



City of Garden Ridge

"A way of life, not just a place to live"

MINUTES WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2018 AT 6:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present:

Chair David Krawczynski
Vice-Chair Cynthia Shanahan-Segovia
Commissioner Troy Bippert
Commissioner Dawn Hatch
Commissioner Jeremiah McKinney
Commissioner Ken Kneupper
Commissioner Paul Sullivan
Councilmember Robb Erickson (Ex-officio)

Commissioners Absent:

None

City Staff Present:

Nancy Cain, City Administrator
Shelley Goodwin, City Secretary
Marisa Spencer, Assistant City Secretary
Bryan Pelata, Patrol Officer

Other Appointed or Elected Officials in Attendance:

Mayor Pro-Tem John McCaw
Councilmember Kay Bower
Dr. Jim Miller, Chair, Planning and Zoning Commission
David Ringle, Planning and Zoning Commissioner

1. Call to Order

With a quorum of the Wildlife Management Advisory Commission Members present, the Regular Meeting of the Garden Ridge Wildlife Management Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Krawczynski at 6:03 p.m. on Monday, September 17, 2018, in the City Council Chambers of the Garden Ridge City Hall, 9400 Municipal Parkway, Garden Ridge, Texas 78266.

2. Roll Call

See above

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Krawczynski led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Wildlife Management Advisory Commission Chair Statement.

Chair Krawczynski read a statement concerning Wildlife Management in the City (see attached).

5. Citizen Comment Period – limited to 30 minutes total

Chair Krawczynski read the rules for speaking.

Tony Frasco, 8802 Wild Wind Park, spoke regarding Deer Management, the Wildlife Survey, and the treatment of Commissioner Hatch during reappointment.

Frankie Friend, 21419 Forest Waters Circle, spoke regarding Deer Management, the Wildlife Survey, and working together as a community (see attached).

Christi Haberer, 21120 Forest Waters Circle, spoke regarding the treatment of Commissioner Hatch during reappointment and a Deer Manager.

Marianne Sterling, 9006 Cinnabar Court, spoke regarding Deer Management, the Wildlife Survey, and the deer counts.

David Ringle, 9234 Blazing Star Trail, spoke regarding the amount of funds budgeted as well as options for Deer Management and about the current population of deer in Garden Ridge.

Parus Dudley, 9290 Cinchona Trail, spoke regarding the effect that Deer Management is having on the community, the Wildlife Survey, and the monthly Grapevine.

Nikki Prather, United States Humane Society, spoke regarding the Urban Wildlife Management Department's Conflict Mitigation Plan.

Deborah Dauer, 20003 Regency Run, spoke regarding the current population of deer in her subdivision and thanked the Commission for their volunteer service.

6. Business Items

The Commission may discuss, consider and/or take possible action on the following items:

a) Approvals/Recommendations

i. Minutes for August 20, 2018, Wildlife Management Advisory Commission Regular Meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Kneupper, seconded by Commissioner Sullivan, to approve the Minutes for the August 20, 2018, Wildlife Management Advisory Commission Regular Meeting. The Commission voted six (6) for and none (0) against. The motion carried unanimously.

b) Discussions/Reports

i. Review and discuss wildlife and wildlife incidents within the City of Garden Ridge.

1. Police

2. Animal Control

a. Update on deer found in swimming pool (Sullivan).

Nancy Cain, City Administrator, stated Animal Services reported that the deer drowned in the swimming pool and explained how this is an incident that occasionally occurs.

ii. Wildlife Management Plan.

1. Deer Survey/Counts (Kneupper).

a. Review deer counts for purposes of calculating deer population.

The Commission reviewed the Deer Survey/Counts that have been submitted so far. Commissioner Kneupper discussed the Texas Parks and Wildlife requirements and procedures for conducting deer counts. He further stated how the Texas Parks and Wildlife form is for spotlight counts and open range, not urban counts. Chair Krawczynski stated the deer counts will go to Texas Parks and Wildlife Biologists for purposes of calculating overall population with intent to have this completed prior to the October City Council Regular Meeting.

2. Discussion of Texas Parks and Wildlife permits.

Nancy Cain, City Administrator, stated the City has not applied for any permits. Commissioner Sullivan stated they have looked into options for relocating deer but have been unable to find anywhere in compliance with Texas Parks and Wildlife. Commissioner McKinney added that most Texas Parks and Wildlife permits only allow transport within the same eco-region.

3. Feral cat issues within the City (Sullivan).

Commissioner Sullivan stated he has not yet spoke with Animal Services; therefore, had no updates.

4. Update on the Feral Hog Workshop.

Commissioner Kneupper reviewed the power point presentation from the Feral Hog Workshop. He also thanked the City for paying for him and Commissioner Bippert to attend.

5. Direction from City Council exploring options for Wildlife Management.

a. Explore other options regarding trapping (Segovia).

Commissioner Segovia and Commissioner Sullivan stated they will be meeting with a trapping company then providing a report to the Commission. Commissioner McKinney stated he would be exploring options to discuss with the Commission as well.

b. Discussion on Randy Tomasini and Innovative Trapping System Company (Hatch).

Councilmember Erickson discussed and explained the direction from City Council. The Commission discussed the possibility of using the bidding processes.

c) Updates/Recommendations

i. Commissioner's Projects

1. Texas A&M about a non-drug birth control study that is currently being conducted (Segovia).

Vice-Chair Segovia stated the study is not currently being conducted and the Commission could explore this as an option in the future. Commissioner Hatch suggested other studies and projects to look into.

2. Streater Reflective System for deer/vehicle collision reduction, cost and permission from Texas Department of Transportation, State of Texas, and Comal County (Hatch).

Commissioner Hatch stated she received an estimate of \$2,000 per mile, but still needed to get more information regarding the system.

3. Research on processing facilities and recipient wildlife charities for consumption of processed deer meat (Hatch).

Commissioner Hatch provided an update on charities and the Commission discussed verifying their permits with Texas Parks and Wildlife.

4. Research on processing facilities and recipient of human charities for consumption of processed deer meat (Segovia).

Vice-Chair Segovia stated she is talking with trapping companies and will provide more information.

5. Health of wildlife in Garden Ridge.

Vice-Chair Segovia reported an incident of a resident being bit by a coral snake. Chair Krawczynski stated the wildlife has appreciated the recent rain.

6. Update on future education/training sessions and Grapevine articles.

The following schedule will be used for the upcoming education/training sessions:

- October - Commissioner Hatch (“Birds that Bloom in the Texas Hill Country” by Patsy and Tom Inglet, Ornithologist Specialists)
- November - Commissioner McKinney
- December - Commissioner Bippert

ii. City Council Update/Report.

1. September 5, 2018 Regular Meeting.

a. Update on the requirements of Ordinance 210 (Commissioners must attend two (2) City Council meetings a year).

Chair Krawczynski reminded the Commissioners that Ordinance 210 requires them to attend two City Council Regular Meetings a year.

b. Update on change to Ordinance 186 (Raising the maximum fine amount from \$200 to \$500).

Councilmember Erickson discussed why this change occurred, stating the Judge requested raising the maximum fine amount since a \$200 maximum fine is unusual.

d) Future Agenda Items.

i. Commissioner input.

- Increase the time for education session from 20 minutes to 30 minutes (Hatch).
- Request presentation from Humane Society (Hatch).

ii. Set time, date, and location of Commission Special Meeting, if necessary.

The Commission discussed planning a joint meeting with City Council to receive education from the Comal County Biologists, but a date was not set.

iii. Announcement of next Regular Meeting Monday, October 15, 2018, at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

Chair Krawczynski announced the next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 15, 2018, at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

7. Citizen Comment Period - limited to 20 minutes total.

David Ringle, 9234 Blazing Star Trail, spoke regarding changes made to Ordinance 186.

Dr. Jim Miller, 9910 Marie Meadow, spoke regarding the current population of deer based on subdivisions and the Wildlife Survey process. He also thanked the Commission for their volunteer service.

Mary Rethman, 9450 Cinchona Trail, spoke regarding Deer Management options and deer signs throughout the City.

Betsy Eaton, 8228 Park Lane Drive, spoke regarding Deer Management methods.

Tony Frasco, 8802 Wild Wind Park, spoke regarding trapping companies insurance policies.

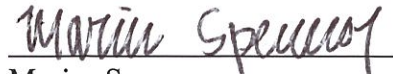
8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Monday, September 17, 2018, Wildlife Management Advisory Commission regular meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m. by Chair Krawczynski.



David Krawczynski, Chair

ATTEST:



Marisa Spencer
Interim City Secretary

Opening Statement

Thank you all for coming out tonight. I would like to first start out by saying that every single person on this commission cares deeply about Wildlife and has volunteered their time, effort, weekends, weekdays and family time to make a difference here in Garden Ridge. This commission's duty is to be good stewards of wildlife within the city limits of Garden Ridge. This means identifying potential issues and making recommendations to City Council for their considerations. We all have different experiences with the deer here in Garden Ridge with some interactions being positive some negative. Some people see more deer than others depending upon the particular neighborhood they find themselves. These discrepancies will be considered in creating a management plan with, more focus on high population areas.

The below information outlines a summarization of some of the actions and recommendations that have occurred over the past year during our monthly meetings. This agenda item will become a living document whereby some action items from previous Wildlife and or City Council meetings can be added or adjusted in the future. There is a lot of information on social media specifically Facebook and Next Door that while well intentioned is not accurate. The goal of this agenda item is to create a level of understanding for everyone, whether it is their first time or 10th time to attend a Wildlife Management Advisory Commission Meeting.

- i. City Council has agreed to our recommendation to reduce the deer population in Garden Ridge at the April City Council Meeting
- ii. Subsequently City Council has also approved for the WMAC to proceed with putting together a Wildlife Management plan and set of actions to get the deer population from 1.96 acres per deer (2017 Population density) to 5 acres per deer
- iii. A \$50,000 budget has been approved for the upcoming fiscal year to hire a Wildlife Manager along with resources to manage Wildlife in the City.

The above recommendations were voted on and passed after months of discussions and presentations from Texas Parks and Wildlife biologists and subject matter experts on Urban Deer Management, input from citizens on the Wildlife survey, annual deer counts and carcass pickup numbers

Deer Reduction Scope

- i. A 1000 deer being removed is not happening this year and is not a number we have discussed. Extrapolating one year's worth activity or number of deer to be removed, does not indicate future numbers. Each year will be evaluated for environmental and cultural carrying capacities along with weather and climate patterns that may dictate alterations to the overall management plan.
- ii. Currently the number of deer being discussed for budgeting purposes is 300 however depending upon the deer counts, overall population numbers and City Council approval this number can be subject to change.
- iii. This is a proactive approach whereby the city has determined via Ordinance 196 along with assistance from TPWD for the last 3 years, that Garden Ridge has an

over population of whitetail deer within the city limits. For a reference point, the current acreage for Garden Ridge stands at 2780 acres with an estimated population of 1,418 whitetail deer. This gives us a deer per 1.96 acres per deer. However, this doesn't not include houses, driveways, 6ft fenced backyards, streets and other impervious structures. There is no current way to calculate the exact acreage that is usable habitat to whitetail deer in Garden Ridge but the acres per deer number is significantly closer to 1 to 1 when these factors are considered. TPWD has stated that the carrying capacity of for our region which is the hill country should be 12 to 18 acres per deer. Urban deer populations that other cities have found to be acceptable (cultural carrying capacity) is around 5 acres per deer.

- iv. Goals: These proposed proactive activities have a three-fold goal. 1. Prevent a significant increase in year over year population of deer within the city which CAN lead to diseases that can be passed to humans, die offs, lack of food and poor health. 2. Reduce the conflicts between deer and people to a cultural carrying capacity that is sustainable. These conflicts include: deer vehicle collisions, property damage i.e. fences, personal injury and disease. Furthermore, biodiversity and habitat degradation of other plants and animal species can be affected due to over population of one. Forb (trees, shrubs) species are particularly vulnerable to over population of Whitetail deer which can create a cascading affect for insects, birds, and other mammals. 3. Reduce the number of deer carcasses that the city picks up on yearly basis. In 2016, 171 deer carcasses were picked up and 162 were picked up in 2017. Other cities who are actively reducing the deer herd experience deer carcass removal numbers which are significantly less than Garden Ridge.
- v. There is no confirmed disease in our herd other than visual indicators of possible bottle jaw. No specimens have been collected which have led to confirmation of this particular disease. However, this type of disease indicate that an over population could exist.
- vi. No one has stated on the WMAC nor anyone on City Council has stated that plants being eaten and feces in citizens yard's is a deciding factor for removal of deer and these factors will not be considered in any management plans that will be presented to TPWD or City Council
- vii. No wildlife management plan has been presented to City Council for 2018-19 season

Guidelines

- i. The City of Garden Ridge may only use the options that Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) to be utilized to reduce the deer population and manage wildlife in the City of Garden Ridge. The state of Texas owns the deer and dictates how and when the population can be reduced.
 - a. Peer reviewed journals along with websites, news articles and other common resources online are valuable to wildlife managers/biologists and citizens for

increasing their knowledge on wildlife management. However, the ideas, methods and procedures that the WMAC and the City of Garden Ridge are limited to, come directly from TPWD.

Limitations

- i. Sterilization is not something TPWD will endorse at this time to reduce deer populations in Texas
- ii. There are three capture methods approved by TPWD and any non-approved methods can result in fines and penalties
 1. Netting (Aerial or Drop Net)
 2. Corral or Pen
 3. Darting
- iii. Two permits are available for the 2018-19 season
 1. TTT- Trap Transfer and Transplant
 2. TTP- Trap Transfer and Process
 3. More information available at:
https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/permits/land/wildlife_management/trap_transport/

Survey Results

- i. Response Rate from Survey
 - a. The response rate was much higher than anticipated and gave the WMAC a great understanding of how the citizens perceived their city in regard to Wildlife
- ii. Wildlife survey results are available via the city website for all citizens.
- iii. The survey was a mechanism to gather information directly from citizens and use that feedback to make decisions that the WMAC presents to the City Council
- iv. Surveys were sent to all residents who have a water bill and this action was certified by the City
- v. Surveys were tabulated by election volunteers, watched by law enforcement and video recorded for security purposes

**SIGN IN TO SPEAK AT THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2018
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD**

Rules for Citizens' Participation:

The City Council welcomes citizen participation and comments at all City Council Meetings. The City Council offers citizens the opportunity to address them by signing up to speak prior to the meeting. If you speak, you follow these guidelines:

- a) Respect and courtesy:
 - i. Direct your comments to the entire City Council, not to an individual member, nor to the audience.
 - ii. Show the City Council the same respect that you would like to be shown.
 - iii. End your speaking at the time allotted below.
- b) Speaking:
 - i. First citizen comment period
 1. You are required to sign up to speak.
 2. You are limited to one 3 minute period.
 - ii. Business item period
 1. You are required to sign up to speak.
 2. You are limited to one 3 minute period.
 - iii. Second citizen comment period
 1. You are not required to sign up.
 2. You are limited to one 2 minute period.
 - iv. State your name and address before your comments begin.
 - v. You are only allowed to speak once per topic, unless also speaking during a posted Public Hearing.

NOTE: The Texas Open Meetings Act permits a member of the public or a member of the governmental body to raise a subject that has not been included in the notice for the meeting. However, any discussion of the subject **must be limited** to a proposal to place the subject on the agenda for a future meeting and any response to a question posed to the City Council is limited to either a statement of specific factual information or a recitation of existing policy. TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.042

NAME	ADDRESS	SUBJECT
✓ Tony FRASCO	8802 Wild Wind Park	Mary
✓ PAUL Kie Friend	21419 Forest Waters Circle	DEER
✓ Christi Hebever	21120 Forest Waters Cir	"
✓ Marianne Sterling	9006 Cinnabar	deer
✓ David Ringle	Blazing Star	
✓ Parus Dudley	9290 Archmont	deer
✓ Wilky Prather	US Humane Society	deer
✓ Deborah Dayer	20003 Regency Run	deer
9.		
10.		

I am here to speak for the citizens of Garden Ridge who are against slaughtering our deer. What you are planning is inhumane and a disgrace to our community. This kill is not wanted nor warranted by half of the city. The city has not done proper due diligence concerning other methods of controlling deer population; or given all residents a vote in how to handle the deer. Many residents including myself never received a wildlife survey – I still haven't seen one. From those who did I heard that the deer issue of slaughter wasn't presented on the form. You have brought dissension to a city that was peaceful and beautiful – you have pitted neighbor against neighbor. A city should be guided with principle, it should be fair to its citizens and have integrity to do the right and humane actions required to govern for all. And yes I put this at the Wildlife council's feet – you can find other ways to fix the situation and be firm in recommending them to the City Council. This council was founded to help make educated, best for the community decisions regarding all wildlife. You need to find a positive way to fix it. There are several other methods available besides netting and slaughtering – and each of you know this; yet you persist in the kill. I have asked myself why numerous

time and it just goes in circles because it makes no common sense that you would want to cause stress to your citizens and neighbors. In a world where random killings are happening on a daily basis people are becoming more inhumane and immune to blood baths of people and animals. Slaughtering Garden Ridge deer adds to this type of sickness. There is a humane right way to control the growth of wildlife in a neighborhood where people live and slaughter is certainly not one of them. Let's work together as a community to find a humane way to handle a concern that has become a huge issue in Garden Ridge. I am asking for the half of Garden Ridge residents that want a humane solution - PLEASE STOP THE DEER SLAUGHTER humane

2nd CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD

**SIGN IN TO SPEAK AT THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2018
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD**

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NAME	ADDRESS	SUBJECT
1. David Ringle	9234 Blazing Star Trl	How Fine (?)
2. Jim Miller	9910 Antares Meadow	Possible Survey Education
3. Mary Rothman	9450 Creekmore	
4. Betsy Eaton	8228 Park Lane	Methods of Killing
5. Tony Feltz	6802 Wilshire Rd	Deer
6.		
7.		
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10.		