City of Granite Shoals
2221 N. Phillips Ranch Road
Granite Shoals, TX 78654
(830) 598-2424 fax (830) 598-6538
www.graniteshoals.org

AGENDA
FOR A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
OF THE WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WAC)
OF THE CITY OF GRANITE SHOALS
TO BE HELD 7:30 AM - BEFORE THE TOWN HALL MEETING
SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2016 - GRANITE SHOALS FIRE DEPARTMENT
8410 WEST FM 1431, GRANITE SHOALS, TEXAS 78654

1. Call meeting to order / Welcome
2. Citizens Comments/Items of Interest:
3. Review Power Point presentation for the Town Hall meeting.
4. Review various materials which may be referenced at the Town Hall Meeting and may include:
   - Pamphlet - '*Killing Them With Kindness*' from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
   - Ordinance # 685 – Pilot Plan for Deer Management, adopted Feb. 23, 2016 (can be accessed at this link - http://www.graniteshoals.org/DocumentCenter/View/605)
   - Proposed Ordinance regarding regulating Deer Feeding in the city limits, to be considered by City Council at their regular meeting of June 28, 2016.
5. Review, discuss and consider the 'housekeeping' issues/logistics for the Town Hall.
6. Coordinate with representatives of Texas Parks and Wildlife regarding order of agenda.
7. Identify Future Agenda items
8. Adjournment.

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the foregoing agenda has been posted at Granite Shoals City Hall inside bulletin board and outside on the new Parks Information and City Notice Board, 2221 N. Phillips Ranch Road, a place assessable to the public at all times, and on the official city website at www.graniteshoals.org on Thursday, June 09, 2016 on or before 6:00 PM and shall remain there continuously from such time until after adjournment of the meeting which begins 7:30 AM Saturday, June 18, 2016. The Fire Department is wheelchair accessible and accessible parking spaces are available. Requests for accommodations or interpretive services must be made 8 hours prior to this meeting. Please contact the City Secretary at (830) 598-2424 for further information.

Elaine Simpson, TRMC/MMC - City Secretary

CITY OF PARKS

June 18, 2016 Town Hall Meeting

Wildlife Advisory Committee

Deer Management Pilot Program

Outline of Deer Meeting

• General – Welcome/Introductions	Todd Holland
• Conduct, Decorum and Procedures	Mayor Brugger
• Purpose	Jason Brady
• Very Brief Background	Jason Brady
• Summary Ordinance 685	Jason Brady
• Addressing the Concerns	Jason Brady
• Supplemental Feeding of Deer	Dr. Wehland
• Proposed Ordinance 680	Todd Holland
• Comments, questions, input from citizens	All

If time permits
Discussion of comments & answers to questions
Otherwise comments and answers
will be on the City Website and posted hard copy

• Next Steps	Mayor Brugger

INTRODUCTIONS

- WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WAC)

—Jason Brady – Chair

—Doug Ripple – Vice Chair

—Mary Waters

—Robbie Boswell

—Steve Hougen

—Willie Pack

—Dennis Jowers

INTRODUCTIONS

- CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS
  - Carl Brugger- Mayor
  - Tom Dillard — Mayor Pro Tem and Councilmember Place 4
  - Anita Hisey –Councilmember Place 1
  - Shirley King –Councilmember Place 2
  - Eric Tanner –Councilmember Place 3
  - Todd Holland –Councilmember Place 5
  - Mark Morren –Councilmember Place 6

INTRODUCTIONS

REPRESENTATIVES FROM TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

- Dr. Erin Wehland - Natural Resource Specialist
- Dale Schmidt – Biologist, Llano County

We Are All - US

- All members of City Council and the Wildlife Advisory Committee are:
  - Volunteers – we get no pay or money
  - Concerned Residents of Granite Shoals
  - Granite Shoals Property Owners
  - Taxpayers
  - Voters
- Please do not think in terms of "Them" and "Us" – We are all "Us"

The Purpose Of This Town Hall Meeting

- **To provide information / educate the citizens of Granite Shoals related to the Pilot Project for Deer Management.**
- To communicate information, thoughts, ideas and opinions –on topic
- To hear and listen to citizens and property owners –on topic
- To answer questions if we can, or identify questions that need answers –if we can't answer here we will place answers on city website

Very Brief History of the Wildlife Advisory Committee Activities

- Committee was formed in March 2014, and has been working to find a Deer Management program that will work for "us (city and citizens)" and that does not induce financial strain on "us (city and citizens)".

- Working under TPWD guidance and recommendations.

Ordinance #685

Overview of Ord. 685 (Complete Ord. on City Website)

- **Safety Regulations**
- **Pilot Program**
- **Strict Requirements for Members of Harvest 'Team'**
- **Limited 'locations' – sites selected are in secluded areas**
- **Coordination with Texas Parks and Wildlife, Granite Shoals Police Department and Game Wardens**

Addressing the Concerns #1

Concern: City wants to 'eliminate all the deer'.

- Does the City want to eliminate all the deer?

Answer: City officials aim for deer herd to be healthy.

- The deer census conducted in August of 2015 showed that we have an overpopulation issue biologically, that is, there are more deer in the city limits than the habitat can support.
- The citizen survey done in January 2015 indicated that there are many conflicts between humans and deer, this is social overpopulation.

Addressing the Concerns #2

Concern: Has Wildlife Advisory Committee researched other means of deer population control?

Answer: The Advisory Committee reviewed numerous deer management techniques.

- At the City Council Meeting on December 15, 2015, Chair Jason Brady presented results of the committees research and consultations with Texas Parks and Wildlife Biologists. More than a year's worth of research had led to the recommendation of an archery based pilot program. The Committee also presented the **pros and cons of all methods they had researched**.

Addressing the Concerns #3

Concern: Will it be Open Season for hunting in the City?

Answer: State and Local laws remain in effect regarding use of firearms in the City.

- The City Firearm Ordinance was amended to allow only those participants in the Deer Management Pilot Program to discharge an arrow in the city limits, during official 'hunt' times and at specific 'hunt' locations selected because they are safely away from structures and roadways. State poaching laws remain unchanged.

Addressing the Concerns #4

Concern: Will hunting be allowed near my house?

Answer: If your home is near any designated site, you will be approached before the program begins to seek permission to retrieve any deer on your property.

- You will be aware of any hunt site within 75 ft. of your property. You will be asked if you will give advance permission for recovery of deer on your property.
- Every effort will be made to ensure no deer should leave the designated area.

Addressing the Concerns #5

Concern: Is this program a 'Good Ol' Boy' program to allow certain people to hunt deer in the City?

Answer: The Wildlife Advisory Committee conducts all business in the open. Any citizen may apply for consideration of appointment to the Committee and/or the pilot program.

- Any citizen can review the work of the committee over the last two years, review information that has been considered and reports that have been provided to Council and public. All reports are on website.
- Members applied for appointment to WAC in same manner as other city boards.
- The WAC held an open meeting for interested participants in the Pilot Program on March 24, 2016.

Addressing the Concerns #6

Concern: Is this plan well – designed so not to be a liability to the City?

Answer: WAC has designed this plan with oversight by Texas Parks and Wildlife and review by City Legal staff.

- The work of the WAC has been guided all along by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department expert biologists.
- The city legal staff reviewed the project plan and included what we believe to be needed waivers.
- Council approved the pilot program after significant safety measures were incorporated into the design.

Addressing the Concerns #7

Concern: Is this a trophy hunt?

Answer: This is a Level 1 MLD permit, so it will be antlerless deer only.

- No antlered deer will be taken.
- No other animals, vermin or otherwise, will be taken.

Addressing the Concerns #8

Concern: What will happen to the harvested deer?

Answer: State Law prohibits wasting of game animals.

- Deer belongs to harvester first.
- Deer may be donated for Food Banks, churches and other pre-arranged parties.

The ‘Cons’ of Feeding the Deer

KILLING DEER WITH KINDNESS – (pamphlet available)

...As suburban development continues to sprawl and drought continues to scorch the landscape**, humans are seeing the plight of hungry deer and want to help.** Some choose to offer supplemental food to the animals in the hopes that it will help offset the poor conditions. Others worry about the impact of deer on vegetable and ornamental gardens or the danger they pose to drivers on the roadways and even people and pets on their walks.

The result is often a battle, pitting neighbor against neighbor as everyone wants the best for wildlife *and* for humans, and both try to find the solution to a problem that isn’t going away.

The 'Cons' of Feeding the Deer

PROVIDING SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD

Unfortunately, deer feeding areas can be a fertile breeding ground for pathogens and parasites. Deadly aflatoxin and mycotoxin, frequently found in bags of deer corn, can kill many deer and birds before it is even recognized, and Chronic Wasting Disease has been spread at feeding sites in other states. Feeding stations attract more than just deer: opossum, raccoon, rodents, and skunks are frequent visitors to any regular feeding station. These critters bring in and spread their own parasites and diseases, including rabies.

The 'Cons' of Feeding the Deer

And that's not even considering the fact that white-tailed deer, a ruminant species, have a complex digestive system. If fed the wrong food at the wrong time of year, they can actually starve to death – even with a full stomach.

The last complication of deer feeding may seem like a benefit: well-fed deer turn those calories into fawns. Even with all the problems mentioned above, deer that are fed will increase in number. Unfortunately, that compounds the original problem: the land wasn't able to support the amount of deer it had to begin. In a population that is being fed there are even more mouths to feed, and less and less natural food is available. So, the deer continue to starve.

The 'Cons' of Feeding the Deer

Could it be that feeding deer is even more cruel than not feeding them?

If we let the natural habitat set the population level of the herd the deer population, overall, will be healthier. In good years, numbers will increase, and in tough years, we'll lose a few individuals. But the population itself will be stable.

Proposed Ord. 680 *No Feeding Deer*

Chapter 4 (Animals) of the City of Granite Shoals Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to create a new Section 4-15 (Feeding of Deer Prohibited) of the City of Granite Shoals Code of Ordinances is hereby created as follows:

"Sec. 4-15. Feeding of Deer Prohibited.

No person shall purposely feed or provide food (as described in subsection (c) below), through a ground-feeding station, salt lick or by other means, to wild deer in the city on any public or private land.

For the purpose of this section, all deer shall be deemed to be wild.

Proposed Ord. 680 *No Feeding Deer*

A person shall be deemed to have purposely fed or caused deer to be fed if the person places wheat, pelleted livestock food, corn in any form, fruit, vegetables, hay or alfalfa, human food scraps, any form of commercially sold wildlife feed, birdseed or livestock feed, or any other edible matter that deer will consume (not including live vegetation such as ornamental landscaping or flowers) on the ground, or within reach of deer (not including birdseed in a bird feeder). This prohibition shall not apply to edible matter located either in an enclosed building or stored in a securely sealed package.

Proposed Ord. 680 *No Feeding Deer*

The prohibition of this section shall not apply to any peace officer, animal control officer, **or other agent of the city acting pursuant to a deer control program approved by the City Council.**

Penalties. A person who violates the proscription set forth in the Deer Feeding Ordinance commits a Class C misdemeanor punishable under the General Penalty provision, Section 1-10 of the City of Granite Shoals Code of Ordinances or by an administrative penalty imposed by this ordinance.

Proposed Ord. 680 *No Feeding Deer*

Proposed Ordinance 680 will considered by the City Council at their next regular meeting, to be held June 28, 2016, Tuesday, at City Hall Council Chambers at 6 PM.

Texas Parks and Wildlife recommends that a No Deer Feeding Ordinance be passed as a part of the overall Deer Management effort.

Other Questions?

The Committee members understand that there are many questions we may not have addressed in this presentation.

If your question is detailed, please submit in writing and the answer will be provided to you and copied onto the city website for all to see.

Thank you for your time and participation!

Reference and Resources

The following are available from the city official website at www.graniteshoals.org :

- All agendas and meeting minutes from WAC meetings from 2014-current.
- Application form for those interested in applying for consideration of appointment to the WAC or the Pilot Program.
- Review of May 2, 2015 Town Hall Meeting regarding Deer Overpopulation.
- December 15, 2015 WAC Chair report to Council on management options.
- Ordinances
  - establishing the Wildlife Committee
  - Adopting the Pilot Program for Deer Management
  - Modifying the City's Firearm Ordinance

Next Steps:

- Pilot program qualification testing and training sessions begin.
- Notification of residents within 100 ft. of the designated sites.
- August 2016, a new Deer Census Count to be conducted by WAC under guidance of Texas Parks and Wildlife biologists.
- Fall 2016 - WAC committee coordinates program with representatives of Parks and Wildlife Dept.