

age with no changes. Glenn said such a position “totally disrespects all of the people who have participated in the stakeholder process, and it’s particularly troubling that they are saying to us unless you approve 100 percent of what we say we are just going to take our ball go home,” Glenn said.

Folsom advised the commissioners that fire districts have the authority under state statutes to “adopt and enforce fire codes subject to approval by the Board of

County Commissioners adopting those codes by resolution.” Folsom told the commissioners that an “all or nothing” directive by the fire districts would be “well beyond their statutory authority.”

Along with Fire Code changes, the commissioners have instructed the County Development Services Department and County Attorney’s Office to develop specific recommendations for land use criteria that should be considered as part the County Land Development Code

for construction in areas designated as Wildland Urban Interface—areas where new developments are proposed adjacent to undeveloped and forested wildland. The staff is expected to present those recommendations in about 90 days.

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Woodmoor Improvement Association Board of Directors, Dec. 18

2013 achievements recalled, membership meeting set

By Harriet Halbig

The board of the Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) wrapped up the year’s activities at its Dec. 18 meeting. President Jim Hale reported that 2013 had been a productive year, yielding many improvements to WIA facilities and the finalization of the Project Design Standards Manual (PDSM). The annual membership meeting and election was scheduled for Jan. 27.

Vice President Kirstin Reimann, Director of Community Affairs Anne Stevens-Gountanis, and Secretary Jeff Gerhart were absent from the meeting.

Association Manager Matt Beseau said that the PDSM is now on the association website (woodmoor.org) for member review. The previous manual is also on the

site for easy comparison. Only four responses had been received to date. Members can search the manual by subject.

Annual membership meeting

Beseau said that the annual membership meeting and election will be held on Jan. 27 at Lewis-Palmer Middle School. Ballots will be counted by the League of Women Voters. A Meet the Candidates event is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Jan. 8 in the Barn to introduce the four candidates for the three vacancies on the board.

Following the annual meeting, the board will have a special meeting on Jan. 29 to determine the positions which each member will fill.

WIA has joined the Mountain States Employees Council, Beseau said. State requirements for professional employees of homeowners associations have changed over the past year, and this membership should aid in employee evaluations, Beseau said.

Beseau reported that statements for the annual membership dues were sent Dec. 3 and that the newsletter was in progress.

Treasurer Tom Schoemaker reported that the association will end the year slightly below budget. He said there were considerable expenses in November due to slash and tree removal.

Schoemaker also pointed out that the association receives \$8,000 to \$9,000 during some months due to office rentals, Woodmoor Public Safety (WPS) checks on local businesses, and Barn rental for events.

Hale concurred, saying that the association received \$10,000 more than budgeted for Barn rental in 2013.

WPS Chief Kevin Nielsen reported that new officer Les Mulligan was doing a good job. He also said WPS was purchasing a 2014 Jeep Cherokee to replace a 2008 Jeep Liberty. The new vehicle will be shared by WPS and the administration for covenant checks and other official uses.

Purchase of traffic trailer approved

Nielsen also proposed the purchase of a new trailer to

record traffic and speeds. He said that the trailer keeps records of the number of vehicles that pass it, the time of day, and the speeds at which they travel. These data can be sent to the Sheriff’s Office to justify changes in speed limits, placement of signs, and monitoring by county officials.

The board approved the expenditure of \$7,500 for a new trailer.

Architectural Control Director Darren Rouse reported that 15 projects were proposed in November, including decks, pods, roofs, and snow fences. He said that he would conduct an email vote to approve the new PDSM at the beginning of 2014.

Forestry Director Eric Gross reported that the committee exceeded its 2013 budget due to wildfires and mitigation efforts. There were two slash removal days added to the original schedule, and much scrub oak and other vegetation were removed by contractors.

The WIA has renewed its membership in the national FireWise organization. To justify this membership, WIA reported that the association spent over \$148,000 to make the community safer. This is the organization’s largest expenditure since 2005 and included the largest number of property evaluations in its history.

Gross suggested that the title of FireWise volunteer be changed to FireWise advisor. The board approved the change.

Common Areas Director W. Lee Murray reported that all common area projects had been completed. He said that the fountain in front of the Barn had been broken, and the committee was considering the installation of Wi-Fi for WIA use only and purchasing deck chairs and tables for outdoor use during rental functions.

The board of the Woodmoor Improvement Association meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the association’s Barn, 1691 Woodmoor Drive, Monument. The next meeting will be on Jan. 22.

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December Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

December was a cold month around the region and drier than normal. A major and prolonged intrusion of cold air at the beginning of the month put us in a large deficit temperature-wise. We had several glancing blows of snowfall, but no major storms developed over the area.

The first week of December was cold, with an unusually long-lived arctic intrusion of cold air and light snow affecting the region. The first three days of the months were mild and dry as west/southwest breeze ahead of the cold air allowed high temperatures to warm into the low 50s. However, at 3 p.m. on the 3rd, the first blast of arctic air moved in. Light snow developed that evening, and temperatures reached the single digits by midnight.

That temperature of 9°F at midnight on the 4th was as warm as we got for the next four days! Temperatures dropped well below zero, hitting 10 to 20°F below each night and morning from the 4th through the 8th. Afternoon highs only managed to squeak slightly above zero during the period. Some slight warming did return on Sunday the 8th, as we reach into the mid- and upper teens during the afternoon. Of course, when teens for highs seem warm, you know it’s been cold.

During this cold spell, snow fell at times, but nothing too heavy. However, the windy conditions did cause some driving and visibility problems with blowing snow on Wednesday and Thursday. For the period, about 3 to 4 inches of snow fell throughout the region. This cold spell was the coldest stretch of sustained cold we’ve seen this time of the year since December 1972.

For the most part records weren’t quite set, but the unusual part of this cold air outbreak was its uninterrupted duration. Normally, after a day or two, westerly winds begin to kick in and scour out the cold air mass. This didn’t happen, as several reinforcing shots of cold air and an area of high pressure to our north stayed firmly entrenched. This kept the cold air locked in place for several consecutive days.

The arctic cold that girded the region hung on for one more day to start off the week of the 9th as highs that afternoon only reached the upper teens after starting off below zero again. Finally, the cold relented and we broke above freezing the next morning at 10:30 a.m. This was quite a cold stretch for us—we were below freezing from 3:30 p.m. on the 3rd through the morning of the 10th.

Quiet and dry conditions quickly returned once the cold air moved out. Temperatures stayed below normal on the 11th, then warmed up nicely to the low 50s on the 12th. Slightly cooler air dropped highs back to the low 40s on the 13th before rebounding back above normal over the weekend, with high temperatures in the low 50s. No precipitation fell during the week, allowing much of the snow in the areas receiving sun to melt away.

It was mild and dry for the first of the week of the 16th. High temperatures reached into the 50s from the 16th through the 19th, peaking in the upper 50s on the 18th near-record high territory for that day. Cooler air arrived around 5 p.m. on the 19th and dropped temperatures about 20 degrees. Highs struggled to reach the freezing mark from the 20th through the 22nd, with a dusting