding in perpetuity. Enforcement changes behaviors. The Town or the County need to provide the funding for this pilot program. We should be holding those responsible for enforcement to task.

Prefers funding habitat-based decisions and acquisition of open-space to protect winter range and migration corridors.

Derek Comments:

Who would be responsible for recruiting this position and who would this person report to? The HOA does not have policing powers and not all violations are Eagle Ranch homeowners.

Brian L. Comments:

Not supportive of providing funding for an enforcement officer in this capacity. The Town is currently investigating adding an enforcement ranger that will be responsible for leash-laws, open space, seasonal closures, etc. A permanent solution should be found.

Hugh Comments:

Not supportive of funding an enforcement officer in this capacity. The proposal presented today is lacking critical information. This does not answer the questions: 1) Is Eagle County Animal Control fully staffed; 2) How is this agent contracted to enforce leash-laws in Eagle Ranch and the Town?

Scott Comments:

The political will exists for the Town's proposed ranger program. This should be a Town employee and this is the best long-term solution to the enforcement.

Public Comments:

James Harrison:

This committee needs to think differently than past committees where it reacted to proposals presented to the group. We need to find and define projects and figure out ways to get partners. Mr. Harrison disagreed that we should not be considering short-term funding for enforcement. Mr. Harrison suggested the Committee write a letter to the Town indicating that enforcement is a priority and let's get it done.

Bert Christianson:

We need to move through the details as it is obvious that the committee and residents are all supportive of improved enforcement. We need tighter messaging. Let people know

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what a violation is. The committee needs to understand the return on investment of the messaging and answer the question, "Did the action impact change of habit?" It is incumbent on the committee to send a message of support to the Town, actively engage and lay out the strategy.

Traci Knoll:

We need to enforce our rules. We have too many people ignoring the leash-law around Eagle Ranch and has had to protect herself, on several occasions, from aggressive dogs on her own property. We need someone who has the authority to stop this, to stop people from driving through groups of moving elk. Likes the idea of the Town of Eagle person as long as this person has the authority required to do the job.

Issue #2: Temporary closure of the path linking 14, 15 & 16 and path linking holes 4-6. This is a request that should be addressed with the Metro District as Eagle Ranch Wildlife Committee has not authority to require additional closures.

No vote was called for Item #1 or Item #2.

b. Ground Up Soil Solution

Lany Ellis, Ground Up introduced Ground Up and reviewed the science behind the Soil Management Plan. Shawn Bruckman presented a request to the Wildlife Committee for cost-share program with individual owners for the application of a soil solution to improve soil health and support wildlife grazing in select neighborhoods in Eagle Ranch. The estimated cost for this program is \$118,150 in which 50% of the cost would be paid by the Wildlife Fund \$59,075.

Board Discussion:

Brian W. Comments:

Appreciates working with the soils 1<sup>st</sup> and how the application would work to enhance soil health. This board should be looking for application to the Open Spaces within Eagle Ranch and look at expanding to areas within the scope of the managed plan area. We need to look into a full soil analysis of the open space to understand the full scope and need of application.

Hugh Comments:

How does this application provide protection to the soils in wildfire and would this product need to be applied in the event of a fire?

Brian L. Comments:

Suggests forwarding Opens Space information to Ground Up for the creation of a soil analysis proposal for presentation at a future meeting with the Committee.

No vote was called for. Direction was provided for Brian L. to move forward with providing information to Ground Up and for a proposal to be generated and forwarded for future consideration.

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- c. Project Funding Discussion. The Eagle Ranch Executive Board requests that the Wildlife Committee consider creating a future-funding project list to better inform homeowners where future funds held in the Wildlife Committee Budget may be distributed.

The committee agreed with this request and will begin preparing information for distribution to the association members. **Shelley will begin working on adding information related to previous wildlife projects funded as well as how funding requests are prioritized by the Committee.** It is important to recognize that the Wildlife Committee is committed to working with partners to leverage funding to provide more opportunities for funding of 1) Open Space Acquisitions with Seasonal Closures, 2) Habitat Improvement & Eco System Restoration, and 3) Education.

- d. Wildlife Committee Composition. The Eagle Ranch Executive Board has asked if the Committee is satisfied with its current composition. The Eagle Ranch Declarations specifically state that this Committee shall have five (5) members, one (1) appointed by the Department of Wildlife, one (1) appointed by the Town of Eagle, and the other three (3) members being appointed by the Executive Board. The Executive Board has allowed for the appointment of two (2) alternate members to serve in the absence of a committee member. These alternate members would be allowed to fully participate in meetings and discussion, but cannot vote unless their presence is required to create a quorum of members.

The committee discussed this request and do not feel that a change in the composition is necessary. There is very rarely an issue with meeting quorum and believe the current group is working very well together to meet the goals of the committee.

## 5. Other Business

- a. Executive Session  
*“Move to convene into Executive Session for matters that requires maintaining privacy for an individual. The individual under consideration has asked for confidentiality regarding their involvement in this discussion and has not granted the committee permission to disclose this information in a public forum.”*
- b. Any action resulting from Executive Session. No action resulting from Executive Session.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m. MDT.

Respectfully submitted,

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Shelley Bellm, Coordinator