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some suggestions to alleviate parents' concerns. She suggested adding two additional colors, voted on by students, for middle school students with clear guidelines. She felt that teachers were not as concerned that the soles match the shoes and that changing that policy would address 70 percent of the complaints. She understood the concern about hoodies but felt it was a financial burden to parents who just purchased items in January to now have to buy a \$35 jacket along with \$200 in fees and the cost of school supplies. She suggested grandfathering the requirement until the 2019 school year and confiscating sweatshirts for a quarter if students are caught with phones or vape pens.

Finally, a parent agreed that shoes were his biggest concern, and changing the policy to read "mostly" gray, black, etc. would help. He was concerned that his kid's need for wide shoes might increase his costs or leave his child with ill-fitting shoes. He asked what the new rules were trying to accomplish and if the board felt that they were working. He also asked about the right place to have a dialogue about his concerns. The board suggested he speak to the dean and then to the principal. It was noted that the dean suggested they come to the board meeting. The board said that there had been an extensive process to get a lot of input and collaborate on problems and solutions, and that a number of stakeholders had been involved. The purpose of comments at this board meeting was to give the board input, and board members agreed to circle back with the administration to

discuss this issue. This parent noted that there were a lot of parents who did not know changes were being considered for the uniform policy. He reiterated his concerns that the new policies might not solve the problems—that kids could have phones or vape pens in pockets or socks.

Phasing out of National Junior Honor Society opposed

Three parents spoke about the phasing out of the National Junior Honor Society, expressing that NJHS was a better fit for their kids, that the scheduling conflicts could have been avoided, and that parent volunteers might be able to pitch in to continue the program.

Other highlights

The following items were highlighted at the board meeting:

- Principal Elizabeth Davis highlighted the positive results of the anonymous, third party Teaching and Learning Conditions Colorado Report administered by the Colorado Department of Education. Respondents would recommend MA as a good place to work (90 percent) and as a good place for students to learn (100 percent). More information can be seen at <http://bit.ly/ma-tlcc18>.
- The board unanimously approved the Letter of Intent from Inline Management to be the builders representative for the construction of the new high school. Director Don Griffin knows Kurt Connelly from Inline Management very well and says Connelly makes MA's bond counsel extremely confident of the numbers. Costs

are still being negotiated.

- The board unanimously approved CRP Architectural and its principle, Brian Risely, as the architect of record for the new high school. Griffin noted that CRP is the architect for D38's new schools and that Risely has been involved with the proposed property for 10 years and is very pro-MA.
- Teachers representatives Tiffany Alexander and Kelly Beard were recognized with certificates for their attendance and advocacy at the board meetings.
- Board member Mark McWilliams reported that the board self-assessment shows that the board works well together and is unified in support of MA's mission.
- Board elections were held on May 14 and 15 with three candidates vying for two open seats. A candidate's forum was held ahead of the May 10 meeting. Melanie Strop and Dwayne Cooke have been elected and will be given the Oath of Office at the June 21 board meeting and begin their three-year terms on July 1.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 21 at the Monument Academy library at 1150 Village Ridge Point. The MA School Board usually meets at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Information on the MA School Board, including schedule, minutes, committee and finances can be found at <http://www.monumentacademy.net/school-board>.

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

El Paso Board of County Commissioners, May 1, 8, 15, 17, and 22

Commissioners urged to oppose "urban" development density at Forest Lakes

By Helen Walklett

A resident urged the El Paso Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) at its May 15 meeting to vote against a proposed development at Forest Lakes when it comes before the board. The commissioners also approved a rezoning and subdivision request for a Wakonda Hills property during May. Other decisions made related to current development at Forest Lakes, appointments to the El Paso County Planning Commission, and the Highway 105 Improvement Project.

Forest Lakes development

Speaking during the public comments session of the May 15 BOCC meeting, local resident Ami Lennon urged the commissioners to vote against an upcoming proposal for further development at Forest Lakes. Lennon said, "I'm here to ask the commissioners to vote against the proposal that Classic Homes will be requesting in the near future to put an additional 68 homes, for a total of 199 homes, in Forest Lakes at the base of the foothills. This may not seem like a lot

of homes compared to Flying Horse, but putting 199 homes in this valley is setting a precedent because it would be essentially disregarding the Twin-Valley land use and master plan that was created." The Twin-Valley is a sub-area of the Tri-Lakes Planning Area.

Lennon continued, "This property in Forest Lakes sits on the very edge of the aquifer at the very edge of the foothills and at the edge of a wildlife sanctuary. Nothing about this area is typical for a place for a high-density planned use development. When the NES representative for Classic [Homes] was asked at the town meeting how a cul-de-sac longer than 500 feet was allowed in a rural setting, she said it was because 'it was not a rural setting; it will be an urban setting.' That concerned a lot of us."

She explained that the 2000 update of the Twin-Valley land use plan states that the sub-area should remain primarily rural residential with lot sizes averaging 5 acres and large clustering options using minimum 2.5-acre lots being considered only if there is strict adherence to this overall density approach. She said that over half of the lots being proposed for this new development are between 7,200 and 10,000 square feet in area.

Lennon ended by saying, "I believe the proposed 'Forest Lakes to be' plan does not coincide with the public health, safety, and general welfare in El Paso County. Who's liable for those deaths that result from a fire when the two roads that lead out of that development go in the same direction? I live on that mesa top, and that road is so steep that when the weather is inclement, I fear there will only be one way out and one way in."

In response, Commissioner Darryl Glenn explained that the commissioners could not make any comment at this time. He said, "We actually have to hear it as an advisory board and we will be making a formal decision, but we do appreciate the input and we would want to make sure that you know that all your comments ... are going to be part of the official record [and] they do get forwarded to our Planning and Community Development Department."

Residents attended a neighborhood meeting in February to discuss this proposed Classic Homes development. See www.ocn.me/pdf/v18n3%2027.pdf. Classic Homes hosted another neighborhood meeting on April 26 to present the revised proposal that Lennon referred to on May 15. The plans will come before the Planning Commission and then be heard at the BOCC at a future, as yet undetermined, date.

At its May 22 meeting, the BOCC approved the partial release of two bonds relating to current development at Forest Lakes. These were for public improvements in the Forest Lakes Filing No. 2A subdivi-

sion. The release of \$495,825 and \$513,973 followed the completion of 80 percent of the public improvements and their satisfactory inspection. The balance of the two bonds will be held for a two-year defect warranty period and will be released upon successful completion of the outstanding improvements.

Wakonda Hills property rezoning and subdivision approved

The commissioners unanimously approved a rezoning and subdivision request for a Wakonda Hills property at their meeting on May 8. The request, from Matthew and Jenna Arvidson, related to a 5.45-acre parcel of land located west of Beacon Lite Road and north of Wakonda Way to the north of Monument. The rezoning was from RR-5 (Residential Rural) to RR-2.5 (Residential Rural). The subdivision divides the parcel of land into two family lots and dedicates a right-of-way-along Beacon Lite Road and Wakonda Way.

The requests were heard by the Planning Commission in April and came to the BOCC with a recommendation for approval. See www.ocn.me/v18n5.htm#epcpc.

Highway 105 Improvement Project

At the May 15 BOCC meeting, the commissioners ratified a resolution to approve a memorandum of agreement, a temporary construction easement agreement, and a special warranty deed with 1180 Village Ridge Point LLC for the sum of \$33,100. These relate to the first stage of the Highway 105 Improvement Project, which is due to start construction this summer. This first segment, from the I-25 interchange east ramps to Lake Woodmoor Drive, will extend the four-lane section east of Knollwood Drive and will include improved shoulders and additional turn lanes and sidewalks.

Other decisions

- May 1—approval of the appointment of Peter Aurich, Thomas Bailey, and Grace Blea-Nunez as associate members of the Planning Commission for one-year terms ending May 1, 2019.
- May 22—resolution to approve two amended license agreements to accommodate access to lots 1 and 2 of the Grant subdivision Filing No. 1 via the driveway located off Walsen Road.

El Paso County has recently revamped its website. See <https://planningdevelopment.elpasoco.com/el-paso-county-planning-commission/planning-commission-2018-hearings/>, and then <https://bocc.elpasoco.com/for-county-commissioner-meeting-information>.

Helen Walklett can be reached at helenwalklett@ocn.me.

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