

CHPOA Annual Meeting – July 15, 2015

President, RJ Akers, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Guest speakers were introduced and gave updates on various projects that affect Carriage Hills.

Mark Robinson – from Firewise talked about urban/wilderness interface. Firewise offers free service for home risk assessment. The fire department feels it is important for all of us in this urban/wilderness area to work together to protect the landscape. Many in the fire department are volunteers and it makes their job easier if we are all doing our part to keep highly flammable material cleaned up. Mark left cards for people to pick up and a phone number to call. Highlights included:

- Rake pine needles and brush 5 feet from your house and no brush burning.
- Clean gutters and screens in attic vents.
- Get rid of junipers and put in more fire tolerant bushes.
- Make sure to have smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors which need to be replaced about every 8-10 years. Hard wiring of these alarms was encouraged.

Skylar Rorabough from Parks and Recreation gave updates on Fish Creek trails and the new Community Center. Tom Carosello, Recreation Superintendent, accompanied Skylar. Our recreation district encompasses 320 square miles. The Community Center planners have teamed with the school district, library district, senior center, Cross Fit of Estes Park, the Estes Park Boys and Girls Club and others to help design the Community Center. The project is estimated to cost \$25 million. An \$18-\$20 million bond will be on the ballot in November, 2015. Our local tax assessment would be highest during project funding. The continuing costs would become lower in subsequent years. Some of the amenities would include a leisure pool, a jogging track, two gyms, a fitness center, indoor garden, senior center space expansion, child care, etc. Grants have been written for portions of the funding.

Fish Creek Trails – A trail design was submitted to FEMA, CDOT, etc. The design includes moving the trail further away from the road, adding curbs and gutters and planning better drainage. Utility construction should be completed fall, 2015. Road and bridge work will be completed spring, 2016 and trail construction will occur fall, 2016. These dates are optimistic due to wet weather this spring and summer. There is an Estes Valley Master Trail Plan which will require a year-long planning process. The Estes Valley Land Trust, YMCA of the Rockies, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and RMNP are all working together on this project. There will be public forums, the first of which is August 12 at 5:00 pm.

Stanley Park - A community garden is being planned here for early fall, 2015. Four pickle ball courts are also being planned.

David Born – CHPOA Board Member and weed expert reported that Carriage Hills is infested with invasive weeds. Cheat grass is everywhere and burns quickly at high temperatures. ELSA (Estes Land Stewardship Association) will distribute weed booklets. Volunteers will help identify weeds in your yard. Volunteers are:

David Born – 970-586-9607

John and Karen Gintert – 720-217-6677 and 303-442-5882

Mike and Mary Kottke – 970-480-5119

Alice Miller – 530-208-8161

Linda Wold – 970-577-8585

July 25 is a weed roundup. Paper bags full of weeds can be taken to the 666 Elm Street (Transfer Station) from 9am-12pm.

A Carriage Hills member recommended a recipe for killing weeds that is natural: 1 gallon white vinegar, 1 cup Epsom salts and 1 tablespoon Dawn liquid detergent

Greg Mulhonen, Public Works Director, gave an update on Scott Ponds. Each dam to be replaced is estimated to cost \$1 million. CDBG has awarded a grant of \$825K to repair one dam. The EP Board of Trustees voted to rebuild the western dam, but not the eastern dam which will be left as it is now. All work must be completed by March, 2016 so they want to start construction by September or October to meet this deadline. Several steps must be completed before dam work can begin so these steps are being completed now.

Ron Duell gave the GID4 Report. Roads are in bad shape, but there is inadequate funding since the mill levy has not been raised since 1993. There are 2 separate contractors: snow removal and road grating. Full culverts create problems for road maintenance; CHPOA residents need the names of people to help with cleaning culverts. RJ will collect names and put this information in the next newsletter. Property owners are responsible for culverts, but not ditches. It was reported that heavy equipment has torn up some of the roads in Carriage Hills. Hopefully, there will be repairs by the county. Carriage Hills residents will be kept informed about road progress and the mill levy vote.

CHPOA Business - It was moved and seconded that the Minutes be approved. Passed. Gail Albers gave the Treasurer's Report. There are 330 members to date. The year-end balance is \$22,050.14. It was moved and seconded that the new slate of officers be accepted.

Landscaping – Brian Berg is putting together a design for landscaping around our new sign. Some Carriage Hills money will be used to fund the landscaping.

Linda Hardin is the new code compliance officer. Her number is 970-577-3723.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.