

BURLAND HOA GENERAL MEETING
April 20, 2022 – 7:00pm
Platte Canyon Fire Station

Attendees: Board members Stuart, Debra, Jack, Tim, Beth, Bill
Present: Mike Fisher, Deb & Alan Kappel, Pat White, Jackie Spradlin, Steve Vincze,
Tom McGraw, Ethan Darion, Jim & Nancy Lynch, Ginger Williams, Steven M...
Zoom: Mary Thiessen, Carrie Marsh, Stuart Rhodes, LG Aristo, Maryann Kunkel, Terry
Hathaway, Susan Landucci

1. Beth called the meeting to order at 7:03.
2. Welcoming remarks by Beth Fisher, new president of the board, including a greeting to our guest speaker, Sheriff Tom McGraw.
3. Sheriff: Tom spoke about staffing issues, with one of the main concerns being lack of funds for adequate salary to compete with surrounding counties. He will be trying to get a penny sales tax passed by the voters again. He mentioned the publicity around the reduces staffing hours but said there has not been an uptick in overnight criminal activity.

He also acknowledged the change in the park from public to private and said that if we have issues with anyone that appear to be escalating, we should call the department rather than attempt to handle it ourselves. Sheriff McGraw spoke about a complaint his department had received about people “policing” the park. Mention was made that “someone with a gun” approached them, asked if they were residents of Burland, and then asked them to leave. The person the complainant was talking about was in the meeting and spoke up. Tom stated that this person had a right to open-carry and said when he questioned the complainant, that person said he did not feel threatened by the person asking them to leave. He had just noticed the gentleman was carrying, but the gun was never used or referred to. Since this issue did not escalate, Tom said we were within our rights to ask the complainant to leave the marked private property.

There is now a county-wide fire ban in place at Stage 1, meaning no open fires but BBQ grills and propane are still allowed. Call if you see any open fires. The fines for violating the ban are \$500 the first time, \$750 the second time, and \$1000 the third offense. There have already been six fires recently, two somewhat suspicious. We need two or three days of good moisture to get out of danger. He also strongly pushed the Code Red notification system from the county and advised that if we do have a fire in a residential community, roads may very well be shut down preventing residents from returning to their homes if they are not there already. Have plans in place for kids, pets, etc.

Sheriff McGraw then fielded several questions.

-What will response time be after hours now with reduced shifts? That depends on who is on call and where the incident is. If they are able to increase hiring, they may try going back to a 24 hour shift Thursday – Sunday. Jefferson County is available via mutual aid for extreme incidents such as active gun fire, but should be used sparingly. The five members of the Fairplay Police Department are also sworn deputies and may be available if needed.

-Are the shooting ranges still open with the fire ban? The Como range is well maintained and is still open for the time being. The Harris Park shooting range is closed during any bans.

-Someone mentioned we have an AirBNB with a wood-fired hot tub. What should we do? This has already been submitted to the county as AirBNB regulations do not allow any wood fires at any time, but since there is now a fire ban the Sheriff suggested we report this to the fire department.

-How should we protect our homes with decreased law enforcement patrols? Tom recommended just using good standard practices: lock your doors, be aware of what's happening around you, report suspicious activity not normal for your neighborhood. Video cameras have become very useful, so invest in one (or more) if you can.

-There was a complaint about an extremely loud motorcycle around the neighborhood frequently. The address is known. The Sheriff said the department will contact that individual.

-Tom mentioned the primary reason we have mountain lions in the residential neighborhoods is that people are feeding the deer. The deer then know to come into the neighborhoods and the mountain lions follow them. Once in the community, then the mountain lions also see small pets as an additional food source. Feeding deer is harmful to the deer and illegal.

The Sheriff introduced Deputy Ethan Darion, who happens to be a resident of Burland. Ethan spoke about requests they have received to start some sort of crime watch in the community. There is a program called Dog Walkers Watch that would work well in our situation. It requires about an hour of training, and he would be willing to work on this if there are enough volunteers. Ethan (and Tom) also stressed the need for residents to get the reflective green address markers. These are available from Burland Firewise or from the fire department for just \$10 and make an amazing difference in trying to find homes.

4. Park update: Debra mentioned we will be getting a handicap-accessible port-a-potty and will also be marking a space or two for handicapped parking. We have had two community events so far (Halloween, Easter Egg Hunt) and both were well received. Thanks to those volunteers who made these happen and we welcome ideas for more. We may institute a Weakland-Fawks Day to commemorate the donation of the property where the park is. Since going private with the park, feedback has been very positive. It was explained that was always the intent, but due to the need for insurance coverage many years ago, an agreement was signed with the county. That agreement has since been terminated as we now have our own adequate insurance.
5. Firewise: Jack spoke about the program gearing up for this year. If you want your property to be considered, please fill out the Firewise questionnaire. The committee works with the fire department to determine what shrubs and trees to remove, and can work around special situations such as pet animal graves, etc. There will also be mitigation along road right-of-way hazards this year. This will start with the curves up 72 past the pee-wee ball fields about May 18th, then move to the Rosalie/Sleepy Hollow route, and finish with a project on Kudu Trail. We do need volunteers to do traffic control while the department does the actual work. This requires a class of about four hours to be certified, which will be held on Apr 30th. You can email firewisebrhoa@gmail.com for more information. Jack

also stressed the green address markers.

6. General meeting arrangements: We discussed the timing and availability of the public members meetings. This was also done in a survey last fall. Issues such as driving after dark, weather, work schedules, and technical issues with internet meetings were all mentioned. It was decided that the weekday evening was working well for most and our attendance has increased. Several voiced support for continuing the use of Zoom as an option for those who can't make the meeting in person. We will continue with this arrangement for the time being.
7. Unfinished business: A discussion was held on how to publicize the HOA and its benefits. A member suggested getting a booth at Bailey Days. We will pursue this if spots are still available. It was also suggested to give real estate agents and title companies better information, but that doesn't always work depending on the focus of those companies.

Someone asked if they could hike Mt. Bailey after dark for viewing of the night sky. Since our standing rules have the park closing at dusk for several reasons, and the dangers of wild animals being harder to spot after dark, it was stated we will be staying with our current policy of closing from dusk to dawn.

8. New business: Carrie Marsh said she had been checking with the county on availability of a second booster shot for COVID in the area. The county will be having a clinic at the county substation in Bailey on the 24th from 12:00 – 5:00, and an additional one at Platte Canyon Community Church on the 28th from 12:00 – 6:00.
9. Meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Peterson
Secretary.