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 REGULAR MEETING
OF THE WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WAC)
GRANITE SHOALS CITY HALL, 2ND FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBER
2221 N. PHILLIPS RANCH ROAD, GRANITE SHOALS, TX
THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2016 6:30 PM

The Committee may take action on any item listed on this agenda.

1. Call meeting to order / Welcome
2. Citizens Comments/Items of Interest:
3. Review, consider and possibly take action to approve meeting minutes from June 23, 2016; Regular Wildlife Advisory Committee meeting.
4. Review results of property owner interactions around harvest sites.
5. Schedule work days for harvest sites.
6. Review location and details of bowhunter ed course.
7. Make contact with archers.
8. Review of banners, signs and other issues/material related to Ord. 680, *The No Deer Feeding Ordinance*, passed by City Council on July 12, 2016.
9. Discuss the possibility of having "volunteer transporters" to help the harvesters get animal to recipients, and increase harvest numbers.
10. Identify Future Agenda items
11. 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 Friday, July 22, 2016 on or before 5:00 PM and shall remain there continuously from such time until after adjournment of the meeting which begins 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 28, 2016. City Hall 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

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MEETING MINUTES
FOR REGULAR MEETING
OF THE WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WAC)
OF THE CITY OF GRANITE SHOALS
GRANITE SHOALS CITY HALL, 2ND FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2221 N. PHILLIPS RANCH ROAD, GRANITE SHOALS, TX
THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2016 6:30 PM

1. Call meeting to order by Jason Brady at 6:30 PM. There were four members present, which constitutes a quorum.

Present:
Jason Brady – Chair
Doug Ripple – Vice Chair
Mary Waters
Robbie Boswell

Absent:
Steve Hougen
Willie Pack
Dennis Jowers
Tina Collier (appointed June 14, 2016)
Todd Holland, Council Member Advisor

City Staff:
Elaine Simpson, City Secretary (recording secretary)

Other participants: Hank Barry, Laura Campbell

The meeting minutes reflects items in the order they appeared on the meeting agenda, the actual order of the meeting may have been changed.

2. Citizens Comments/Items of Interest:

- Volunteer Appreciation Reception – June 28, 2016 at 5PM in Council Chamber.
- Annual 'Open Meetings Law' Training with the City Attorney – 6-30-2016 6:00-7:30 in Council Chamber of City Hall. All are welcome. This class fulfills the requirement for 'Open Government Training' for all members of Boards, Committees and Commissions for the City.
- Meet with Mayor – Mayor's Open House – June 30th from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM in Council Chamber.
- Safety Check of car seats – 6-29-2016 Marble Falls EMS 1-4 PM

3. Review, consider and possibly take action to approve meeting minutes from:
   a.) May 4, 2016 Wildlife Advisory Committee Regular Meeting
   b.) June 18, 2016 Special Called meeting to prepare for Town Hall Meeting.
   c.) June 18, 2016 Town Hall Meeting to Discuss Deer Management pilot program.

Vice Chair Ripple makes a motion, and Mary Waters seconded, to approve, as presented, all three sets of meeting minutes in agenda item 3. Motion carried by unanimous vote of 4-0.

4. Review, discuss, consider and possibly take action related to proposed sites for harvest areas, and other logistics related to the Deer Management pilot program.

Currently, it appears promising that we will have six sites. We will meet with the owner of a very large tract on Monday. If this property owner is agreeable, this tract may accommodate two or three hunt sites safely.

Committee members were assigned in teams of two, to visit the property owners within a 100 yard radius around the six sites which are promising at this time. These members will knock on the doors and tell the owners about the pilot program, the nearby site and will report back to the Committee if there is any serious opposition.

So far, from research done on the website of the Central Appraisal District, we believe the promising six sites have 42 homes in the 'notify area'.

Also, there were two gentlemen at the Town Hall meeting on June 18th. They indicated willingness to allow their property to be used as a harvest site.

No formal action was taken on this item.

5. Discuss Town Hall Meeting held Saturday, June 18, 2016 at the Fire Hall, regarding the Deer Management.

Chair Brady noted that the meeting went very well. There were lots of good questions asked by the attendees. The panel (WAC Committee members and the representatives from the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife) were organized and responsive to the questions and concerns.

One concept stressed at the Town Hall meeting was the concept of culling out the does with arrows as being the most merciful method. The deer have none of the natural predators they would have in the wild, which is why they are becoming overpopulated in these sub/urban areas. Unlike firing a gun, the arrow is silent so the deer is unaware before it is hit. The harvester team

members, the archers, will be rigorously trained and will have to pass qualification testing on a monthly basis. We do not want anyone volunteering for this program that doesn't have skill and especially excellent judgement. It is better not to take a shot than to take a shot that is not lined up perfectly.

There was a discussion of several assorted topics, related to the Harvester team archers. They will have limits imposed on the number of does they can drop. This will be determined by how many tags there are (these are assigned by hunt site), and how many animals they can keep in edible condition.

Field dressing will be done in secluded location(s). The Harvest Team members will be responsible for the correct, legal disposal of remains left after venison is dressed.

There was no formal action taken on this item.

6. Review, consider, and possibly take action related to proposed *Ordinance #680 Prohibiting Feeding of the Deer* with consideration of issues discussed at Town Hall Meeting.

The Committee received input at the Town Hall meeting on Saturday which raised questions or concerns regarding the nature of the 'penalty' or fine which would be fair for violation of No Feeding of the Deer Ordinance. There was also a concern submitted at the Town Hall meeting related to the desire of some citizens to feed human table scraps to the deer, in order that these edibles not go to waste.

There was an extended discussion of the desire to have this component of the larger Deer Management Program in place. It is recommended by the Texas Parks and Wildlife biologists as a part of a management program. The committee discussed that Dr. Erin Wehland had provided information for the attendees at the Town Hall meeting on Saturday, June 18th that Supplemental Feeding of these deer is not healthy. The deer corn is not nutritious for them. Allowing/encouraging deer to congregate together to eat out of a common feeder is likely to promote the spread of parasites or disease.

There was the alternative consideration discussed that the Committee doesn't wish to alienate the citizens, either. Some have said that they will feed *until* the Ordinance is passed. Some have said they will feed *no matter what* ordinance the Council passes. Also, the weekend residents may be slow to learn about this new ordinance, even with the two month grace period incorporated into it; they may still get caught violating the Ordinance out of ignorance.

The Committee members determined that they would reduce the punitive nature of the Ordinance, allowing for a more 'graduated' schedule of administrative fees, which the committee

interpreted as the 'civil penalties' as referenced in the proposed Ordinance 680. For the first 'violation' (after the 60 day grace period), of the Ordinance, the administrative penalty would be a warning *without monetary penalty*. For the second 'violation' of Ord. 680, the penalty would only be assessed at $50.00. Third, Fourth, and Fifth time violators would be assessed a penalty of $200.00, per violation. If a sixth violation occurred in the same 12-month period, the penalty levied could be up to $1,000. It was noted that both the code compliance officers and the Granite Shoals police officers will have some discretion, as they do with all violations. Also, it was noted that the citizens have, at each step of the process, the ability to file for an appeal of an administrative penalty with the Municipal Court.

The Committee determined that the criminal, 'Class C' misdemeanor fine should be reserved for only those who, in the opinion of law enforcement personnel, are 'routine' violators of the Ordinance. There was a discussion of the strict nature of the penalty for violators of the ordinance in Sunrise Beach, Texas. Residents there are given a $500 fine. Members of the committee are under the impression that this has caused resentment from the residents of Sunrise Beach toward their deer management program as a whole. This is not what the committee desires for Granite Shoals.

The Committee would also like for the 'tweaks' to Ordinance 680, as presented by city staff, be incorporated. These modifications include a notation that the Police Department will also enforce this Ordinance, in cooperation with the Code Compliance personnel. Also, some portions of the original ordinance mentioning clerical procedures were struck out as unneeded.

The Committee also wishes for the administrative fees for violation of Ordinance #680 to go into a restricted fund for use by the committee to administer the Deer Management Program (at this time, the pilot program).

There was a motion by Vice Chair Ripple, seconded by Robbie Boswell, to forward a favorable recommendation to City Council related to proposed Ordinance #680 No Deer Feeding Ordinance, with the following modifications (as subject to City Attorney review and approval):

Section II, Sec. 4-15. (page 2) …

Letter (e) should be amended to read:

…

(e) Penalties. Violation of this section shall be punishable by administrative penalties as described in section related to civil penalties. A person who routinely violates the proscription set forth in the No Deer Feeding Ordinance may be charged with a Class C misdemeanor, punishable under the General Penalty provision, Section 1-10 of the City of Granite Shoals Code of Ordinances.

Sec. 4-16 should be modified to read:

Section 4-16. Imposition of civil penalty/administrative penalty for violations.
...(b) The schedule of administrative penalties/civil penalties shall be according to the following: For first violation, the violator will receive a written warning without monetary penalty. For the second violation of Ord. 680, the penalty shall be assessed at $50.00. Third, Fourth, and Fifth time violators would be assessed a penalty of $200.00, per violation. If a sixth violation occurs in a single 12-month period, the penalty levied could be up to $1,000.

Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.

The committee returned to this agenda item at a later point in the meeting, and another motion was made relating to requesting City Council set aside money collected from administrative fees from violations of this No Feeding Ordinance, for use to administrate the Deer Management program.

Motion by Chair Brady, seconded by Mary Waters, that City Attorney also incorporate into Ord. 680, that administrative fees collected under this Ordinance will be placed in a dedicated account/fund for use for the city's Deer Management program(s). Motion carried unanimously by a 4-0 vote.

This proposed Ordinance, with modifications as suggested by the Wildlife Advisory Committee, will be considered by City Council at their June 28, 2016 Regular Meeting.

7. Appoint members to start making contact with homeowners around harvest locations.

This was briefly discussed earlier in the meeting. The four members present took for action to begin this task, in order that significant progress would be made by the next WAC Regular meeting, July 28, 2016.

8. Appoint members to start making contact with organizations to receive the harvested animals.

Mary Waters took for action to communicate with her contacts at church/Joseph's Food Pantry. It was suggested that Councilman Mark Morren be contacted, because he may have already started a list of potential food recipients. It was also noted that Pastor Keesler may already have a list started with Council Member Todd Holland of potential food recipients.

9. Discuss and possibly organize a work day and volunteers to start prepping harvest locations.

Since there were only 4 members of the Committee present, this agenda item as 'bumped' to the next meeting; July 28, 2016.

10. Discuss the possibility of having "volunteer transporters" to help the harvesters get animal to recipients, and increase harvest numbers.

There was a gentleman during the Town Hall meeting who volunteered to come to the hunt site and pick up a doe from the Harvester and deliver it to the Food Bank recipient, or the processer. This type of assistance could be a valuable asset. It is hoped that he will call the City and leave his contact information.

11. Identify Future Agenda items

- Hunter Liability Releases (to recover deer on private property)
- Organize a Work Day.
- Report on progress of 'Notification Teams' to notify the 42 homes.
- Review possible potential sites from meeting held this Monday.
- Request for Technical Guidance Forms (Chair Brady)

12. Adjournment.

There being no further business and no objections from the members of the Committee, Chair Brady adjourned the meeting at 9:44 PM.

I, Jason Brady, Chairman of the Wildlife Advisory Committee for the City of Granite Shoals, Texas, certify that the attached are true and correct minutes taken from recordings and notes of the Wildlife Advisory Committee meeting of June 23, 2016

_____

Date: _____

24 in

18 in

NOTICE

NEW CITY ORDINANCE #680 FEEDING DEER IN THE CITY LIMITS IS PROHIBITED