



W A V E R L Y
Colorado

Waverly Community Group

ANNUAL MEETING NOTES Saturday, November 3, 2012

Turning Point at Waverly School, 10431 NCR 15

Waverly Community Group Board Members Present: Jan Kroeger, Chair & Treas., George Reed, V. Chair, Jane Clark, Sec., Carolyn Ownby, Leslie Sorensen, George Wallace

Board Members Absent: Tom Niichel, Linda Sanden, Ron Splittgerber, Karl Zeller

Approximately 35 guests were present from the community.

The meeting started with socializing and taking a look at various artifacts that were on display, including the stone marker for the original Waverly Presbyterian Church that was found on the Wallace property. Other items included paleo stone implements and scrapers, old bottles, old wooden agricultural implements, railroad spikes, draft horse shoe, bison horn and other objects. The display was a good segue to the first speaker, Bill Schneider of Vestige Press in Wellington.

Mr. Schneider gave a 50 minute presentation on the early days of northern Colorado, some of the Indian history and lore, as well as specific details about the early fort in Fort Collins, the building of Trail Ridge Road, and other hallmark projects of the region. Some of the specific references to Wellington and Waverly included photos and information about the original Odd Fellows Hall in Wellington which is now the home of Vestige Press, photos of the original wooden, horse drawn school wagons for the Laporte area, as well as pictures of the original Waverly School bus. There was also a photo of the original Presbyterian church that presumably matched the large sandstone marker found on the Wallace place. The presentation was fascinating and left folks wanting another presentation next year. The crowd was encouraged to visit Mr. Schneider's museum in Wellington for a look at more pieces of our local history. The Community Group Board will make a donation to the museum in appreciation.

Door Prizes were awarded.

For Elections, nominations were taken from the floor to fill eight slots. In addition to those running again for positions on the Community Board (Ron Splittgerber, Jane Clark, Leslie Sorensen, and Tom Niichel) and Helen Boggs who had previously agreed to serve, nominations from the floor included for one year terms: Nola Gibson, Judith Powers, and Bart Kingham. All eight were elected (there were eight slots and only eight nominees so all were unopposed).

Larimer County Commissioner Lew Gaiter introduced Martina Wilkinson, Traffic Engineer with the County Engineering Department and Marc Engemoen, Public Works Director with the County Public Works Department to provide the latest information on the Owl Canyon Corridor realignment and construction.

They reported that an easement has been negotiated with the Weavers to run a realignment from the intersection of CR 19 and CR 70 slightly northwest on the east side of the limestone ridge that separates their property from the Heckendorf property to join CR 70 to CR 72. Some of the design standards will include roundabouts large enough to accommodate agricultural machinery and the trucks that use this route as a shortcut from I25 to Hwy 287. The existing road from CR 19 and CR 70 around the Weaver Ranch with the hard curve will be abandoned.

The roundabouts would be located at CR 19 and 70, CR 15 and 70 and CR 9 and 70, although the steep hill at CR 9 will be a challenge. Bridges would also be upgraded along CR 70 and the \$15 million budget for the entire project includes paving the stretch between CR 15 and Hwy 287 (CR 70 between 15 and 19 is now only chip sealed). It was made clear that the improved road will ONLY be a 2-LANE road. It is not the goal of the County to encourage this to be a truck bypass. Even though the City of Fort Collins would love to move truck traffic out of the City, Martina emphasized that she has

strenuously argued over the years that the northern part of the County is not the place for a truck bypass. Actual traffic counts for local and thru trips, as well as projections for future traffic were shown and discussed. They all point to the need for these improvements.

Questions, comments and concerns from the audience included:

- How to keep through trucks at a minimum
- How to keep from having the route become a truck bypass in an official sense involving the need for more funds to maintain the road that could involve the state, thus limiting the ability of the County to be able to post “no thru trucks” signs at each end
- Posting “no thru trucks” signs would be an option for the County, but tough to enforce, and not their first choice
- Some asked if we could resurrect the efforts taken after the most recent discussion of a “true bypass” that encouraged big trucks to stay on the Interstate
- Concern about how to keep commercial land uses from popping up along the route
- Mr. Heckendorf commented on the negative effect the project will have on his property and its value with no remuneration to him
- Concern that for \$15 million, CR 72 between CR 19 and 287 could be graded for many years for less than paving – that paving will only encourage truck traffic
- The existing hard corner in front of the Weaver Ranch and the existing intersection with CR 72 are the locations of many accidents and the safety issues need to be addressed
- Some wondered how the realignment would square with any changes due to the possibility of Glade Reservoir being built.
- It was asked if residents could offer ideas for design standards, such as buffer trees, noise abatement berms, or scenic route designations instead of commercial applications. The County was receptive to receiving input from citizens.

The discussion was helpful and both Martina and Marc encouraged comments from the community as the process unfolds. The construction could begin soon. Their contact information is:

Martina Wilkinson, Traffic Engineer
(970) 498-5731
mwilkinson@larimer.org

Marc Engemoen, Public Works Director
(970) 498-5741
mengemoen@larimer.org

The meeting was adjourned around 1:00 pm.
Respectfully submitted, Jane Clark, Secretary