



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

MEETING MINUTES
FOR A SPECIAL CALLED 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, MARCH 24, 2016 6:30 PM
MEETING FOR THE PUBLIC – PREQUALIFICATION MEETING FOR PILOT
PROGRAM FOR DEER MANAGEMENT /INFORMATION MEETING

1. Call meeting to order by Jason Brady at 6:30 PM.

Present:

Jason Brady – Chair

Doug Ripple – Vice Chair

Robbie Boswell

Steve Hougen

Mary Waters

Todd Holland - Council Advisor

Willie Pack

Absent:

Dennis Jowers

City Staff:

Elaine Simpson, City Secretary (recording secretary)

Other participants: Chris Johnson, Jason Faherty, Randy Hodges, Hank Barry, Ben Lozano, Kory Compton, Cody Baether, Walter Clayton, Garry Joy and Cory Comstock.

2. Citizens Comments/Items of Interest:

There were no citizen comments.

3. Discuss Wildlife Advisory Committee activities June 2014 to present – *Chair Brady*
Chair Jason Brady – Granite Shoals, Texas - Wildlife Advisory Committee (WAC)
Presentation to City Council – 12/15/2015

The WAC was formed as an advisory committee to the council. That being said, we the WAC have taken up the task to advise the Council of the options that are present to control the urban white-tailed deer population of the City.

The deer survey indicates that there needs to be approximately 585 deer removed.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologists have informed the Committee that the first priority should be to begin to track the deer-related accidents and deer/human conflicts/incidents to help track our progress. We would request that the police dispatch create a method to track accidents and incidents reported to the city involving deer, and that the animal control/public works departments track the number of carcasses removed from the roadways. These are standard statistics which are regularly tracked by other cities as they formulate and conduct deer management programs.

The reasonable methods of control that are available are:

- 1. Do nothing: Pros: cost nothing and not labor intensive. Cons: gains nothing, opportunity cost –deer population continues to grow.*
- 2. Trap transport process (roughly \$150/animal) per last conversation with Mr. Bond (estimated total cost \$87,750). Pros: contractor conducts program as a 'turnkey' project & is an efficient (proven) program that has been instituted in other nearby cities. Con: Too expensive – 29x the budget allotted to the WAC.*
- 3. Archery program (Would consist of education, volunteers (many of them very skilled), many moving parts, planning and organization)*
 - A. pilot program on private and public lands (not parks) with a very select # of participants to test the program in year 1.*
 - B. program restriction of Antlerless deer permit issued by TPWD (Absolutely no Antlered deer to be harvested)*

Pros: Program can/could be implemented with little funding, can utilize many volunteers with skill in bow-hunting who live in this area and harvested animal can be given directly to citizens to be processed as desired.

Cons: Ordinance would have to be amended to allow the bow-hunting in the city limits, the education program required would need to be comprehensive (to combat false rumors that it is 'open season' for bow-hunting in the city and false rumors that there will be hunters in the city parks). Would require time, labor and volunteers to coordinate, organize and conduct. Deer could run after being hit, leaving the official 'hunt' areas to die. This program would be designed and conducted by Granite Shoals WAC, so we would have no other cities to provide guidance. It is unknown how much guidance TPWD could provide. Unknown liability for the City depending on how tags were assigned from TPWD.
- 4. City-owned trap transport process program. Volunteers provide labor for trapping/netting program. Pros: No injured deer leaving the 'trap area'. Cons: Costs: Traps cost between \$4000.00 and \$6500 each, trapping usually done at night (difficult to get volunteers at night?), no deer can be released – if a fawn or antlered deer is caught, they must be harvested. There may be large number of animals trapped at one time, and all must be kept in edible condition (overnight?) under State Law – cannot 'waste' animal meat, this leads to meat processing fee involved. Trapping 500+ deer would be very labor intensive. Like #3, this program would be designed and conducted by Granite Shoals WAC and City personnel and associated volunteers: no guidance available from any other cities, and unknown amount of guidance from TPWD.*
- 5. Youth hunt program. This is a new idea/concept. The incorporation of youth volunteers might be something to use in conjunction with the archery program, if it is pursued in the future. Pros: Get youth involved. Cons: many variables and unknowns since this program would be built/dependent upon the success of another program.*

We were stifled by the above options because we have little direction to focus on. I believe we need one of the above to focus our efforts on instead of trying to attain every variable for every option, with our limited resources.

Every option presents its own set of challenges to hurdle, but the WAC needs a direction to focus on, that being said we would like the council to seriously consider, and or approve the WAC to move forward with option 3.

4. Discuss Ord. 685 - Pilot Program Archery- Based Deer Management Plan approved by City Council on February 23, 2016

a. Pilot Program overview/Introductions – This is only a pilot program and can be shut down by the City Manager at any time if in his opinion the program is not functioning as Council intended.

b. State Law and City Ordinances

The only change to the current city law regarding Firearms is that members of the ‘team’ for this pilot program, as allowed to discharge a bow during official hunt times, at official hunt sites. Any hunting done outside the parameters of the program, even if conducted by a member of the team, is illegal. Illegal hunting is grounds for dismissal from the team. (and is illegal poaching).

c.. Roles and Responsibilities of: (see handouts)

1.) Volunteer Hunters / Harvesters:

Wildlife Advisory Committee Harvester Roles and Responsibilities

Strictly follow the rules and guidelines of Ordinance No. 685.

Strictly follow all State Laws and City of Granite Shoals Ordinances (laws).

Maintain your equipment in a fully functional manner.

Report any hunting site issues or repair needs.

Keep your information up to date (vehicle, phone number, email).

Immediately Contact the On Duty Director of any issues or conflicts.

Immediately Contact the On Duty Director for any Assistance.

Weigh all your deer at the weigh Station and Fill-In the Report.

No guest on hunts.

Let Directors know if you are not going to be available for a hunt in advance.

Be discrete about hunting Program and Activities.

No bow/crossbow during recovery.

No alcoholic beverage during any activities involving this Program.

Keep your cell/smart phone on you at all times.

Make good decisions and have fun!!!

2.) Hunt / Harvest Directors:

Wildlife Advisory Committee Directors Roles and Responsibilities

Conflict resolution

Help with animal recovery as needed

Director will be Contact person for hunters and director is responsible for coordinating location harvest times.

Ensure that documents are properly completed. Weight, distance animal ran before expiring, harvest station, any issues harvester may have had (conflict, repairs needed, lost animal, lost arrow)

Ensure that animal recipients have been contacted to receive deer. If applicable.

Director may discreetly visit harvest sites to ensure all rules are being followed.

Director has authorization to dismiss a harvester.

Director will have list of all harvesters and alternates.

Report to WAC chair, or council liaison of weekly activity

d. Discussion of Professional Conduct

1.) Social Media – the hunts should not be promoted on Social Media.

2.) Public Relations - team members should be discreet regarding the pilot program. Since the nature of the program is experimental, only official spokespersons should discuss the program to the public. The sensitivities of the general public should be considered and respected.

2.) No alcohol before or during harvest events.

e. Discussion of Application process (application packets at City Hall and online at city website <http://www.graniteshoals.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=76>):

1.) Unpaid Volunteer Service

All harvesters that are interested will be drawn as a lottery for qualification opportunity.

1st pick local harvesters living in the city

2nd pick local property owners living out of town.

3rd local harvesters living outside city limits.

2.) Requirements

Must agree to register with local Police Department.

Must meet all requirements of proficiency testing, on a monthly basis.

Must use required type bow, arrow floss, and broad head as described in Ord. 685. Must provide own safety harnesses, arrows, etc.

Must sign all required waivers.

Take responsibility for venison, must keep in edible condition as per State Law. There was a discussion of option of donating venison to designated Food Banks and Churches in the area. This will be an option. Must coordinate in advance to donate, in order that recipient can be lined up to accept meat.

3.) Time commitment – No weekends or holidays: approx.. 5 mo. Commitment.

4.) Nature of the Pilot Program / Test Program: The program will be coordinated by the WAC with guidance and cooperation with local law enforcement,

game wardens, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, etc. The Hunt Directors and WAC members will review statistics of the hunt and formulate reports for City Council. Every Harvester will keep his 'name placard' on the front dashboard of vehicle during the hunt.

5.) Discussion of database for applicants / email: Must have cell phone that remains in hunters possession at all times during hunt.

5. Identify Future Agenda items: No Deer Feeding Ordinance to be proposed to City Council in May. Town Hall Meeting to educate the public on the No Feeding Ordinance and the Deer Management pilot program – possibly in May 2016?

Preliminary site locations to propose to the City Manager. (as many as 10?)

Town Hall meeting agenda.

Consult with City Attorney re: Open Records requests.

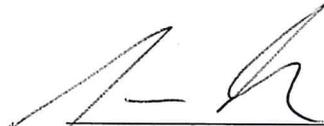
Consult with City Attorney re: fines for violation of No Deer Feeding Ordinance, can this money be earmarked for wildlife management program?

The next Regular meeting of the Wildlife Committee will be April 28, 2016 at 6:30 PM

6. Adjournment.

There being no further business and no objections from the members of the Committee, Chair Brady adjourned the meeting at 8:48 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 March 24, 2016


Date: 5/4/16