

## **CRHOA Neighborhood Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, April 22, 2010**

**Caughlin Ranch Elementary School multi-purpose room**

### **Guest Speakers:**

Marshall Emerson, Washoe County Assistant Sheriff  
Tim O'Conner, Lieutenant, Washoe County Sheriff's Department

### **CRHOA Board of Directors Members:**

Millie Burke, President  
Michele Attaway, Secretary

### **NAC Representatives and property owners:**

Norman Huckle, Caughlin Creek  
Larry MacNeil, Castleridge  
Joe Petralia  
Jolue Bellesi  
Janett and Franz Weber  
Joe Dowden, MountainShyre  
Pat Blanchard, Vantage Point  
Hal Baran – Caughlin Creek  
Linda Heiss – Eastridge  
Sabine Beach – Village Green  
Cathy Rossner, Evergreen  
Jane Schaeffer, Creek Ridge  
Wayne Wiswell, Heritage  
Debbie Smee, Eaglesnest

### **Discussion of firearm discharge above Pinehaven access**

**Larry MacNeil, a Castleridge resident**, said that the area has been plagued for several years with heavy shooting above at the Pinehaven access and at the storage units, resulting in bullet holes in some storage units.

The challenge is which government official to call to report gunfire and how to determine the location of the gunfire. The residents would like better control of firearms usage by requesting that the boundary area be extended an additional 5,000 feet for a total of 10,000 feet. Larry said that at the last CRHOA BOD meeting, the Board recommended Mike Trudell working closely with Washoe County Public Works and the Washoe County Sheriff's Department to expedite this matter.

The extended boundary would not be a burden on shooters since they have trucks, ATV's, etc. to travel up the mountain on. Hikers, dog walkers, etc. would have more enjoyment and it would also cut down on gunshot noise heard by the neighbors.

Larry said that better signage needed to be posted at the entrance and the "exit" of the boundary area. He said that he did not think people understood the area included.

Larry commented that last year he watched as a Raven Helicopter removed two people from the slope.

Mr. MacNeil distributed a memo from CRHOA members Drs. Tim and Katie Sherry. The Sherrys would like to see a land-use policy resulting in a satisfactory situation for all interested users of public lands, which could be improved considerably by extending the no-fire boundary. They also wrote that "As an added benefit, the fire risk close to developments could be diminished, and all of this could be done without unduly burdening those who would like to continue using public land for target practice."

Mr. MacNeil's memo also included photos of an object on fire, evidence of fire and a screen capture from a video of a propane tank emitting active, yellow flames.

A resident commented that she reports shooting to the Sheriff as being near Moss Lake.

A resident thanked Mr. MacNeil for his consideration of both shooters and non-shooters for a win-win solution.

**Assistant Sheriff Emerson spoke:**

The Washoe County Commissioner have established congested areas throughout the county.

It is illegal to discharge a firearm in an established congested area regardless of the distance from the nearest structure

The request to extend the boundary from 5,000 to 10,000' needs to go to the Board of County Commissioners for approval.

He pointed out that some of the land is privately owned and some is National Forest lands. He worked with a similar citizens' group in the Hungry Valley/Eagle Canyon area for over a year recently. He said that special interest groups opposed the boundary extension request. He advised that the residents need to engage as many users as possible to build consensus on where the boundary should be so that we are not derailed by special interest groups. Assistant Sheriff Emerson added that City Municipal Ordinances could be applied to property within the city's boundaries.

A resident expressed concern about the contamination of the soil and Alum Creek caused by shell casings and lead.

Emerson continued to say that signage needs to be consistent and that most people will obey signage. He promised to contact WC Public Works and discuss improvements to the signage. Make sure signage is posted at both egress and ingress.

Within the next couple of weeks he can work with the WC Dept. of Community development to write language for a proposal to submit to the WC Commissioners.

He said that the Sheriff would take appropriate action if the law is broken whether it is on City or County land and that illegal dumping is also a violation of the law and the Sheriff's office will look into that as well

A Resident suggested a map at the entrance showing boundaries of congested area.

**Lt. Tim O'Conner** said that BLM signage is superior and shows a "you are here" icon, trail access and boundaries.

The Lt. said he sees the boundary issue being handled in two phases. Phase One would be to properly map the existing area and Phase Two would be to extend the boundaries.

**Assistant Sheriff Emerson** suggested that the CRHOA might want to make a financial contribution for improved signage.

Emerson recited some ordinances:

It is illegal to discharge a shotgun within 1,000 yards of a residence.

It is illegal to discharge a rifle or handgun within 5,000 yards of a residence

Congested areas do not have to be contiguous if approved by the WC Board of Commissioners

It is illegal to discharge any firearm within the City of Reno, with the exception of certain circumstances, i.e. a licensed shooting gallery.

**Resident asked questions** about enforcement at her Moss Lake property, adding that her No trespassing signs had been vandalized repeatedly.

**Lt. O'Conner responded** that the US Forest Service contract with the WC Sheriff to patrol their lands. He will give instructions to sheriffs to patrol lands with special attention to shooters.

**Resident MacNeil** commented that the gunfire is most noticeable during weekend afternoons.

**Lt. O'Conner** said they typically patrol early evening/late afternoon looking for partiers and shooters.

He said that calls to the Sheriff's department are taken on priority. It is illegal to discharge a firearm after dark in WC or the City of Reno and repeated gunfire could be a significant public safety issue and should be reported.

Lt. O'Conner said that a meeting between the National Forest Service, WC Community Development and other government agency stakeholders needed to be called to finalize next steps.

**Assistant Sheriff Emerson** said that City of Reno Sergeant Yarbrough apologized for not being able to attend the NAC meeting.

**CRHOA Board of Directors President Millie Burke spoke.** She said that the CRHOA could provide communication about the issues to residents via the CRHOA e-mail system, so it was important that the CRHOA office had everyone's e-mail address.

Millie said that the CRHOA may be able to provide funds for signage and that CRHOA could definitely provide leadership to help facilitate the application to the WC Commissioners for an extension of the boundary.

**A resident** complained about illegal dumping in Alum Creek. He has sited dead animals that he believes expired because of drinking water contaminated by battery acid. He said there are abandoned cars in Alum Creek.

**Lt. O'Conner** said that they will work with us because this is a significant health/safety issue but that there is rarely funding to remove abandoned cars from public areas.

**Assistant Sheriff Emerson** requested that a CR resident be at the first meeting with the governmental agencies. Emerson also said he would be happy to attend our next meeting.

Discussion ended on the illegal discharge of firearms topic.

**Other discussion items:**

**Norman Huckle, Caughlin Creek** said that many of the common areas in Caughlin Creek have become over grown and need thinning or pruning. He will identify the areas and forward the information to Mike Trudell and Millie Burke. Otherwise, all the leaves have been picked up, the area looks good and the gates are functioning properly.

**Linda Heiss, Eastridge**, said that the CR Landscape Crew should exercise caution and be more courteous when they are driving.

**Wayne Wiswell, Heritage**, said that everything was good.

**Cathy Rossner, Evergreen** said that they had been successful in gaining additional speed limit signage from the City of Reno to be posted by the City on the steep section of Caughlin Parkway near Evergreen.

The group discussed the need for a solar-powered speed-monitoring device that could be moved via trailer to different locations. Millie to follow-up with Mike Trudell.

**Larry MacNeil, Castleridge** expressed concern about fire from the discharge of firearms.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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