

MINUTES OF THE H. P. DEER COMMITTEE MEETING  
JUNE 9, 2014

The Hollywood Park Deer Committee met in a regular session June 9, 2014 at 7:05 p.m. in Town Hall. Notice was posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meeting Laws.

Committee Chairman Jeff Doss called the meeting to order. Committee Members present: Nancy Swan, Carol Ingham, Michael Crevoisier, Arnold English, Barbara Schmitz, Markham Benn, Tonya Cummings, Larry Morris and Committee Secretary, LuAnn Montgomery.

**CONSENT ITEM:**

Review and approve Deer Committee meeting Minutes for May 12, 2014. Larry Morris made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Tonya Cummings. The motion passed unanimously.

**WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORTS:**

Two Wildlife Incident Reports were submitted. While one document reported a fawn being seen in a precarious location, along a retaining wall at a local business, another fawn was found dead, possibly caused by a loose dog. It had been bagged for pickup. Both reports appeared appropriate. No lymph nodes were removed. Carol Ingham made a motion to approve the Wildlife Incident Reports. The motion was seconded by Nancy Swan. The motion passed unanimously.

**PRESENTATION:**

*H.P. Deer Manager, Michael Mayfield providing proposed 2014-15 Deer Management Plan.* Mayfield thanked the Deer Committee for their support, time and effort. He termed the season a success and overall "good." Page 13 of the proposal outlines TTT and page 21 reflect 2014-15 his recommendations, saying his perspective is based on the deer herd; Habitat vs. Population. Activity in the 2014-15 deer season will begin June/July, rather than last year beginning late in October. Only one approach in removing deer was used, but this year we may have more than one technique in the case another isn't working. The trap sites and mobility is the key. Mr. Tony Allen in Ozona, Texas area said he'd come to Hollywood Park for the deer. A multi-faceted approach and being more mobile may be very necessary and cannot justify gathering only a handful of deer at one time. Once the deer are darted, we have 20 hours to complete the TTT activities. We must be implementing two different operations at once for a count of 20-30 deer could be taken through the TTT process during the course of one full night. It may be feasible, but if you're mobile, one team can be very productive. The TTT process is still at the top of the list and we will try to fulfill those procedures the best of our ability. Plan 2 would be to harvest any remaining population proposed for removal and continue trapping with corral traps. The success rate with TTP is higher due to the deer becoming used to the surroundings, especially later in the season. Sharp shooting is actually better at the end of season since the deer become more aware and is on high alert. This past year, very few residents realized the deer were being trapped at night and anxiety was suppressed. Mayfield recommends that a temporary deer feeding ban be requested by the Deer Committee from October through March to increase the success rate of deer removal. Once the proposed number of deer are removed and the TTT/TTP is complete, everyone can revert back to feeding again. Schmitz stated that Hollywood Park has worked very hard at developing the feeding ordinance and does not want it to move backwards from where we've gone. A special acknowledgement and thanks was given for the committee members that were responsible for completing the CWD testing on the deer that were harvested and processed. A comment from one of those committee members saying the processing facility where the deer were taken is very organized with records and animal identification, which made the task easier. When asked by a committee member where Mayfield obtains his recommendations, he responded by saying he conducts deer management tasks through his experience and expertise, not from TPW recommendations. Larry Morris inquired about the acreage adjacent to Hollywood Park, such as the golf courses, Hill Country Village and greenbelt areas are considered when determining desired deer population. Mayfield responded by informing the group that the terrain on golf courses and other developed areas cannot be considered because a large portion of these areas do not contain edible forage for the deer to adequately feed and prosper. The deer cannot utilize the grass on golf courses, along with an influx of an additional 20% population in these adjacent areas not considered in the census count. Barbara Schmitz inquired of the veterinarian presence the proposal referred to. Mayfield said that all the miscellaneous deer handling procedures involved in the TTT process, the vet can be here to address the human concern for the animals. Carol Ingham asked if the fatalities documented in the Incident Reports could be considered in the determined number of deer to be removed from the community. Mayfield said, "they were considered a mortality, regardless". Jeff Doss further states this is an item for the committee to discuss further. Arnold English suggests another survey be done among the residents of the community regarding our herd disposition and population. He's asking about the population numbers with does vs. bucks. Mayfield suggests keeping pace with production for a couple years, then we could go into "a management phase" in which the herd can be better maintained. A question was

asked regarding the number of deer that are placed on trailers with the response being 20-25 deer could fit safely into a gooseneck trailer for TTT to Ozona. Up to 50 deer could possibly be moved to Ozona, based upon current TPW approval; this being done in two separate sessions. A member of the committee asked Mayfield if he had observed any disease in the Hollywood Park deer and he said he had seen one buck that was about 5 ½ years old had that had shed his antlers very early in the season and appeared to be in poor health., while other deer were not at 100%, they did not appear to be malnourished. There are factors in Hollywood Park that do not allow the deer to be a full 100%. Even in drought years, it should be reflective as deer's health being satisfactory based on a balanced ecological condition. Further questions were asked in defining the term "pristine habitat". We have 720 available acres of growth but this community does not have pristine habitat because it is not ideal for feed and bio-production. In general, deer eat approximately 3 pounds green edible forage daily and this habitat cannot supply the herd with the average feeding requirements. Mayfield says he cannot recommend what is NOT biologically correct. Mayor Fails states that what he needs from the H.P. Deer Committee is to take Mayfield's recommendation and provide this recommendation to the City Council. He says that sharp shooting will NOT be a good suggestion as far as public relations are concerned. Fails says he would like to see it all mesh from Mayfield's information and with all the residents of the community. It was suggested each member document their personal recommendations to J. Doss, who in turn will submit to City Secretary, Janice Alamia. All questions can be submitted in the same manner with Ms. Alamia forwarding to Mayfield for response; Mayfield sending that response to the entire community. Deer Committee Member, Tonya Cummings feels that having our next meeting in September is too long to wait and that it is putting Mayfield in a bad situation, which is the same as experienced last year and that we should have another meeting. Mayfield stated that he would like to begin trapping as early as October 1, 2014 before rut. He says the mating season greatly disturbs the deer's pattern of movement. LuAnn Montgomery recommended the committee have another meeting before **considering taking the summer off**. Mayfield continues saying that we shouldn't include the fall census numbers along with **dropped fawns and fatalities** since the spring census numbers were used in determining the amount of deer to be removed from Hollywood Park. Most likely, we'll have little change in population dynamics. Markham Benn asked if we wait until **August for our next meeting**, would that allow for enough time for the Deer Committee's recommendations to process through City Council and back to Mayfield. It was also asked by another member if the processing fee from harvested deer was free. Response was, "nothing is free."

#### **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:**

*No participation from citizens.*

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

1. ***Review, discuss and take possible action on recommendation for Deer Crossing signs in Hollywood Park.***  
Tonya Cummings and Nancy Swan have had several email communications and have met with EDC Member, Brent Lane regarding the location of the signs their committee was purchasing. There are 4 more signs added to the signs, making a total of 16 Deer Signs contributed by EDC. It was asked if they would have the reflective border we spoke of in previous meetings, but citizen and *Sparks* reporter, Karen Waugh said they didn't approve the yellow reflective tape as trim on the deer signs. Mayor Fails said he thought they did approve the yellow trim. EDC is still negotiating with the city design company. Both Cummings and Swan said they would continue working with Mr. Lane.
2. ***Review, discuss and take possible action on proposed H.P. Deer Management Plan for 2014-15 deer season.***  
Discussion was as previously recorded above. Final determination was to schedule a meeting in July to obtain feedback from Deer Committee Members and residents in order to move forward with recommendations for City Council to consider and approve.
3. ***Review, discuss and take possible action on reported May 2014 Urban Wildlife Conference, attended by 5 committee members.***  
Representing the 5 Deer Committee Members who attended the Urban Wildlife Workshop in May, Tonya Cummings said the speakers were very good and the presentations were excellent. More attending members agreed they would go again if given the opportunity.

#### **CONSIDERATION FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE DEER MEETINGS:**

1. Review, discuss and take possible action on recommendation for Deer Crossing signs in Hollywood Park.
2. Review, discuss and take possible action on proposed H.P. Deer Management Plan for 2014-15 deer season.

The schedule for the next H.P. Deer Committee Meeting was set for July 7, 2014. Barbara Schmitz made a motion to accept the next meeting schedule/agenda and adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Larry Morris. The motion passed unanimously.

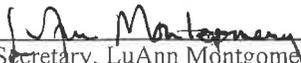
ADJOURNED:

Chairman, Jeff Doss adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

MINUTES OF THIS MEETING APPROVED AS SUBMITTED ( )  
CORRECTED ( ) THIS 7 DAY OF July, 2014.

  
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Chairman, Jeff Doss

ATTEST:

  
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Secretary, LuAnn Montgomery

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City Attorney