

Synopsis of NEPCO Meeting 13 March 2021

This synopsis is intended to provide the highlights of the NEPCO General Membership meeting to all residents of NEPCO member Homeowner Associations. Full minutes & presentations at www.nepco.org. The meeting was a Zoom video conference.

NEPCO Transportation and Land Use Committee Reviews: Paul Pirog (High Pines Owners Association), Vice Chairman of the Committee, presented a briefing on the status of recent activities of the committee. NEPCO reviewed a record 52 new developments in 2020 and has reviewed 16 new developments to date in 2021. Regarding the proposed **Red Rock Acres Rezone** development, he stated that 73 neighbors lodged objections due to the density increase and other concerns. Paul provided additional charts on NEPCO's review of developments: **Monument Industrial Park** between I-25 and Old Denver Highway: major concern that it will block view corridors to the mountains in disregard of the 2000 Tri-Lakes Comprehensive Master Plan, also lighting, environment and traffic issues. **Cloverleaf Rezone** consists of 141 lots northeast of Lewis-Palmer High School: major concern is the density, water and lighting. **Walters Open Space** by Jackson Creek Parkway and Higby Rd – NEPCO had no objections. **Monument Dental Clinic** between McDonalds and Walgreens on Baptist Road: major concern is that the planners need to adjust their lighting plan to make it dark-sky compliant in accordance with Monument code. **Sterling Ranch** off Volmer Rd one mile north of Woodman; concerns are density, excessive water, and noise study issues. **Bridle Bit Ranch** north of Shoup Rd – in NEPCO review. **Winsome** at NW corner of Hodgen and Meridian Roads – in NEPCO review. The committee will review the **El Paso County Master Plan**. Also, Paul met with neighborhood representatives regarding the **Furrow Road extension** plan, and a group was formed to distribute a petition to the county for implementing “calming traffic means” on the road due to expected higher traffic flow. Lots of details are on these charts in the presentation package on the NEPCO web site.

Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD): Greg introduced the guest speaker, John Spears, Chief Librarian and CEO of the PPLD. He provided an extremely informative presentation on the history, funding and benefits of the PPLD.

- **General information about the PPLD:** 15 locations, 459 staff, 1.1 million items in the collection, 3.1 million visits per year, 3 million web site visits in 2019, 3 mobile services, serves 660,000 people, 500,000 computer uses per year, 2.08 million digital circulation, 54,703 meeting room uses, most visited organization in El Paso County.
- **Funding:** \$35M annual budget, primary source of funding is property tax mill levy (averages \$40 per person per year), also receives supplemental funding from the Foundation and Friends of PPLD, 86.5% funding is through property taxes, PPLD funding per capita is 10th of 13 Colorado libraries of similar service area. Largest cost is personnel at 59.7% of budget.
- **History:** Mr. Spears provided many charts describing the long and informative history of the PPLD, 1885 established at the corner of Tejon and Cucharras Street, 1905 Colo Spngs Public Library founded on Kiowa St, 1962 PPLD formed, 1975 Monument Branch opened, 1986 last mill levy increase, 1999 Monument Branch relocated to a facility five-times larger, 2006 launched e-branch of electronic books, 2014 Library 21C opens as first of its kind in the country with maker spaces, a video and recording studio, a business and entrepreneurial center, café, and performance venue.
- **Response to COVID-19:** went virtual within one week of pandemic, conducted story time, audio books, began making face shields on 3D printers, started curb-side service in May 2020 and will probably keep this service due to popularity.
- **Adult education department:** largest in the nation, offers high school equivalency and high school diploma program, foreign language education, U.S. DOE-accredited food industry training, partnered with businesses to provide industrial training such as welding and fabrication.
- **Regional History and Genealogy:** publishes local history documents, collects local oral histories such as that for the Waldo Canyon fire,

John said that he would be happy to have the PPLD speak at any HOA meeting. Contact info: John Spears, jspears@ppld.org, 719-531-6333 x6010.

More details of his presentation are at www.nepco.org Meeting Presentations.