

Monument Planning Commission, July 13

Proposed changes to landscape ordinance continued

By Kate Pangelinan

The July 13 Monument Planning Commission meeting featured discussions about proposed changes to the town's landscape ordinance. According to Town Planner Larry Manning's summary located on the town's website, these changes would encourage the planting of native Coloradan grasses, limit the number of trees Monument citizens and businesses are required to maintain, and allow the use of products like synthetic turf. The goal of these rule alterations

would be water conservation, because the town is dedicated to preserving its water supply so that it will be able to support current and future citizens. See <http://monumenttownco.minute-sondemand.com/> for the July 13 meeting packet containing Manning's staff report, information on what xeriscaping is (and is not), and the proposed changes to the current town landscaping ordinance.

It was decided that before voting, members of the commission needed time to mull over the

potential changes to their town, as well as how it would be best to transition into any changes at all. Some commissioners expressed concerns about what a decrease in overall living greenery might mean for Monument, and questioned finer points of the landscape ordinance—for instance, whether scrub oak/gamble oak would constitute a "tree" rather than a "bush," and whether trees should be handled differently according to their susceptibility to fire. They also discussed implementing these new rules across

Monument in a gradual manner, if changes are approved by the Board of Trustees. Spence suggested that homeowners should be notified and given the chance to understand what the changed ordinance would mean for them and their property.

In the end, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to postpone further discussion, and therefore voting, on these ordinance changes to their regular August meeting. The previous ordinance from 2014 will also be discussed to give these new

changes context, so that the Planning Commission might choose between parts of each proposition.

The next Monument Planning Commission meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 10 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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Palmer Lake Town Council, July 14 and July 28

Board raises fees for marijuana businesses, sees need for additional water tank

By James Howald

In July, the Palmer Lake Town Council met twice: on July 14 and 28. At the July 14 meeting, the board debated issues related to marijuana businesses, heard a presentation from Town Attorney Maureen Juran on planned ballot initiatives, listened to a presentation from a resident on watershed planning, and granted a business license.

At the July 28 meeting, the board began discussion of an additional water tank and named members of the town's Planning Commission.

Board returns to debate on marijuana fees and licenses

Juran proposed to the board that the town change its method of setting fees for marijuana businesses. Currently, those fees are set in the town's code; Juran said it would be simpler to switch to

resolutions to set those fees. That would allow the town to write a unified fee schedule that would allow fees to be defined in one place, and would require fewer updates to the town's code books, which were expensive to perform.

The board voted unanimously to make the change suggested by Juran.

Following the vote authorizing the use of resolutions to set fees, the board debated a resolution to increase the application and annual licensing fees on marijuana businesses to \$500 and \$5,000, respectively. This resolution provoked a lengthy debate among the board members and spokespeople for marijuana businesses.

Both Juran and Town Administrator Cathy Green-Sinnard pointed out that fees, unlike taxes, had to be based on services

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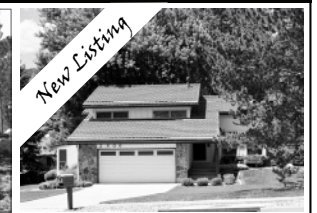
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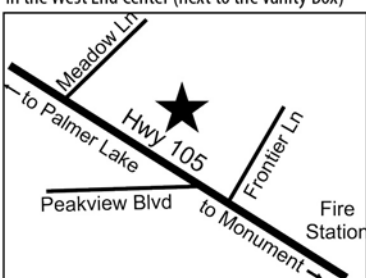
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