

Synopsis of NEPCO Meeting 9 November 2019

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.

Annual Elections for Board: Three current Board members were re-elected to the Board: Donna Dee (Paradise Villas HOA), Greg Lynd (Fox Pines HOA) and Bob Swedenburg (Gleneagle North HOA). Any NEPCO member wishing to serve on the Board in the remaining two vacant positions should contact President Greg Lynd or Secretary Bob Swedenburg.

Transportation and Land Use Committee Report: Paul Pirog (High Pines Owners Association), Vice Chairman of the NEPCO Transportation and Land Use Committee, provided a status report on recent activities of the committee. NEPCO has reviewed 36 to date in 2019 compared to 23 reviews in 2018. Updates were provided on Monument Academy Site Development Plan just off Hwy 83, Walden Preserve 2 Filing 4 near the new Monument Academy site, Forest Lakes Phase-2 PUD Preliminary Plan Amendment (there is a group working to have a portion of this become home to the new northern El Paso County Nature Center), and Sanctuary Pointe Phase-2 north of Baptist Road will have 72 lots on 117 acres. Projected growth in the 80132 zip code from 2017 to 2022 is now estimated to be 43%. Meetings are held every two weeks for interested members to explain the land use review process at Decadents pastry shop. NEPCO members interested in volunteering to be a member of the NEPCO Transportation and Land Use Committee should contact Greg Lynd at president@nepco.org or 1-303-808-5002.

NEPCO Wildfire Preparedness Committee: The Red Rocks Ranch HOA has been recognized as “Elite 7” nationwide by the National Fire Protection Association, 1 of 7 “Sites of Excellence” in the nationwide program. Congratulations to Red Rock Ranch’s Beth Lonnquist and Dave Betzler. The link to a 14 minute video on the benefits of proper fire mitigation is provided on the NEPCO web site for all to view at their convenience. Matthew Nelson’s email is matthew@woodmoor.org.

County Issues: Greg introduced our two guest speakers Holly Williams, County Commissioner for District 1, and Stan Vander Werf, County Commissioner for District 3. They discussed TABOR, County Budget, Water, Growth, County Master Plan and Fire Mitigation. The following are some of the points they covered. TABOR is highly desired by both commissioners. The \$10M/year the voters let the county retain in 2017 has been used primarily for transportation to purchase new snowplows, a BOMAG road machine and salt trucks. The Board of County Commissioners requested Governor Polis NOT to sign any legislation that requires unfunded mandates to the county, and to fully fund CDOT. The 2020 County Budget consists of \$147M in unrestricted funds of which 51% will go to public safety expenses, and \$178M restricted to be used for the DHS only. Recent unfunded mandates from the state include (1) raising the Pavement Quality Index (PQI) of roads which will cost the county about \$10M to raise pavement quality of 26% of county roads, (2) putting ballot boxes on all college campuses, (3) changing drug offenses to misdemeanors so county jails will have to hold them instead of state prisons, and (4) Red Flag gun legislation. Water Master Plan was discussed. County population is 730,000 today and is projected to be 1.2 million by the year 2050. Commissioner Wander Werf discussed the I-25 gap and explained the economics and technical rationale why he believes it should be 4-lanes each way. In response to a question on what we can do, he asked the attendees to email Rocky Scott at commissioner.scott@state.co.us and say that you support County Commissioner Stan VanderWerf and the 4-lane option for the I-25 gap. Commissioner Williams talked about the process, the structure and the timeline for the County Master Plan. Regarding wildfire mitigation, the County and City Offices of Emergency Management have merged into a single Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management. Updates were provided on Monument Hill Road, Highway 105 expansion, Beacon Lite Road design and the Gleneagle-Struthers Roundabout projects. Holly Williams can be reached at HollyWilliams@elpasoco.com or 719-520-6411. Stan Vander Werf is at StanVanderWerf@elpasoco.com or 719-520-6413. See the charts on the NEPCO website at www.nepco.org.