

Alpine City
Urban Deer Control Committee

April 14, 2016, 5:00 p.m., Alpine City Offices

Minutes from Committee Meeting

1. Attendance: Brian Higbee, Dan Ruesch, Melissa Holiday, Kent Partna, Craig Rosvall, Mayor Sheldon Wimmer. Excused absence: Rich Nelson.
2. Minutes from the March 31, 2016 meeting were not available for approval. Will review at April 28 meeting.
3. Report from Dan Ruesch on deer population study:
 - a. Dan talked with Channing Howard about relocation program and deer census.
 - b. Discussed timing and design: Channing said probably early to mid summer best time for census. Census design: divide the city into sections and at same time on a particular day, volunteers walk their quadrant and count deer. Could contact UVU and BYU wildlife biology departments for volunteers along with Alpine residents.
 - c. Relocation experience so far: about 50% survival rate of translocated deer 1st year
 - d. Natural survival: about 15% die naturally each year but 85% survive in the wild.
 - e. Channing is available to present to us at a meeting.
 - f. Steve Gray, a biologist, in discussion with Brian Higbee said that Alpine is in a fairly unique position as it is located at the confluence of two mountain ranges giving it the characteristics of a mountain town.
 - g. A habitat restoration biologist told Brian that there are Federal habitat improvement programs available that could help us restore deer foraging plants for the benches.
 - h. Discussed cost of eradication programs.
4. Report from Dan Partna on safety issues and property damage:
 - a. Dan presented police reports of deer incidences obtained from Matt Howard for 2015 & 2016.
 - b. Committee compared reports to dead deer retrieval reports.
5. Report from Brian Higbee on control options and cost, etc:
 - a. Brian met with 2 DWR professionals: Channing Howard and Steve Gray.
 - b. Looked at possible corridors for migration, increasing forage plants.
 - c. Discussed mitigation through education program, cost of eradication programs, and what is done with meet if a city uses the lethal method of eradication.
6. Report from Melissa Holiday on the development of community education:
 - a. Contacted a review of local cities websites and found only Bountiful to have any mention deer control measures and suggestions of how to live with deer.
 - b. Discussed opportunities for community outreach: city website, newsletter contribution-wildlife corner, activity at Alpine Days.

7. Discussion of Community Survey.

- a. Reviewed results from Mayor Watkins' fall survey: 800 respondents with 50% in favor of eradication efforts, 29% against eradication efforts, and 21% undecided.
- b. Craig Rosvall presented that he had spoken with Matt Thompson at Dan Jones Survey who indicated a survey return of +/- 3.3% (800 returned surveys) was a good return.
- c. Committee determined that the previous survey was not comprehensive enough to use as the justification for an eradication program.
- d. Discussed Dan Partna's previously submitted survey idea.
- e. Determined next steps:
 - i. Each committee member will submit to Melissa Holiday by Wednesday, April 20, a survey with a preamble acquainting city residents with the purpose of the survey and 10 or less survey questions.
 - ii. Taking those submitted surveys, Melissa will compile the questions into a single survey for submission to the committee members before the next committee meeting on April 28 so members can come prepared to discuss and vote on a final survey.
 - iii. Survey logistics and committee assignments will be determined at the next meeting.

8. Adjournment at 6:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Melissa Holiday