

intended to be objective. An approvable project may not be one that everyone likes—what matters is that it abides by the codes.

- The protocol for leading/participating in Planning Commission meetings in a quasi-judicial setting was discussed. This included expectations for the way the MPC will interact with the public.
- Limits to the Comprehen-

sive Plan were discussed at length. Comprehensive Plans are mostly applicable to zoning, Jones explained, and can prove most useful when planning what to do with “new” land rather than dealing with land that has already been zoned and platted. Plats can be transferred and remain official until a new plat is put in place. Handwritten plats remain from

the 1800s, although Jones noted that they are hard to read. The existing town limit of Monument has been zoned, and it is bordered by other areas. The Comprehensive Plan’s conceptual nature can’t currently be utilized the same way as it would be in a place that is still deciding its identity.

- The possibility of receiving a priority list from the Board of Trustees to

direct the Planning Commission was suggested.

- When Glover asked whether a neighborhood can request a meeting with a particular project’s applicant, Jones recommended that a notice could be sent to the Monument government to request a meeting.

It was unknown whether there would be a March Monument

Planning Commission meeting as of this meeting. If it takes place, the next MPC meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 13 at 645 Beacon Lite Rd. Meetings are normally held on the second Wednesday of the month. Information: 884-8017 or <http://www.townofmonument.org/meetings/>

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Monument Board of Trustees, Feb. 19

Board learns election residency depends on intent

By Allison Robenstein

Before its Feb. 19 meeting, the Monument Board of Trustees (BOT) had a CIRSA workshop. At the meeting, the board heard a presentation by former Secretary of State Wayne Williams regarding election residency requirements. The trustees also approved several resolutions, including an installation of board members to Triview Metropolitan District No. 3, an easement to Lake of the Rockies North No. 1, and a community grant for downtown improvements.

There were a number of presentations, including the Police Department’s annual update and several initiated by the town manager.

Trustees Laurie Clark and Greg Coopman were absent.

CIRSA workshop yields specific advice for elected officials

Before the regular meeting, Sam Light, general counsel for the Colorado Governmental Risk Sharing Agency (CIRSA), made suggestions to the BOT for good governance, telling them they now have a commitment not just as town stewards but also to conduct themselves correctly in all areas of business.

Light said elected officials act and vote as a body during public meetings, urging them to honor transparency in their decision-making. He offered the board a list of proper and improper email and technology uses in consideration of open meeting laws.

He encouraged them to maintain role discipline by establishing “policies for the town as a whole” and leave day-to-day operations to the town staff.

Residency concerns for trustees

Trustee Ron Stephens invited Williams to present election residency laws to the board based on Williams’ previous experience as El Paso County clerk and recorder and then secretary of state. Town attorney Joseph Rivera previously provided a confidential memo to the board regarding residency.

Williams said there are two previous cases in Colorado, both involving municipalities in which residency was questioned. Using these as examples, the courts found a person continues to be a resident even if there is an absence from the home once residency has been established. Williams said the long-term residency intent of the individual is an important element.

He suggested the best way to determine residency is based upon income tax reports, voter registrations, and motor vehicle registrations, saying someone does not have to spend every night at their residence, and going away for school or the military does not negate residency. Williams did not specifically name any trustees who might live outside the town.

Ann Howe, who ran for election to the seat Trustee Jim Romanello now holds, was not happy with Williams’ answers and gave a prepared statement during public comments later in the meeting. She cited specific state law about principal residences and Monument ordinances, saying that if a trustee moves out of town, the seat is vacated, and the board is clearly ignoring the law. She has been ques-

tioning Romanello’s Monument residency since January. See www.ocn.me/v19n2.htm#mbot.

Triview Metropolitan District No. 3 gets board members

Triview Metropolitan District No. 3 (TMD 3) requested approval of five temporary appointees to its board so that the district could remain active in order to build a road system in the Home Place Ranch development, between Sanctuary Pointe and Promontory Pointe. The appointments would last for six months. Afterward, a special election would be required. The appointees are all employees of Challenger Homes, the developer taking over the



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Above: Former Colorado Secretary of State Wayne Williams at the Monument Board of Trustees meeting Feb. 19. Photo by John Howe.



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