



Eagle Ranch Association
Wildlife Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 5, 2024
3:30 p.m. MDT

Eagle Ranch Office

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Meeting ID: 949 7004 2646

Passcode: 81631

Agenda

- 1) Call to order, verify quorum.
- 2) Approval of meeting minutes – April 23, 2024
- 3) New Business
 - a) Town of Eagle Enforcement Ranger 30 min.
 - b) Eagle Ranch Wildlife Protection Plan 30 min.
- 4) Other Business
 - a) Other business topics as needed/requested by staff or Committee members
- 5) Adjourn

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 April 23, 2024, at the Eagle Ranch Office, 1143 Capitol Street, Eagle, CO 81631, or via video/teleconference*.

Committee Members Present:

Scott Turnipseed, Eagle Ranch Association*
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
Shawn Bruckman, Ground Up Solutions
Allegra Waterman-Snow, Eagle County Conservation District
Laura Bohannon, Eagle County Conservation District
Kate Sheldon, Resident
Tracy Feldman, Resident
Tracy Knoll, Resident
Tom Murphy, Resident
Deb Murphy, Resident
Michelle Shaub, Resident
Val Glimp, Resident
Steve Hoffman, Resident

The order of business was as follows:

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. MDT. A quorum of Committee members was present.
2. Approval of Minutes. Derek Rose motioned to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2024, Wildlife Committee, seconded by Scott Turnipseed. Motion carries 3-0.
3. New Business
 - a. Enforcement Officer.
Kate Sheldon presented her request to the Wildlife Committee for the request of funding for a Community Liaison to be tasked with working with the Town of Eagle on the hiring of an Enforcement Ranger. The Liaison would attend meetings with various towns and stakeholders to request letters of support for the Enforcement Ranger.

Issue #1: Funding for Community Liaison – Request for \$1,440

Board Discussion:

Brian Wodrich: Agreed that more enforcement is required and the responsibility should be managed by the municipality. The Town will need to decide what level of training is required for this position and how much they are willing to spend. POST training is not typically seen in an open-space ranger position as the cost of POST training is quite expensive.

Scott Turnipseed: Political will is what we need to move this forward and it appears that the majority of the Town Council believes this position is necessary. Funding will continue to come from the Opens Space funding. However, the Town may need to partner with outside entities for a portion of the funding. The position will be very defined with specific job expectations. He does not believe that letters of support for this liaison position will have an impact and funds held by the Wildlife Committee can be better spent.

Hugh Fairfield-Smith: Ultimately, the Town will need to decide how this position fits. He is 100% in support of needed enforcement. Unsure of the value the letters of support will provide and would rather spend money on additional signage.

Public Comment:

Tracy Feldman: curious about other responsibilities of the ranger, would the provide enforcement on bike riders and reckless dog owners? Felt that the signs were very helpful but need more official support when dogs are off-leash.

Kate Sheldon: neighbors are in support of this liaison.

Board Discussion:

Brian Wodrich asked if Shelley was in support of this position and what her thoughts were.

Shelley Bellm: Stated her intent to assist with getting this position through the Town of Eagle. Attendance at public meetings would be minimal and emails can be drafted to reach the intended audience. She is already working with the Town Manager to better understand how this partnership could work.

Motion: A motion by Hugh Fairfield-Smith to fund the liaison position in the amount of \$1,440, seconded by Brian Wodrich. Motion carries 4-0

b. Ground Up Soil Solution

Shawn Bruckman, of Ground Up Solutions, presented their proposal for a phased approach for the purpose of improving Open Space and Wildlife Habitat in and around Eagle Ranch. Ground Up Solutions is looking for approval of Phase 1 of their proposal which includes baseline data collection, analysis, reporting, and recommendations of future restoration in high impact areas. The cost of phase 1 is \$91,060.00 which includes phase 1 Soil and Vegetation Assessment from page 13 of presentation.

Board Discussion:

Brian Wodrich: There are areas of open-space that are seldomly used by wildlife and taking a blanket approach is not what we need. It would be great to take the open-space maps and overlay the winter range to understand what areas need to be prioritized. Priority areas are Haymeadow and Abrams Creek.

The goal is to pull wildlife out of the neighborhoods and put them back where they should be with a high-value habitat.

Testing and study areas should be free from development and human allowance, such as the Spud Cellar area. We will need to close these areas off to ensure study area remains undisturbed.

This is an opportunity to educate Eagle Ranch homeowners of the purpose of this study, the importance of closing off the area to human use, and the importance of creating a healthy habitat for wildlife. We can use the Eagle Ranch email blast to educate and inform the homeowners of this wildlife funded project.

Hugh Fairfield-Smith: The study should identify where we need to focus and what we need to do to improve soils in Eagle Ranch. Should the scheduling be done around fire burn areas? It would be a benefit to understand what is in Abrams Creek now and then proceed with fire mitigation in that area next spring and test the soils again.

Motion: A motion by Hugh Fairfield-Smith to fund up to \$54,510 for two study areas, Abrams Creek and Haymeadow, seconded Brian Wodrich. Motion carries 4-0.

Additional discussion: recommended timeline for this project – Soil testing for Haymeadow and Abrams Creek in Spring 2024 and potentially seed in Fall 2024. Additional costs for soil enhancements will be brought to the Committee at a future meeting.

4. Other Business

- a. Prescribed Burn – Update – Hugh provided an update to the prescribed burn in the Brush Creek areas of Open Space. 320 total acres were burned using various fire effects. They were able to protect a hawk's nest in the area. A few calls to 911 and CPW were made and concerns were addressed.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m. MDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Bellm, Coordinator