



## Meeting Minutes April 19, 2010

**Present:** Terry Nolan, Vicky Starkey, Nancy Smith, Bill Hodges, Gary Debus, Steve Dyer, Linda Watson, Dorothy Hargrove, Rochelle Logan, Holly Nicholson-Kluth, Fran Santagata, Laura Hopkins, Todd Landgrave, Michael Cooke, Melanie Worley, Maureen Waller

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**5:10 p.m. Call to Order** followed by introductions

### **BURNING ISSUES**

**Chamber:** Steve reminded everyone that it is the Chamber's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. He said the Chamber's annual luncheon was a success (Joe Blake was the featured speaker).

The Chamber is hosting a Governor's Forum from 7:30 until 9:30 a.m. on May 18. The forum will be held at the Wildlife Experience. John Hickenlooper and Scott McInnis are scheduled to attend.

**Libraries:** Dorothy handed out a fund raising flyer for the Highlands Ranch library – the library has been in its current building for 10 years!

Rochelle is serving as President of the Colorado Association of Libraries this year. She mentioned the group of outside advocates who are going around to all the libraries in the state to discuss their value. When the election season heats up, the advocates will be discussing the impact Amendments 60 and 61 and Proposition 101 will have on Colorado's libraries.

**Emergency Management Office:** Fran provided the following information:

**LEPC Exercise (AKA Operation Neptune):** After a very productive meeting with Denver Water about their security concerns related to the Foothills Water Treatment Facility, we came up with a compromise that will meet all of our needs. We are now going to do a 3-part exercise:

- **Public Exercise:** Oct 6th full scale exercise will follow the same scenario that we used for the tabletop exercise that was completed in Nov. of 09. A chemical tanker will be blown up by terrorists close to the facility. The explosion will actually happen a block away so that the media will focus more on the school that will be directly in the path of the plume. This scenario will allow us to test the alert and notification process to the public with a focus on the schools (there will be about 15 schools in the path of the plume). It will allow all of the players to test their mutual aid response to a large HAZMAT incident and it will test our medical system.
- **Recovery Tabletop:** Oct 13th. We will address the long term recovery issues from the above scenario at a tabletop exercise. These issues include: dealing with mass fatalities, environmental damage, long term medical issues and financial issues.



- **Confidential Exercise:** A confidential exercise will be held in the December timeframe on the Foothills campus. The exercise will not have media. First responders will be able to have hands-on experience actually on the campus working with the Denver Water staff.

**CERT-Citizen Emergency Response Team Training** is going on (as we speak) at St. Andrews in Highlands Ranch.

**Weather Spotter Training:** Was provided to citizens last week. This training provides you with the skills to recognize serious storms as they roll in so that you can take appropriate actions and stay safe.

**Emergency Operations Plan:** Was officially adopted by the BOCC on April 13.

**Wildland Interface Exercise:** April 10. Was hugely successful- over 220 firefighters, 30 agencies, and 32 pieces of apparatus. Firefighters practiced their skills and we also practiced an evacuation. There were some issues with the Everbridge Alert system that we are working with the vendor to correct.

**Douglas County Sheriff's Office:** Holly Nicholson-Kluth reported that the Sheriff's substation in Highlands Ranch is moving along – it should be ready by the end of November. The number of auto-pedestrian and auto-bike accidents is up – especially in Highlands Ranch. It's prom season and the Sheriff's Office is doing what it can to keep our young people safe.

**HRCAs:** Todd reported that HRCAs hosted another successful 9 Health Fair – they saw about the same numbers as last year. There will be a volunteer fair at the Southridge Rec Center on April 21 (from 4:00 until 7:30 p.m.). The Home Improvement Expo will take place this weekend (April 24-25) at the Eastridge Rec Center.

There will be a Computer and Electronics Recycling event on Sunday, April 25 from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. It will take place at Town Center North.

On May 1, it will be Derby Day at the Highlands Ranch Mansion. There will be a live broadcast of the race, Derby themed games, a cash bar, and appetizers. Bring your hat!

**School District:** Bill reported that the new superintendent will start sometime in July. The District is going to have to let between 350 and 400 people go – about half will be hourly employees and half will be newer teachers. If there are vacancies, they will make every effort to hire back those who were let go.

**Metro District:** Vicky reported that the District now owns the Mansion. May 4 is election day – there is only one contested seat. Ballots were mailed to all who are on the county's permanent mail ballot list. If you did not get a ballot, you can call to get one or vote in person.

The Metro District has hired a consultant to evaluate the emergency services being received from the City of Littleton. The District has been happy with the partnership with Littleton, but it is time to examine alternatives to ensure there isn't a better option or fit for Highlands Ranch.



## **AMENDMENTS 60 AND 61 AND PROPOSITION 101 – WHAT ARE THEY?**

Terry Nolan provided an excellent overview of what the initiatives are – his information is attached.

## **BUILDING A BETTER COLORADO THROUGH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

Melanie Worley provided an overview of the civic engagement meetings Colorado’s Future has been hosting throughout the state – including the recent one in Highlands Ranch. The subject of the meetings was Ballot Reform and Constitutional Review. In the last 35 years, Colorado’s Constitution has been amended 35 times – sometimes adding conflicting provisions. Participants were able to develop strong agreement on a number of meaningful reforms to improve the ballot process – *including*: a requirement that ballot language be clear and concise; requiring more signatures for constitutional amendments; require petitioners to collect signatures from all over the state; make financial disclosure requirements for initiative campaigns as strict as it is for candidate campaigns. Now it’s time to get the reforms on the ballot.

A handout with additional findings was distributed.

## **MEDICAL MARIJUANA – QUICK UPDATE**

Maureen shared that the commissioners adopted their new medical marijuana regulations on March 30. The changes allow for regulated medical marijuana facilities in the General Industrial District (only). The facilities will be a Use by Special Review (there will be a lot of review and a thorough process before they will be approved). The new regs spell out minimum separation distances from schools, parks, residences and other medical marijuana facilities. Existing facilities would be grandfathered in.

HB 1284 (the one that establishes the regulatory framework to allow state and local governments to manage the industry) passed out of appropriations last week. The bill provides structure for a licensing process for medical marijuana centers, grow operations and infused food products. There will be a local licensing authority.

The land use provisions in HB 1284 allow counties and cities to tailor their regs to their needs. HB1284 also allows local governments to refer a measure to the ballot – asking voters if they want to have medical marijuana centers in their jurisdiction at all. Medical marijuana cannot be banned, but facilities can be.

If HB1284 passes, grandfathered medical marijuana facilities would have to (by 2011) go through all local and state licensing requirements. The facility in Highlands Ranch would not meet the newly adopted Douglas County regulations.



### **RANCH WRAP**

No one else had anything else to share. In July, we will talk more about the proposed amendments and their potential impact on local jurisdictions. Dorothy will talk a little about library advocacy too.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.