



Meeting Minutes February 1, 2010

Present: Terry Nolan, Vicky Starkey, Craig Erickson, David Starck, Dorothy Hargrove, Fran Santagata, Sheriff Weaver, Kristin Decker, Laura Hopkins, Todd Landgrave, Bryan Breuer, Maureen Waller

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

Burning Issues

HRCA: Laura shared that the Winter Cultural Series is going very well. The next big event is at 7:00 p.m. on February 11 – the *Grupo Tlaloc Danza Azteca* dancers will be performing at Cherry Hills Community Church.

Libraries: Dorothy handed out information about a Wine and Chocolate evening with a bestselling author (Christopher Bohjalian). The event will take place at 6:00 p.m. on February 13 at the HR Library.

On February 14 at 4:00 p.m., Anne Hillerman, author and daughter of late novelist Tony Hillerman, and her husband, photographer Don Strel, will present photographic images of Tony Hillerman's landscape and discuss the elder Hillerman's best-selling mysteries and the landscape that shaped his stories.

Douglas County Libraries has kicked off its Spring Reading Program.

Douglas County Sheriff's Office: The Sheriff shared that Colorado now ranks second in the nation in per capita bank robberies. Federal and local law enforcement officials met with bankers earlier in the day to discuss ways to reduce the number of bank robberies. Suggestions included: asking customers to remove hats and sunglasses when they enter banks (to improve surveillance photos); hire more security guards; update anti-theft technology.

The Sheriff thanked everyone for attending the ground-breaking ceremony for the Sheriff's substation in Highlands Ranch.

Emergency Management Office: Fran reported that the revised Emergency Operations plan is finished. The official rollout is set for Friday the 5th. Our FEMA partners are happy that the plan mirrors plans at the federal level. There will be Community Emergency Response Team classes on the plan held in Highlands Ranch in the near future.

Chamber: Craig reminded everyone of the Legislative Forum being held on 2/4 at 7:30 a.m. at the Southridge Rec Center.

Metro District: Vicky reported that the conveyance of the Mansion from Shea Homes to the



Metro District will be complete when the deed is transferred in March. The Metro District has purchased a new ambulance for Highlands Ranch.

Role of Team Highlands Ranch

The group briefly discussed the role of Team HR and everyone agreed that the handout captured it – our primary focus will be on sharing issues, discussing important topics (communicating and networking). There was agreement that we should move to a quarterly schedule, but that we would call special meetings if there were burning issues that needed to be shared/discussed. Laura, from HRCA, wasn't sure quarterly meetings were frequent enough, but she agreed to go along with the decision to see how it goes.

The remaining meetings for 2010 will be held April 19, July 19 and October 18. Additional meetings will be called if needed. The Team HR Operational Guideline documents will be updated to reflect the change.

Medical Marijuana

Kristin Decker, an attorney for the county, introduced the medical marijuana issue to the group – she provided some background first. Since 2000 (when the voters approved the measure), the Colorado Constitution allows the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes for patients with a debilitating medical condition if recommended by a physician and obtained through a primary care giver. Users need a doctor's recommendation and they need to register with the State.

We began hearing a lot more about it last year, when the federal government announced that it would no longer make it a priority to pursue and prosecute medical marijuana cases. That announcement seemed to open the floodgates – more and more dispensaries have been popping up and more and more people are applying for cards.

The county imposed a temporary prohibition on the construction or use of any property for medical marijuana dispensaries – for a period not to exceed 6 months – in order to establish zoning regulations. The prohibition expires April 20th.

The county is in the process of drafting regulations for medical marijuana primary care giver facilities. The draft regulations will be sent out on referral and public hearings (before the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners) will be held prior to adoption. Staff is using Eagle County's regulations as a guide.

The Partnership of Douglas County Governments has put together a group to talk about the issue – the plan is to have similar regulations in all jurisdictions (so dispensaries don't all head to the one jurisdiction with the least restrictive regulations).



The State Legislature is trying to deal with the issue as well. One proposed bill would limit the number of patients a care giver may serve to 5 and it would prohibit joining with other care givers.

Another proposed bill deals with the regulation of the physician-patient relationship for medical marijuana patients and proposes sanctions on physicians that violate the requirements.

There was a long discussion about the issue. Not surprisingly, the Sheriff had a lot to say. The Sheriff is very concerned with how things are going. There are a lot of new enforcement challenges for police officers (e.g., if someone is pulled over by an officer and he/she is found to be high, the police are not allowed to ask if he/she has a medical marijuana card – it's protected by HIPAA laws).

Ranch Wrap

Everyone wanted some good news. The Sheriff shared (in secret) that our Victims Assistance person is being recognized (on a national level) for all the work she has done for victims in Douglas County.

Maureen shared that the county has received \$757,800 from the *Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant*. Team HR was briefed on the grant application process last May.

Bryan suggested we hear from the School District in April – it looks like they will need to make \$45 million in cuts.

No one else had anything to share.

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