

March 17, 2020, Town Council Meeting Comments - Submission #65701

Date Submitted: 3/17/2020



March 17, 2020, Town Council Meeting Comments

Thank you for your interest in Town Council's upcoming discussions. Please use the form below to submit your comments no later than 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 17. Comments received by that time will be forwarded to Council and included as part of the public record for the meeting, just as if you had come to comment in person. All listed fields are required.

Agenda item on which to comment*

Unscheduled public appearances (item/issue not scheduled on the agenda) ▼

Please pick one. To comment on more than one item, please submit an additional form.

Comment*

Light the Star during this difficult time with CoronaVirus.

First Name*

Jacqueline

Last Name*

Williams

Address1*

[REDACTED]

City

CASTLE ROCK

State

CO

Zip

80104

What is your affiliation?*

Check all that apply.

- ☒ Resident
- ☐ Nonresident representing Castle Rock business
- ☐ Nonresidents and businesses outside the Town of Castle Rock

March 17, 2020, Town Council Meeting Comments - Submission #65698

Date Submitted: 3/17/2020



March 17, 2020, Town Council Meeting Comments

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Agenda item on which to comment*

Unscheduled public appearances (item/issue not scheduled on the agenda) ▼

Please pick one. To comment on more than one item, please submit an additional form.

Comment*

Please light the Star as a Beacon of Hope as we work as a community to get through the COVID-19 situation!
Thank you!

First Name*

Steven

Last Name*

Fixter

Address1*

[REDACTED]

City

Castle Rock

State

CO

Zip

80104

What is your affiliation?*

Check all that apply.

- ☒ Resident
- ☐ Nonresident representing Castle Rock business
- ☐ Nonresidents and businesses outside the Town of Castle Rock

March 17, 2020, Town Council Meeting Comments - Submission #65697

Date Submitted: 3/17/2020



March 17, 2020, Town Council Meeting Comments

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Agenda item on which to comment*

Unscheduled public appearances (item/issue not scheduled on the agenda)

Please pick one. To comment on more than one item, please submit an additional form.

Comment*

[I timed this to ensure it is 3min or less!]

Mayor Gray, Castle Rock Council Members –

First, thank you so much for all you have done and are doing. Not just in the face of COVID-19, but much prior to that, as well. My family absolutely loves living here and has been so impressed with its civil servants. You're the best!

Second, I'm on your side. I want to fall in line with the procedures and codes of the City. To that end, I come to you to seek your assistance in raising awareness and implementing additional measures with regard to a public health issue.

On a regular morning walk about two weeks ago, an off-leash dog attacked my on-leash dog, ripping open her neck. After a half-day spent at the emergency vet, three sets of stitches, and bottles of meds, her recovery cost nearly \$800.

I am aware this is not a new issue. In fact, one request I have of you is to commend the CR.gov Parks & Rec department (especially Tara McGraw) and the Animal Control division of the Police (especially Officer Hutchings). Their response was swift, compassionate, and understanding—they see it all too often, but do not have sufficient resources to address it properly.

I am humbly urging the Council to allocate additional resources. One area particularly prone to Animal Ordinance violations is the Native Legend Open Space trail. The proximity to hundreds of homes, combined with the vistas and rolling ridges, has led to dozens of off-leash dogs per day. I see them all day, every day from my back deck.

I also see a toddler girl learning to skate, hand-in-hand with her daddy. The new moms walking their strollers, a cherished infant nestled inside. The young boy strengthening his legs and lungs, cycling over the pavement with his parent. And bluebirds! There are a dozen bluebird boxes on the Native Legend trail alone! Off-leash dogs injure all of these things—little girls get knocked over, strollers are sniffed without permission, young boys collide with dogs, the Colorado Bluebird Project is hampered. And dog-on-dog attacks create financial and relational damage.

Further, the most common excuse I hear is, "My dog is on an electronic leash." The fact that this is a violation of the ordinance needs city-wide emphasis.

Please consider what of the following is feasible in the immediate future:

- 1) Increasing the fine for off-leash dogs to \$250. (This is barely 1/3 the cost of a vet visit, and people rarely change behavior without significant tangible consequences.)
- 2) Installing signs along the Native Legend trail akin to the postings at other open spaces (please see handout).
- 3) Initiating a Good Samaritan "Ranger" (paid or volunteer) system that monitors the trails and is authorized to issue citations. (This could be financed by increasing the dog license fee.)
- 4) Publishing a one- to two-page article in the Town of Castle Rock Outlook magazine with the benefits of keeping dogs on leash (please see handout).
- 5) Rewarding owners whose dog is ON-leash on the trails. Maybe with a biscuit for the dog?

In closing, I have been a Castle Rock volunteer for barely two weeks...but I enjoy it more than my twenty year career! I come to you as a resident-advocate who wants the safest experience for us all.

I sincerely appreciate your time, attention, and consideration.

Josh Bleeker



First Name*

Josh

Last Name*

Bleeker

Address1*

City

Castle Rock

State

CO

Zip

80109

What is your affiliation?*

Check all that apply.

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Signage at Rock Park trail:



Article “pro-tips” recommendation for *Outlook* regarding “benefits” that may *motivate change*:

THE PERSONAL BENEFITS OF LEASHING YOUR DOG:

- 1) YOU WILL AVOID THE \$250.00 FINE.
- 2) THE LOCAL WILDLIFE WILL THANK YOU!
- 3) CHILDREN AND THOSE UNFAMILIAR WITH DOGS WILL FEEL SAFE ON THE TRAIL.
- 4) YOUR STATE TAXES CAN BE USED FOR IMPROVING NEW FACILITIES INSTEAD OF FOR REPAIRING THIS ONE.
- 5) ETC..