

Hickory Ridge CARES Committee Meeting Minutes 18 September 2025

Attendees:

Deborah Wessner
Jerry Lioi
Leah Donovan
Vanessa Mims
Donna Warner

Meeting commenced at 7PM (via Zoom)

This is the first meeting as the CARES committee.

New Business

1. Webpage Design/Content/Logo/Hickory Log Articles

Since we are now CARES, we need to update our webpage to reflect on new mission. Laura (Village Manager) made some changes and asked us to review and comment. Some immediate changes include updating the Logo to reflect the new name and adding information about joining the Columbia CARES newsletter which goes out every week.

Finally we discussed spreading the word re the new committee and perhaps getting new members. We agreed to an article in the Log. Donna also suggested that we focus on events (like adopt-a-spots) that can help build community which may lead to new memberships. We agreed to start with providing the Log with articles from CARES. Someone (sorry don't recall who) suggested CARES corner.

Action: Jerry to review website for content/errors

Action: Donna to draft language about joining the CARES newsletter for both the Hickory Log and new web site.

Action: Deborah to draft language asking for new members and to ask about attributing old WAC article to CARES

Action: Deborah to organize logo update

2. Budget Priorities

HR Village Board is to submit a letter to both HoCo and CA suggesting budgetary priorities for our village. The CARES team discussed the following proposals be included:

- for CA : Prioritize transition to small, battery-powered landscaping equipment with HR volunteering to be the next village for this change.
- for HoCo : Prioritize a buy-back program in which residents and trade-in gas-powered landscaping equipment for monies to purchase battery-powered equivalent.
- for both : Prioritize work on a parking lot (Deborah has location) to correct water flow issues

Action: Donna and Deborah to draft language for the HoCo and CA letters and provide to Laura ahead of the 13 Oct Board meeting.

3. Proposed Seminars

Deborah proposed hosting seminars landscaping and recycling.

Leah had attended a landscaping seminar that was informative but did not include many actions residents could take to support sustainability. Leah agreed to work with previous speakers (Doug and Sara) to create a seminar that discusses the importance of native plants in landscaping as well as ways residents can begin to create a native landscape.

Deborah suggested a recycling refresher could be helpful as rules for the blue (recycling) and green (composting) bins change over time. She thinks the HoCo Trash and Recycling division will support.

Action Leah to organize Landscaping seminar, coordinating with the HR Village events team. The goal is to host an event in Feb or early March 2026

Action: Deborah to organize a recycling seminar coordinating with the HR Village events team. The goal is to host an event in Jan 2026

4. Additional Issues

CA is already doing work to reduce the hill by the Village center and plant native plants by the daycare. Deborah suggested that members of the Committee attend the 13 Oct Board meeting to support for the project.

Action: Whoever can - attend the 13 Oct Board meeting.

The CA SCC is looking at RAC requirements to ensure they support sustainability. Deborah suggested that we do the same

Action: Bill and Vanessa to review current RAC requirements and highlight areas we can make sustainability suggestions

Old Business (from our last WAC meeting)

3. Sustainability Projects

We agreed that we would move forward with two proposed projects

- a pollinator garden in the Clary's Forest area
- path repair to address water flow and encourage plant growth

Action: Seems we should have an action here - maybe work with Village Manager to determine viability of the proposal and get in front of the board

4. Tree/Plant giveaway

Tree give away was a big success. Donna suggested that perhaps we do a mixture of trees and shrubs next year so folks who don't have room or a tree can participate. Deborah suggested asking for 50 shrubs in addition to the 100 trees.

Leah has an extra redbud tree. Deborah suggested using it as part of HR Village Center project.

Action: Deborah to raise the above with Laura

Meeting adjourned at 8PM