

Monument Board of Trustees, March 18

Merchants group shows leadership in town events



Above: On March 18, downtown business owner Woody Woodworth briefed the Monument Board of Trustees on the annual special events held by the Historic Monument Merchants Association for the benefit of the town and the merchants. Woodworth asked the board to ensure that HMMA has a voice in downtown development planning. *Photo by Jim Kendrick.*

By Jim Kendrick

On March 18, Woody Woodworth of the Historic Monument Merchants Association (HMMA) gave a presentation to the Monument Board of Trustees on HMMA special events currently being held in the town throughout the year. Woodworth, the owner of High Country Home Brew on Washington Street, asked that the town keep communications open and include the HMMA in downtown development planning.

The HMMA events he described were:

- Easter Egg Hunt—third year
- Art Hop—ninth year, May to September
- Concerts in the Park—since 1999, six to eight summer shows
- Chili Cook Off—12th year, September
- Safe Trick or Treat— ninth year, 600 kids
- Banner Christmas—sixth year, November
- Small Town Christmas—12th year, first three weekends of December

For more information, see www.monumentmerchants.com/events.htm.

Some of the items Woodworth noted about HMMA were:

- Promotes merchant prosperity
- Encourages developing relationships among merchants
- Promotes public awareness of the old downtown business district
- Builds local community
- Self-funded with nonprofit status through dues
- Funds public events
- Provides advertising
- Contributes proceeds from public events to charitable causes
- Concerts in the Park won the 2009 Colorado State Governor's award for best promotional event in Colorado

HMMA town improvements over the years:

- Construction of the band shell, restrooms, and a new sign in Limbach Park
- Street lights along Second Street
- New sign at the entrance to the town from I-25
- Directional signs for businesses
- Landscaping

Trustees Becki Tooley, Stan Gingrich, and Rafael Dominguez were absent from the meeting.

Trustees' comments

Mayor Travis Easton read a letter he received from Joyce Campbell, the great-grandmother of Ryan Willhite, thanking Town Clerk Cynthia Sirochman for her sympathy and kindness. Campbell and Imojene Willhite, the great-grandmother of Scarlett Gallagher, sought Sirochman's help at Town Hall in selecting a headstone for Ryan and Scarlett after the Town of Monument donated a plot in the town cemetery for the young children's burial.

The tragic deaths of this brother and sister occurred on Feb. 14 at 9550 E. Woodmen Rd. Ethan Corrau, who stabbed these children, also died of a stab wound he inflicted on himself. (For more details, see www.gazette.com/

articles/serious-151001-child-injuries.html.)

Each member of the board expressed gratitude to Sirochman for her thoughtful, caring, and sincere assistance to these ladies.

Mayor Easton stated the Tri-Lakes Economic Development Corporation and the Town of Monument would be participating in a joint breakfast at the Fairfield Inn on March 20. Easton said Trustee Rafael Dominguez is helping build this partnership.

Water Q and A

Town Water Attorney Bob Krassa and Town Water Resource Engineer Bruce Lytle gave an hour-long presentation on the complexities of water law, ownership of various kinds of water rights, and the legal and practical pros and cons of purchasing and transporting renewable water to supplement groundwater wells versus investing in re-use infrastructure. Krassa also gave a brief overview of Monument's water law cases. There was a very technical question-and-answer period for the trustees to ask questions of these consultants who rarely meet directly with the board.

The board unanimously approved the \$8,500 consulting contract for town water resource planning proposed by Gary Barber, the town's water representative and broker. The tasks listed in Barber's proposal were:

- Attend six Board of Trustee meetings.
- Meet with prospective regional partners at four meetings.
- Review prior regional planning efforts with town trustees and staff.
- Meet with partners to prepare draft water strategy for review.
- Revise draft strategy and submit final copy.

Consultant Linda Firth of Water Matters presented the joint Water Conservation Plan she drafted for the Town of Monument, Town of Palmer Lake, and the Triview Metropolitan District. After these three entities agree on the final version, Firth said two more approvals are needed from the Water Conservation Board and the general public.

The planning process included:

- Profiling the existing water supply system for each entity.
- Profiling the water demands and historical demand



Above (L to R): Town Water Attorney Bob Krassa and Town Water Resource Engineer Bruce Lytle *Photo by Jim Kendrick.*

management efforts of each entity.

- Identifying water efficiency benefits and goals.
 - Selecting water efficiency activities for implementation.
 - Developing implementation and monitoring plans.
- The 40-page Conservation Plan will be posted on each entity's webpage, advertised in the local newspaper, and made available at the local library and both Town Halls for public review and comment. The public comment period will be 60 days.

Firth stated that all three parties are performing the "foundation activities" for a good plan. She recommended the use of rebates and the educational materials she had included in her plan. Firth reiterated that the reason for adopting a Water Conservation Plan is to ensure state funding. Without a water conservation plan, the town cannot receive state funding.

In other matters, the board unanimously approved:

- A change of manager for the liquor license held by the Circle K store at 1190 W. Baptist Rd.
- A change in the town code to allow the board to simplify procedures to be better able to meet state requirements for posting special meetings and to be able to change meeting dates during the summer or when holidays occur on a Monday to ensure a quorum.
- A clarification in the town code that states, "No elected member shall serve more than two consecutive terms in office. Terms are considered consecutive unless they are at least a term apart."
- Changes to the town Cemetery Ordinance to clarify the Public Works Department's duties regarding the maintenance of the cemetery and the town clerk's duties regarding recordation of cemetery deeds and cemetery operation.

The board also approved changes to the Special Events Ordinance that will allow special events to be held on private property without obtaining a special event permit from the Town of Monument. This change allows smaller businesses the opportunity to draw in customers and hold events without the financial obligation to the town of first obtaining a \$100 permit. Drawing in more business is expected to benefit the town as a whole.

The town will lose about \$400 in special event permits per year due to this revision. Most special events are for nonprofit organizations. All four special events where fees were collected in 2012 were held on private property—without blocking roadways.

A paragraph listing many complex procedures for appealing a decision by the town clerk was deleted. The option to appeal a special event permit denial directly to

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