

- Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)
- Staff and elected officials of the Town of Monument
- Staff and elected officials of the county
- Project and administrative contractors
- Citizens of the Town of Monument
- Our Community News

Everyone in attendance formed a circle and Schleiker invited each to share their remembrances of BRRTA.

Former Monument Mayors and BRRTA Presidents Travis Easton and Rafael Dominguez discussed the town's participation in key phases of various projects.

Elaine Johnsen, county funding optimization manager, described the highlights of getting the second and final CDOT reimbursement payment that allowed her and County Attorney Lori Seago to arrange for early redemption of all the remaining BRRTA bonds and termination of the BRRTA sales and use taxes. She noted, to much laughter, that the bondholders monitored the details of this process by reading Our Community News articles.

Johnsen and County Engineer Jennifer Irvine said that the final \$1.3 million will be spent, in the following

priority, on concrete paving to replace the eroding gravel sidewalk/trail on the north side of Baptist Road, the Baptist Road median, and the south end turnaround of the BRRTA frontage road between Leather Chaps Road and the Family of Christ Lutheran Church for emergency vehicle access safety with some supplementary matching PPRTA funding.

Johnsen summarized, "It's just such a great story. It's a great project. Like Commissioner Dennis Hisey likes to say, 'Promises made and promises kept.'"

Nikki Simmons, county finance manager, said she had been part of BRRTA for six years. "It's a great success story. I love being a part of being here when we're shutting down a government and returning a tax in perpetuity. I think it's a good story to tell, a precedent, and it makes us trustworthy and believable so if we do ask for money for PPRTA, which has been funded twice now, or some other projects in the future, the people can see that we've been responsible with the funds."

Artist Swanson was especially complimentary to the county staff for clear communication and elimination of much of the normal duplication of effort on all required

paperwork for her stainless steel Aspen Grove project (see video link above), all of which had already been done by the road construction contractors, which drew a big laugh. "It was seamless. We didn't waste money, and it was really effective. My compliments to this group. Unequivocally, it was a great group to work with."

Tri-Lakes Views Director Sky Hall said Irvine was amazed at Swanson's engineering drawings for the tree project that were "exactly to code, exactly the way they are supposed to be." He said that Irvine said, "I've never seen this before."

Easton said the cooperation and partnership between Monument and the county was exemplary with a genuine commitment to serve the citizens.

Jim Kendrick, BRRTA's official "OCN Chronicler" for the last 13 years, can be reached at jimkendrick@ocn.me.

Lisa Hatfield, whose only contributions to BRRTA were to comment around 1990, "Someone ought to widen that bridge," and later to vote "Yes," can be reached at lisahatfield@ocn.me.

El Paso County Board of County Commissioners, Nov. 3

BOCC accepts transfer of BRRTA's remaining cash, land

By Jim Kendrick

On Nov. 3, the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) formally accepted the remaining \$1.3 million in cash reserves of the Baptist Road Rural Transportation Authority (BRRTA) that will be used for further upgrades of the county's Baptist Road property. The county also accepted ownership of BRRTA's remaining unused slivers of land contiguous with the Baptist Road right-of-way that were purchased for the widening of Baptist Road. The BRRTA board had approved both of these actions on Oct. 16. For details, see <http://ocn.me/v16n11.htm#brtta> and <http://bcc2.elpasoco.com/bocc/agendas/2016/November%202016/16-381.pdf>

[bocc/agendas/2016/November%202016/16-380.pdf](http://bcc2.elpasoco.com/bocc/agendas/2016/November%202016/16-380.pdf)

The BRRTA cash was transferred by unanimous approval of a resolution to approve an Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Agreement between BRRTA and the county prepared by Lori Seago, senior assistant county attorney, and Elaine Johnsen, BRRTA district manager and funding optimization manager, Finance Department. For details, see <http://bcc2.elpasoco.com/bocc/agendas/Resolutions/2016/November%202016/16-380.pdf>

The BRRTA land was conveyed to the county by unanimous BOCC approval of a resolution to approve

and accept a special warranty deed from BRRTA concerning Baptist Road improvement projects and acceptance of the improvements into the county road maintenance system. This transfer was prepared by Seago and County Engineer Jennifer Irvine, Department of Public Works. For details, see <http://bcc2.elpasoco.com/bocc/agendas/Resolutions/2016/November%202016/16-381.pdf>

Jim Kendrick can be reached at jimkendrick@ocn.me.

Woodmoor Improvement Association Board of Directors, Nov. 16

Scout upgrades common area signs; fire fines increased



Above: Eagle Scout candidate Mitch Carden is recognized by WIA President Erik Stensland for his project restoring and repainting the signs in the Woodmoor common areas. Board member Robert Benjamin is in the background. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*

By Jackie Burhans

The Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) board met on Nov. 16 to praise an Eagle Scout project, consider a rules update for fire fines, and approve the 2017 budget. Board members Mark Ponti and Alan Basset were absent.

Eagle Scout appreciation

President Erik Stensland, a former Eagle Scout, presented a certificate of appreciation to Mitch Carden, who

helped restore the signs in the Woodmoor common areas by replacing posts and repainting the letters as an Eagle Scout project. It had been 12 years since the signs had last been painted. Carden thanked the board for the opportunity and said it had been a real pleasure and a lot of fun working with WIA on this project. This is the third Eagle Scout project that has been done with WIA.

Rules update for fire fines

President Stensland noted that the single greatest threat to the community is fire and that the current fine structure doesn't do enough to prevent fires. Fines for open fires should be increased to emphasize the seriousness of the infraction. Stensland moved to modify the rule for fire fines to say "minimum of \$500" rather than simply \$500. After some discussion about whether a maximum should be set and that the new rule would not limit the board's discretion to lower or suspend a fine, the board unanimously approved the new rule as originally proposed.

Approval of budget

After adjusting line items according to board feedback, it was moved that the board conditionally approve the 2017 budget, which will be posted on the website after final approval at the Dec. 16 meeting. The budget is slated for a modest increase, with the standard dues increase, provisions to commit money to the reserve fund for long-term projects and to maintain the fiscal responsibility and health of WIA and let the directors continue to run projects like the chipping days that benefit the whole com-

munity. The motion was unanimously passed.

Board report highlights

- WIA is still looking for volunteers to run for the board. There are currently two candidates for three open seats.
- The number of projects in October increased due to the good weather and is holding steady in November. The number of unapproved projects has been increasing, which leads to triple the workload and fines. Don't do outdoor projects without getting prior approval online at <https://www.woodmoor.org/acc-project-request/> or in the WIA offices.
- Homeowners association administrator Denise Cagliari reported that the water bill had been mis-coded for the last two months and that WIA was being charged for 10 times the actual water use. She worked with Woodmoor Water to correct the problem and issue credits on the bills.

The WIA Board of Directors usually meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Barn at 1691 Woodmoor Drive, Monument. The next meeting will be on Dec. 14 due to the holidays. The WIA calendar can be found at www.woodmoor.org/wia-calendar/. WIA board meeting minutes can be found at <https://www.woodmoor.org/meeting-minutes/> once approved and posted.

Jackie Burhans can be reached at jackieburhans@ocn.me.

Northern El Paso County Coalition of Community Associations (NEPCO), Nov. 19

Roads projects in search of funding

By Lisa Hatfield

County Engineer Jennifer Irvine spoke about county roads issues, projects, and future plans at the Nov. 19 meeting of Northern El Paso County Coalition of Community Associations (NEPCO).

Irvine stated that I-25 is not an El Paso County road, but she put it in the county strategic plan anyway because it's so important. While the next section that needs widening in the county's eyes is in Douglas County and out of the county's control, she and other officials, such as those in the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

(PPACG), want to develop a coalition to help Douglas County work with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). CDOT has started tasks to be done in an environmental study, but it will be critical to help federal money find its way south of Denver to help, she said.

Her other comments included:

- In the unincorporated county, we can only overlay 2 percent of roads a year, but that is not sustainable. You are starting to see your roads fall apart.
- The Pikes Peak Regional Transit Authority (PPRTA) one-percent sales tax has been a great program

and generated \$14 million for specific capital projects, but it will not solve all the problems.

- Finding federal, state, and local funding is a problem, but state House District 20 Rep. Terri Carver is one official helping to find more sources.
- Rocky Scott will be the new PPACG CDOT transportation commissioner. Our district did not have a commissioner for some time, and he will be a great advocate for this area.
- The county has a major transportation corridors plan. See www.epcroadplan.com or <http://nepco>.