

Clyde Slonaker's Presentation to City Council August 20, 2007

Gentlemen, my name is Clyde Slonaker. I am a Cañon City homeowner and my wife and I reside at 3010 North 5th Street. I am retired following 35 years with the Colorado Division of Wildlife, with experience as a district officer, regional field supervisor and while NE regional Asst. Manager the Division was a joint operation with the Parks Division. For approximately 8 years I had Parks Management experience. My last 12 years with the Division was in the Denver Headquarters with assignments with state wide responsibilities as Training Supervisor and Asst. Chief of Enforcement. From my working experience as well as a resident of Cañon City I too am concerned about Hogbacks lack of management, enforcement, erosion control and it being an area the City is not doing anything with. The City for all practical purposes has been totally ignoring. As such and being under City ownership there is a tremendous liability burden to the City. This responsibility is a very important responsibility to every taxpayer in the City.

Hopefully to impart with you the severity of the liability and the problem this area is to the City as I see it, I would identify the "Hogbacks" as a classic "attractive nuisance." If this were private property, for insurances purposes any insurance company would demand they are be properly fenced and totally closed to public use as it is used today.

As an analogy, if many prior City Administrators had left the City with a swimming pool in one of the City Parks, that was filled with treated water and open from spring to fall, without a fence, used 24/7, no enforcement, no supervision, no life guards, decades of accumulated trash on the property and the public over the years has used the nearest bush as their latrine. This pool should be recognized as a severe emergency for remedial action by any city.

Gentlemen, the conditions on the Hogbacks are not hypothetical as I just spoke of. It is real, it is going on. There are an untold number of adolescents and young adults using this area to ride their ATV's any time they choose....day or night. There is no supervision; there are no controls, no enforcements and no safety rules. The underage riders are traversing city streets on their unlicensed dirt bikes going to and from home and the Hogbacks.

It is only a matter of time until one of these riders is seriously hurt and as a result the City of Cañon City is taken to court for allowing the occurrences that resulted in the serious injury.

Please be assured that I am also very concerned about the environmental damage being done on a daily basis. The eye sore that is now this open area that belongs to the City is visible to every person, tourist and visitor to our area who drives down Skyline Drive. To me, the site of this continuing

uncontrolled damage, the erosion as well as the enormous safety issues does not speak well of the City of Cañon City.

Gentlemen, I urge you to please place this area at a reasonably high priority on the "TASK LIST" you establish next week that will guide the City objectives for the coming year.

I have been pleased to have been able to utilize my experience to assist Monica McGowan with ideas and plans that could be put in place to initiate a reclamation program for the Hogback.

I would like you to know that I will be available to assist with a reclamation of the Hogbacks in any way I may be able to help the Council and or the City of Cañon City.

Thank you for this time to speak before this Council.