

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE DEER CONTROL COMMITTEE
OF THE CITY OF SUNSET HILLS, MISSOURI

HELD ON MAY 15, 2013

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Deer Control Committee of the City of Sunset Hills, Missouri met in regular session at City Hall Quarters, 3939 S. Lindbergh Blvd., in said City on Thursday, May 15, 2014. The meeting convened at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:	Michael Sawicki	-Chairman
	Ken Boegeman	-Member
	Peter Bruck	-Member
	Tony Nacrelli	-Member
	Don Stoppelmann	-Member
	Paul Witbrodt	-Member

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Copies of the Minutes of the July 2, 2013 Deer Control Committee meeting were distributed to the members for their review. Mr. Stoppelmann made a motion to approve the Minutes as submitted. Mr. Witbrodt seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

DISCUSS 2013-2014 DEER HUNT

Sandra Jo Ankney, 12938 Baalbek Drive was present. She stated that she had questions regarding many aspects of the hunt.

John Martin of the Tapawingo area was present. He stated that he understood it was necessary to thin the herd and feels that the deer have been decimated and there are not very many left. He stated that he hoped the hunt would not be necessary next year.

Bill Craig of the Tapawingo area was present. He asked if there were numbers available of the deer population before and after the hunt available. Mr. Sawicki stated the numbers were available and there wasn't very much change in the overall deer population south of 270. Ms. Ankney stated that she objected to that statement. Mr. Craig asked if the population after the hunt was calculated. Mr. Sawicki stated the City engaged White Buffalo Incorporated to help determine a deer population for the City of Sunset Hills. He stated in 2012 the result of their study for the area south of 270 was approximately 72 deer per square mile. The company used distance sampling which is done by spot lighting. Mr. Sawicki stated he joined White Buffalo on one of their trips. Mr. Craig asked if that was done before the hunt. Mr. Sawicki stated that this was done in December of 2012. Mr. Craig asked if anymore have been done since the hunt. Mr. Sawicki stated there have been 5 done since the hunt. He stated they were done in February 25 – 27, March 13 and March 19. The

results were in the same area and came in at 69.4 deer per square mile. Mr. Craig asked if the same variation was used. Mr. Sawicki stated the same program was used with a slightly different route taken on the last three. Mr. Craig suggested the pellet count as an alternative method that could be used and offered the information to Mr. Sawicki. Ms. Ankney asked why the change in miles driven on later surveys. Mr. Sawicki stated White Buffalo asked that they go further so that they have at least 20 groupings to assure the accuracy of the intervals. Mr. Sawicki explained that since it comes out as an average the length of the trip does not affect the number. Ms. Ankney asked what the square miles were. Mr. Sawicki stated approximately 4.5 square miles. Ms. Ankney asked why there is a city wide hunt if there are only deer in half the city. She stated that would be against the Missouri Conservation Department. Mr. Sawicki stated that we would not go against the Missouri Conservation Department.

Mr. Bruck asked why the March hunt was significantly higher than February. Mr. Sawicki stated that White Buffalo related it to weather and distance traveled. Mr. Bruck stated that if we had 72 a year ago in March and 113 this March that would indicate an explosion in population despite the hunt. Mr. Sawicki stated that White Buffalo felt removing 54 deer from our population didn't do anything to reduce it. Mr. Bruck asked if we could get the data from White Buffalo giving us a relational estimate to give a baseline adjusting for temperature and food supply. Mr. Sawicki stated he would ask White Buffalo to see if they could supply that.

Mr. Sawicki stated as a point of reference, Clarkson Valley had done 10 years of hunting and have removed 495 deer. In the first year they removed 89 deer and that number fluctuated from year to year. Mr. Sawicki stated the first year hunt for the City of Sunset Hills has been successful. There were no injuries, no complaints and the City should continue the process. Even though it may seem there was no immediate effect on the population it will take an 8 – 10 year process to thin the herd and see a difference.

Mr. Boegeman stated that he lived off of West Watson in the Tapawingo area for 11 years. He stated that this year he noticed a smaller herd and it appears there is less.

It was asked if there was any hunting on the Tapawingo golf course. Mr. Sawicki stated they signed late and he was not certain if anyone hunted there. He stated there were no deer harvested there.

Mr. Sawicki stated the ordinance is written to allow areas who want to do something about the deer population to do it and the others who don't have a problem with deer population can also choose not to take part.

DISCUSS ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE DEER HUNTING ORDINANCE

Mr. Martin stated that he appreciates what the Committee is trying to do and does not see any more in his area (Tapawingo). He stated his concern is that he doesn't want to see an overhunt in an area.

Ms. Ankney stated that the hunt decimated the female heard. She stated that one female would have to mother several young. She stated there is a mineral spring and salt area where deer congregate near Weber Hill and West Watson.

Mr. Craig also noticed the orphan deer as well but he stated his concern is the inconsistency with the count. He stated the research he had read stated regarding spot light

counting is very inconsistent. Spot light counting can change with the weather, moon and noise levels among other things. Mr. Craig stated that he would like to see the pellet count used. He stated it is a sampling of how many deer poop piles found in a measured area in a measured period of time. Deer poop on an average of 25 times a day and this would give an accurate count of how many deer are in an area at any given time. It was discussed that this could be difficult because all property owners would have to give permission otherwise there would be trespassing. Upon discussion both methods of counting are statistical sampling and accuracy could be questioned.

Mr. Craig stated there was one carcass that was headless located on a property where hunters did not have permission to hunt. It was asked if there were any arrows found and if so they should have identifying numbers registered with the Missouri Conservation Department because that is part of the ordinance. Mr. Craig stated there was a hunter dressed in camouflage in a tree with binoculars and there was a concern that he was hunter with permission to hunt. It was stated that there are specified regulations that all hunters must comply with before they can hunt in the City and if residents were aware of these regulations they could help police anyone hunting by not meeting those requirements. If an incident occurs then a determination could be made of what to do if something happens. Mr. Craig asked if there was any way to tell if a hunter is allowed on a property. Mr. Sawicki stated the property owner should know as they have given permission for their property to be hunted. Upon discussion any time there was a question whether the hunter has permission the police could be called. There was a suggestion made to require the hunters to wear a specific vest if they were a permissioned hunter.

Mr. Sawicki stated there will be a Seminar at Crestwood Community Center Lounge on June 23, 2014 at White Cliff Park, regarding the management of the State's deer herd. He stated the City of Sunset Hills does not regulate state hunting guidelines; the City only regulates the use of certain projectiles.

Mr. Craig asked if there were known effects of the harsh winter on the deer. Is the goal of the hunting population control or what is the goal and if so it appears that bow hunting is doing nothing to combat the problem. It would take 10 -12 years for bow hunting to help. Mr. Craig asked if the City considered any other method to control the population. Mr. Sawicki stated not at this time. Mr. Craig asked why bother to continue the bow hunt. Mr. Sawicki stated that over time it will bring the deer population down and bring the situation under control.

Mr. Bruck explained that the crossbow and firearms options would be too dangerous. Another option would be to do sharpshooting or sterilization, both options are very expensive.

Mr. Stoppelmann stated that the hunt should go on for another year and then take distance samplings. It was suggested that when doing the distance sampling to identify the variables that effect the sampling and try to pick periods that are as close to those as possible for the sake of comparable data. Mr. Sawicki stated that the goal of the City for deer reduction would be around 20 -25 deer per square mile.

Ms. Ankney stated that the residents needed to be educated to understand there are certain things that should not be planted to keep the deer from coming in.

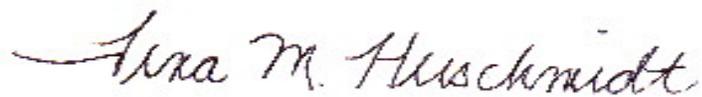
SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

There is no meeting planned at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Stopplemann made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:34 p.m. Mr. Boegeman seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Recording Secretary,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tina M. Heischmidt". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Tina M. Heischmidt