

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the
Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission of the
City of City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
Held on Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.
at the Village Center

SECURITY TRAINING

The Cherry Hills Village Police Department conducted security training in the new City Hall for Commission members and staff.

PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Chair Robert Eber called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Chair Robert Eber, Commissioners Joshua DiCarlo, Fred Wolfe, Peter Sutherland and Aron Grodinsky. Also present were Emily Black, Parks and Recreation Coordinator and Pamela Broyles, Administrative Assistant.

Commissioner Kate Murphy arrived at 6:03 p.m.

Absent: Commissioner Stephanie Dahl

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PTRC conducted the Pledge of Allegiance.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION PERIOD

Erica Erhardt
3800 E. Mansfield Avenue
Cherry Hills Village

Ms. Erhardt presented an idea for a new bee program in Cherry Hills Village to promote environmental sustainability in the community. Ms. Erhardt introduced the program as the "Cherry Hills Village Bee Initiative" and encouraged the Commission to support adding bees to the natural environment. Ms. Erhardt provided information on the importance of bee habitat to the environment. The program encourages landowners in the R1, R2 and R3 zoned properties to invest in a beehive or hives and encourages other residents in the Village to plant a bee garden that could mimic the annual Tree Planting Program. A full-service bee keeping operation called "The Best Bees Company" delivers, installs and manages beehives for residents and businesses in multiple large cities to raise funding for scientific research to improve honey bee health. There is a \$2,500 service fee to get started and Ms. Erhardt reviewed the package and the benefits of using this organization. She is asking the PTRC to consider installing hives in parks and open spaces to bring visibility to the initiative and create incentive for homeowners to participate in the program.

Commissioner Wolfe asked Ms. Erhardt if she knows the number of people in the Village that currently have beehives.

Ms. Erhardt responded that she does not have that information.

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Commissioner Grodinsky remarked that he is aware of a few families who raise bees and it may be more common than we think. He suggested that it may be something the Quincy Farm Committee would want to be involved with. Commissioner Grodinsky also suggested posting the information in the Village Crier to encourage individual homeowners to participate in the program.

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Emily Black confirmed that Quincy Farm is already partnering with the Butterfly Pavilion to have hives on the property.

Ms. Black also suggested that the Cherry Hills Garden Club might be a contact that would be interested in promoting this program.

Chair Eber responded that the Commission will do some research to determine if this program is something that the Village can implement. He thanked Ms. Erhardt for her presentation.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Fred Wolfe moved, seconded by Commissioner Aron Grodinsky to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes – January 10th, 2019

The motion passed unanimously.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Trail Signing Project – City Council feedback and next steps

Commissioner Wolfe reported that he presented the proposed Trail Signing Project to City Council. He noted that prior to his presentation the High Line Canal Conservancy gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation that included proposed signage to be put along the entire length of the High Line Canal. Commissioner Wolfe said he later met with Executive Director Harriet LaMair to share the Commission's ideas on the Trail Signing Project.

Commissioner Wolfe expressed concern that too many signs on the High Line Canal Trail will create clutter. He proposed that the Commission work with the High Line Canal Conservancy to tie the sign projects together.

Commissioner Wolfe also noted that some residents have safety concerns with signs along the High Line Canal that direct traffic to other parts of the Village. He suggested putting the Village Trail signs throughout the City, but not putting any signs on the High Line Canal. He expressed that the Commission needs to come up with a design for the signs that works for everyone.

Commissioner Sutherland questioned if there is another place to put the Village Trail signs off the High Line Canal to address the concern about pushing traffic through neighborhoods.

Chair Eber agreed that the Commission should work with the High Line Canal Conservancy, but he wants the Commission to move forward with signing the Village Trail so people get used to the concept.

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Commissioner Wolfe offered to report back to the PTRC with some new suggestions on where the signs should be located to direct people to specific areas. He will amend the plan so there are no signs on the High Line Canal Trail.

Commissioner Sutherland cautioned that there are some turns on the Village Trail that without some designation on the High Line Canal it will be difficult to find the turns.

Commissioner Wolfe suggested adding a logo that could identify the turns without putting a sign on the High Line Canal. Commissioner Wolfe also brought up the possibility that the Trail may not be used and questioned if it is worth the money to specifically sign the Village Trail.

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Emily Black remarked that City Council was very enthusiastic about the idea of having a Village Trail and the idea of having signage that pointed people to highlights within the City.

Ms. Black referenced a proposal in the Commission's packets that Parks Operation Supervisor Jeff Roberts is working on. Mr. Roberts is proposing eight different sign locations for the Village Trail that will point people to the obvious turns. The idea is to keep the signs on the Village Trail so they can be seen from the High Line Trail. The signs will not conflict with the High Line Canal signs, but they will still point people in the right direction.

Commissioner Sutherland pointed out that at some point PTRC will need to address the concern that residents have about advertising access to other trails in the Village.

Ms. Black explained that this concern came up because the High Line Canal Conservancy is producing a new map and guide for the High Line Canal. She clarified that the current map does not include local trails and it is her understanding that the new map and guide also excludes local trail access. Ms. Black suggested that the Commission should not stop planning the Village Trail process because of these reasons. She added that the signs are not permanent and can be removed if the Community decides they do not want them.

The Commission discussed putting time versus distance on the Village Trail signs. Based on the use of electronic devices and the variety of uses on the trail, the Commission agreed that distance in mileage would be the best option.

Commissioner DiCarlo remarked that when the Commission first discussed the Trail Signing Project it was because of the frustration with the numbering system. He agreed that the Village Trail loop is nice because it gives people reference. He asked if signs should be posted along the Village Trail that would orient people where they are in the Village and point out other trails that connect to the Village loop. He believes that having a central piece that simplifies the trail system such as "You Are Here" would orient people where they are on the trail system and connect City trails together.

Commissioner Wolfe responded that his next goal is to resign other trails. He believes that a simple logo needs to be designed that can be put along the Village Trail since there are so many turns.

Commissioner Murphy suggested using the City's Cherry Logo since people are already familiar with it.

Chair Eber summed up that the Commission started the Trail Resigning Project because of the numbering system, but came up with the idea of the Village Trail as a starting point. He identified two issues the Commission needs to decide including; should the

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City post signs on the Village Trail only and not include directions to other locations and what will the signs look like. He suggested that the Commission needs to create a brand for consistency, and it needs to be formally adopted.

The Commission agreed that the City should adopt the Cherry Logo as the brand for the trail system. Commission members also agreed to sign the Village Trail and get feedback from residents before moving forward with signing the entire trail system.

Commissioner DiCarlo also suggested that a loop be added in Old Cherry Hills to include Woodie Hollow Park.

Commissioner Wolfe responded that the Village Trail excluded this area to prevent people from having to cross University Boulevard. He agreed that a loop could be added in Old Cherry Hills, but mentioned that most of the loop would be on actual roads and not trails.

The Commission agreed on the following items for the Village Trail:

- Trail signs will include mileage (point-to-point) versus time and will include an identifier. The Commission discussed having a top sign that says, "Village Trail" and a bottom sign that gives identifiers such as John Meade Park, the Village Center, etc. At the eight cross points and major intersections the sign will identify how many miles it is to the High Line Canal.
- Commissioner Wolfe will bring a sample of a red sign with white lettering (similar to the City's street signs) and a sample of a brown sign with white lettering to the April PTRC meeting. He described the High Line Canal Conservancy signs as looking like a National Park sign on a wooden post. The sign will be dark brown with white letters.

Commissioner Wolfe suggested that Ms. LaMair should be invited to a PTRC meeting to provide details on the High Line Conservancy signing project on the High Line Canal.

Ms. Black discussed options for gathering feedback on the signs including an online survey on the website or physically being on the Trail to talk with trail users.

Commissioner Wolfe suggested having a mockup of the sign posted in the Village Crier and ask for feedback. He volunteered to get input from people using the trail as he is on the trail system every day.

Ms. Black will work with Commissioner Wolfe and Jeff Roberts to create a mockup that can be posted in the May Village Crier.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Presentation by Cherry Hills Land Preserve

Susan Maguire
14 Mockingbird Lane

Ms. Maguire introduced herself as Director of the Cherry Hills Land Preserve. Also present in the audience was President Jannie Carpenter. Ms. Maguire announced that the Cherry Hills Land Preserve is a non-profit 501(c)3 in the Village and its mission is conservation and protection of open spaces and natural habitats in the Village.

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Ms. Maguire described three pillars to accomplish their mission. First is Land Protection through the use of conservation easements like Quincy Farm or to work with people to put conservation easements on their properties to prevent further development. The second pillar is Education and Stewardship using education to inspire local action and future leadership. The third pillar is Strategic Partnerships and opportunities to invest in open land and to preserve and enhance existing open space. Ms. Maguire explained that the Land Preserve sees an opportunity to partner with the City, predominantly through education to enhance awareness of the open space and encourage protection and conservation of those spaces. The Cherry Hills Land Preserve is presenting a proposal to the Quincy Farm Committee with a menu of different ways to help support Quincy Farm. The ideas apply not only to Quincy Farm, but to many of the parks and trails in the City. Ms. Maguire shared some ideas for Quincy Farm including how to develop the Nature Center, the main house on the property and, what kind of exhibits and brochures can be created to identify different species of plants and animals on the property. Second would be recruiting and organizing volunteers on the property so the main house can be open. Third would be conservation monitoring and observing how the property is being used, if it is being used as Colorado Open Lands dictated and reporting back to the City and Colorado Open Lands on their findings.

Ms. Maguire also described a monthly newsletter that the Cherry Hills Land Preserve mails out where they plan to highlight a different Park every month. The next issue will highlight the John Meade Park development. Other ideas include working with the Audubon Society to organize a bird watching program in Three Pond Park and an educational event on creek habitats in Woodie Hollow Park.

The Cherry Hills Land Preserve also has a grant program that is focused on conservation projects. Teachers and other school groups that want to do conservation related projects can apply through the grant program to help fund their project. The Land Preserve can also work with the City on conservation related projects. The Land Preserve will write a letter of support for an Arapahoe County Open Space Grant for John Meade Park.

Ms. Maguire announced that the annual Barn Party is scheduled for September 14th and the annual Trail Walk is September 15th. The annual Barn Party is the Land Preserve's major fundraiser.

Commissioner Murphy commented that what makes Cherry Hills Village so beautiful is the tree canopy. She asked if the Cherry Hills Land Preserve offers any educational programs or grants for preservation and planting of the trees in the Community.

Ms. Maguire responded that the Land Preserve has arranged for a speaker to give a talk on water issues affecting the Front Range. Included in the discussion is the canopy along the High Line Canal. Ms. Maguire said they can look for a program on how to better protect trees.

Ms. Broyles reminded the Commission that the City offers trees at a reduced cost to residents through the annual Tree Planting Program. All trees must be planted in the City.

b. Special Events Dates

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Emily Black announced that the City will hold three special events on the following dates:

Movie Night – Saturday, August 17th

Car Show – Sunday, September 8th

Winter Celebration – Friday, December 13th

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Ms. Black asked Commission members to get back to her within two weeks if there are any conflicts with these dates.

Ms. Black also announced that the City will host its annual Spring Cleanup event on May 16th, 17th and 18th at 2101 West Quincy Avenue, the new Public Works Facility.

Chair Eber noted that the Cherry Hills Land Preserve will take charge of the Trail Passport Program this year.

REPORTS

a. PTRC Chair Report

Chair Eber mentioned that there will be educational opportunities available during the implementation of John Meade Park.

Ms. Black reported that staff is working on a Request for Proposal (RFP) for John Meade Park and hopes to put the project out for bid in April or May. Construction is expected to start this summer.

Chair Eber asked Ms. Black for an update on the location of the communications tower.

Ms. Black responded that Crown Castle has not presented a formal application to the City. They are surveying City Park, which is currently the favorable location.

Commissioner Wolfe expressed that he strongly opposes the City Park location for aesthetic reasons. He suggested that the cell tower should be located around bigger trees so it can be disguised.

Ms. Black responded that the application will come before PTRC before any decisions are made.

Commissioner Wolfe requested that drawings for the communication tower be to scale with photos that show a mockup of the proposed tower so the Commission can determine exactly what it will look like.

Chair Eber reported that Boulder has implemented a pilot program where they are going to allow Class I and Class II E-Bikes on certain trails. They will collect data on the program through 2019. Chair Eber remarked that if E-Bikes do become a part of the Community the Commission will need to determine if they fit in with the semi-rural character of the Village and how will the City deal with the multiple uses on the trails.

Chair Eber reviewed the Code Modernization process that is currently being implemented at the City. The process includes reviewing the City Code and revising the Code to modernize certain pieces. Chair Eber stated that the new Code will have some significant changes in how Boards and Commissions act. Currently, all decisions filter up to City Council as they are considered final action on everything. The proposed Code changes will move some decision making to a Board and Commission level.

b. Commission Members Report

There was nothing to report on this subject.

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c. City Council Report

Chair Eber reported that City Council has eliminated City Council liaisons for Boards and Commissions.

d. Staff Report

(i) John Meade Park – Rezone and Waiver

Ms. Black reported that City Council passed the rezoning request for John Meade Park on first reading and second reading will be on March 19th. City Council also passed the floodplain waiver that is needed to construct the improvements in John Meade Park. Staff is applying for an Arapahoe County Open Space Grant for the playground, wetland re-plantings and park improvements.

(ii) April 2nd City Council Study Session

Ms. Black informed the Commission that City Council made the decision to eliminate liaisons for Boards and Commissions. Instead, City Council will schedule study sessions before Council meetings on a rotating basis for all Boards and Commissions. The goal is to provide more opportunity to communicate with City Council. PTRC will have a study session every 2-3 months. The first study session is scheduled for April 2nd at 6:00 p.m.

(iii) Mansfield Trail

Ms. Black reported that Councilor Mike Gallagher asked the Commission to consider whether there is interest in extending the Mansfield Trail from the dirt road section that leads to the High Line Canal. Ms. Black confirmed that the City has a right-of-way in this area that could be used to formalize a trail. PTRC designated a Mansfield Bridge as one of its priorities in the 2004 Blue Ribbon Report, but it was considered a low priority. The trail is used as an informal crossing to the High Line Canal when there is no water.

The Commission discussed the high cost of adding a pedestrian bridge across the High Line Canal. The Commission decided to maintain an interest in the Trail, but agreed that it is not a top priority at this time.

(iv) City Hall Open House – April 16th at 4:30pm

Ms. Black announced that the City Clerk sent an email inviting Boards and Commissions to the City Hall Open House on April 16th at 4:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

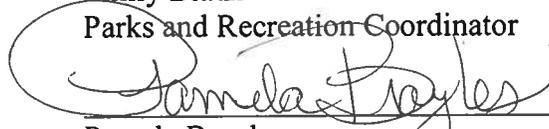
The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The next PTRC meeting is scheduled for April 11th at 5:30 p.m.



Robert Eber, Chairman



Emily Black
Parks and Recreation Coordinator



Pamela Broyles
Administrative Assistant