

Estes Park Gun & Archery Club

January 21, 2016 – Annual Membership Meeting

Rocky Mountain Park Inn, Estes Park, CO

The annual meeting of the Estes Park Gun and Archery Club commenced with a Map Display Viewing of potential alternative shooting ranges that the club is looking at for the Outdoor Range. The viewing took place between 6:00pm and 7:00pm. At 7:00pm, Presiding Officer Sharyn Gartner called the meeting to order. The meeting was started with the “Pledge of Allegiance,” led by Sharyn Gartner.

Sharyn Gartner introduced Larimer County Commissioner Tom Donnelly who made a special introduction of Kurt Thomas, who recently retired from the U.S. Army and was one of the club’s vendors at this meeting. Commissioner Donnelly also recognized all members who had served in the Armed Forces of the United States and Law Enforcement. Sharyn Gartner also advised the membership that Kurt Thomas and his father were the owners of American Innovations, LLC, who were one of the vendors at this meeting. Kurt Thomas used this opportunity to introduce his product, a high density molded plastic rifle/shotgun rack, which was light weight and portable. American Innovations, LLC, donated one of these racks as a door prize.

Commissioner Donnelly continued his presentation along with Gary Buffington, Director of Natural Resources and the Counties relationship with “Sports Shooting Partners.” Commissioner Donnelly discussed the “Open Lands Program” that is being funded by an “Open Space Sales Tax” that mainly funded land preservation and trails. In 2010 one of the designated open land areas in the Red Mountain Open Space, began to allow hunting. This new program has been so successful that with Elk and Deer hunting that the program may be expanded to include Pronghorn Antelope. Commissioner Donnelly also discussed the support of all the County Commissioners regarding 2nd Amendment issues and the trust it has in the people of Larimer County.

Gary Buffington discussed the “Sports Shooting Partners” program and its goal to locate, preserve and develop locations for safe shooting within Larimer County and the National Forest. Buffington explained the Maps that were on display prior to the start of the meeting and access to those areas designated on the maps for sports shooting and those areas that are being considered as new open areas for shooting. He further discussed the common sense rules regarding shooting in those areas near roads, neighborhoods and communities near those shooting areas. Also discussed was the private sectors involvement in new designated shooting locations.

Commissioner Donnelly concluded their presentation advising the membership of the counties involvement regarding Common Point Outdoor Range and while the final outcome as to its status both Commissioner Donnelly and Director Buffington were optimistic about its reopening and managements. A question and answer period was then conducted following the presentation to the membership in hopes of addressing their concerns.

One of the issues of concern was the response by Law Enforcement regarding unsafe shooting within some of the areas designated and areas of the National Forest. To address this issue, Sgt. Tim Sullivan, Larimer County Sheriff’s Office spoke to the membership regarding LCSO procedures and response to these types of calls. Other areas of concern brought up during the Q&A were Maintenance and Management of these designated shooting areas, the promotion and involvement of women in sport shooting and the opening of Common Point Outdoor Range.

Sharyn Gartner at this time presented to the Membership the minutes for the 2015 Annual Membership Meeting and asked if any changes were needed. Since no changes in the minutes were made a motion was then asked for and made from the membership to accept the minutes without any changes. The motion was seconded and at this time a vote was taken from the membership which voted unanimously to accept the 2015 minutes.

Bill Conger, clean-up Chairman then addressed the membership with his report regarding the 2015 Clean-up. His report was submitted to the membership prior to the start of this meeting. Attached to this report was a list of property and value of that property belonging to the club. Bill also asked for volunteers to sign up as Chairman for the four clean up duties during 2016.

Liz McGavin, current treasurer for the club, then presented the financials of the club to the membership. These financials were submitted to the membership prior to the start of the meeting and any questions regarding these financials were answered. Liz also advised the membership that she would answer more detailed questions at the conclusions of this presentation. Liz requested the assistance from at least three volunteers to review the financials of the club. This financial review committee would meet 2-3 times prior to the March Board meeting and submit their final report to the Board.

Sharyn Gartner at this time presented to the membership the club's pursuit to purchase land for an Outdoor Shooting Range since the Common Point Range is and has been unavailable to since September 2013. Sharyn discussed the "Special Review Process" with Larimer County that the club must go through prior to the purposed purchase of any of the properties currently being looked at. A question was presented regarding the involvement of Federal, State and Local government's involvement in the purchase of this land being looked at by the club since it would benefit those agencies. Sharyn advised that the government would not provide any funding for the purchase of these properties. The club is pursuing the purchase of one of these properties as a private entity and would, for the most part, run these proposed Outdoor Shooting Ranges as they did Common Point and the Indoor Range. Further, the LEA's agencies would still be able to use the range as they do now. The club will be looking for Grants or funding from private donors including the "Friends of the Estes Park Gun & Archery Club" which is a 501 c3, that can accept donations and is a tax write off. While the club is a 501c4, they can accept donations but it is not a write off for tax purposes. Bill Conger also spoke to the Membership regarding the changes that the EVRPD proposed to the current Common Point range which in his opinion would not be adequate as it would reduce the size of the range.

Sharyn also discussed the Common Point Concessionaire Agreement and the process that has and is occurring between the EVPRD and the EPGAC which has delayed the use of the Outdoor Range.

Gordon Ulrickson, Chairman for the "Friends of the Estes Park Gun & Archery Club," discussed the purpose of the FEPGAC, and the fact that it is a 501c3, and is tax deductible. He also discussed the need for volunteers in order to help the club and its objectives.

Bill Howell, discussed with the membership the Boards' attempt to expand the operation of the Indoor Range. He advised that the club wishes to open the Indoor Range on Sundays but needs the assistance of membership. Bill advised that in order to open the range on Sunday it would need 4-5 NRA Certified Range Safety Officers. The club is currently offering a NRA Certification course that could start in mid-February and those members interested only have to sign up with either Bill Howell or Gordon Ulrickson to enroll in the class. With that certification the member would be able to work on any day that the indoor range is open. As an RSO the member would be eligible to receive a range clean-up credit for 2016.

Jim Wilson, Nomination Chairman, at this time named those chosen by the nomination committee to run for board positions on the Estes Park Gun & Archery Board. Those names are as followed; Director at Large, Doug Tabor, Director at Large Randy Buchanan, Treasurer, Liz McGavin, Secretary, William Howell, 2nd V.P., Steve Murphree, 1st V.P., William Conger and President, Sharyn Gartner. Jim Wilson asked for nomination from the membership floor and none were received. A motion was asked for and received to cease the nomination process at this time. A motion was made and seconded and the nomination process was ceased. A vote was taken from the membership to cease the nomination process which was unanimous. Since there were not opposing nominees Jim Wilson asked for a vote by acclamation. A motion was made and seconded to accept a vote by acclamation. The vote was asked for by the membership and it was unanimous. Those members named were voted in as the new Board of the Estes Park Gun & Archery Club for the year 2016.

Presiding President, Sharyn Gartner thanked the nominating committee and membership for their confidence in the newly elected Board. She also recognized to all those individuals and organizations and vendors that have supported the EPGAC throughout the year 2015 and will continue to support the club's efforts.

With there being no further club business this meeting was adjourned at 8:43pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
William G. Howell, Secretary