

PINE MOUNTAIN CLUB PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION  
BEAR AD HOC COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 2, 2024  
**APPROVED**

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:03 P.M.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Madison Bottorff, Chair; Lynn Stafford, Vice Chair; Carolyn Smith, Secretary; John Caulfield, and Jose Camronero (via Zoom).

**GUESTS:** In person: CDFW Biologist, Sofia Cortes, Finn Myggen, Paul Mobley, Sarah Jane Owen, Marcelle Murr, JoAnn Blair, Bill Blair, Bob Wyant, Vicky Kraft. ZOOM: Todd Fitch, Marshall Frasher, Cliff Penick, Jr., and Shawn Coulter.

**LIASON:** Jennifer Emmett (Zoom)

1. Roll Call
2. Agenda approval: Lynn moved to approve the agenda, Carolyn seconded, motion carried
3. Madison reviewed guidelines for in-person guests and zoom attendees.
4. **Old Business:**

a. Bear feeder citations: Jennifer announced the unofficial number of citations for unintentional bear feeding for the past 12 months is 12. The number of intentional bear feeding citations is 1. Jennifer will review her Executive Session minutes since she was seated on the Board to ascertain how many of those citations were appealed and their outcome. Members agree enforcement is vital in deterring bear feeding.

b. Need to obtain information from Patrol regarding their criteria for issuing a bear feeding citation (ie., actual observation, video, eye witness, etc.) Jennifer will request Patrol attend January's meeting.

5. **Special Guest:** Sophia Cortes, CDFW Conflict Biologist in the Central Region which covers 11 counties, including Kern, answered committee members' and guests' questions.

a. Despite the rumors, "CDFW has not used any lethal bear removal methods in the PMC area in the past year." It's not done often and requires a lengthy approval process.

b. CDFW traps and tags bears who break into PMC homes and have taken some a few miles out of town. Trapping is temporarily suspended by CDFW because of people tampering with the traps and releasing the bears. GPS collars are on some of the bears but can't reveal where the bears are now. Typical bear behavior is that if there is abundant natural food like acorns, pine nuts, berries, etc, they prefer that food since it's best for winter bulking. A bear study is needed to know how many bears are in the area.

c. Once a bear is habituated, it's extremely difficult to recondition it. Bear deterrents are vital to preventing break-ins such as electric wiring and mats, non-lethal projectiles with loud noise, and removal of all attractants including bird feeders, fruit trees, water, outside trash, food in vehicles.

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

a. Explore options for a community-wide education campaign focusing on the different groups who live, work and visit PMC creating a consolidated informational packet on PMCPOA Rules, bear attractants, deterrent methods, and incident reporting, signage, etc.

b. Research best effective practices in other mountain areas for effective methods to prevent a bear break-in.

c. Investigate creating a bear educational video on bear awareness to be shown to members before or after CDFW's presentation in the spring with the script incorporating CDFW educational information and materials.

MOTION TO ADJOURN APPROVED AT 7:06 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: January 6, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.