

CITY BEAT

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There's no need to be uncivil

Group hopes the community will be agreeable this year

By JAY HAMBURGER

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Stop the bullying. Be courteous. No need to gossip.

All lofty goals — and some of traits of a civil community, Park City leaders have declared.

In a move that comes just as the election season begins, Mayor Dana Williams and the Park City Council have made a call for civility in the community. The elected officials agreed to declare Park City to be 'Park Civility' and labeled the three-month period between late June and late September as 'The Season of Civility' in the city.

The elected officials were spurred to make the declaration by the current class of Leadership Park City, a year-

long training program that prepares participants to take on a wider role in civic life. The class selected civility as a focus.

Matt Lindon, a member of the Leadership Park City class who lives in Silver Springs, said the members want to see civility spread through politics, the ski slopes, the trails and the roads.

"We don't feel there's a civility problem in Park City, but it could always be better," Lindon said.

The tenets of civility, as described in the City Hall resolution declaring 'The Season of Civility,' are:

- Pay attention; be courteous
- Listen actively to others
- Be inclusive; don't bully
- Do not gossip; be considerate
- Show respect and empathy
- Be agreeable, amiable and affable
- Apologize; be cordial
- Offer constructive criticism; be gracious
- Take responsibility; be accountable

The push for civility in Park City is receiving publicity at the start of City Hall's election season, which will last from early July until early November.

Three Park City Council seats are on the ballot. City Council elections have generally been mild-mannered affairs in the time since the 2002 Winter Olympics.

Lindon said the mayor has previously campaigned on a platform that partially called for civility in the community. He said the civility tenants Leadership Park City is promoting could lead to a campaign without the negativity common in politics.

"I believe the campaign will be much more positive" if the candidates adhere to the tenets, he said. "They'll focus on the positive. They'll be less political attacks."

Lindon said the organizers plan to hand out what he describes as 'civility cards' to people who are seen acting in a civil manner. He said hundreds of the cards will be printed.