

## Sky Valley Property Owners Association Newsletter – April 28, 2019

### Please don't feed the bears

The Sky Valley City Council has passed an ordinance to protect bears and humans, as recommended last year by Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR) after several bear encounters at houses.

A draft ordinance was introduced in the April 16 Council workshop, reported in the April 18 Clayton Tribune, and passed at the April 23 Council meeting.

**View the ordinance:** [http://skyvalleyga.com/uploads/3/4/1/7/34174452/ordinance\\_19-01\\_bear\\_ordinance\\_\\_prevent\\_wildlife\\_access\\_to\\_refuse.pdf](http://skyvalleyga.com/uploads/3/4/1/7/34174452/ordinance_19-01_bear_ordinance__prevent_wildlife_access_to_refuse.pdf)

**View the meeting video:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=B0JmyGiMnxg&t=2064s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B0JmyGiMnxg&t=2064s)

The intent of this ordinance is to prevent bears coming to houses for food – garbage, pet food, grills, birdseed, etc.

There are **three underlying issues**:

First, the Georgia DNR stated last summer that if Sky Valley did not address the bear problem by adopting an ordinance, **in the event of a future bear problem, GDNR would not provide assistance.**

Second, if a problem bear is relocated to a distant area and returns to Sky Valley, **the bear is killed.** Providing food to bears, either garbage or bird seed, encourages them to return. It also lowers their fear of humans. Neither effect is good.

Third, **black bears are wild animals.** Even though the risk of attack by a bear is low, there is still a risk, particularly if a person gets between a female bear and her cubs.

**We need ideas about how to solve this problem. Remember, Georgia DNR is driving this issue. If you have any knowledge of how another Georgia community deals with this problem, please let a member of the City Council know.**

Thank you for your interest in our City. Visit the Sky Valley Property Owners Association website [www.skyvalleypoa.net](http://www.skyvalleypoa.net) for more information on your association, events, minutes, newsletters, and more.

Steve Mason, SVPOA President