

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the
City Council of the City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
Held on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.
At St. Mary's Academy, 4545 South University Boulevard,
Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113

Mayor Laura Christman called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. She thanked St. Mary's Academy for accommodating the City Council meeting in the St. Mary's Academy Community Room Cafeteria.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Laura Christman, Councilors Randy Weil, Earl Hoellen, Al Blum, Mike Gallagher, Dan Sheldon, and Katy Brown were present on roll call. Also present were City Manager Jim Thorsen, Deputy City Manager and Public Works Director Jay Goldie, City Attorney Linda Michow, Police Chief Michelle Tovrea, Community Development Director Rachel Granrath, and City Clerk Laura Smith.

Absent: none

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Council conducted the pledge of allegiance.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION PERIOD

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Hoellen moved, seconded by Councilor Brown to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of Minutes – March 20, 2018

The motion passed unanimously.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Review of City Wide Traffic Issues to Include the Preliminary Design of a Single-Lane Roundabout at Colorado Boulevard and Quincy Avenue – Public Input

City Manager Thorsen explained that there were several City traffic issues for Council's consideration tonight, including a proposed single-lane roundabout at Quincy Avenue and Colorado Boulevard; a new traffic signal at Glenmoor and Belleview Avenue; speed issues on Mansfield Avenue, Franklin Street, and Colorado Boulevard; and Cherryridge/University Avenue exiting issues. He suggested that Council postpone the discussion on the proposed changes to the City's Traffic Calming Policy to a future meeting. He reviewed the background of the proposed single-lane roundabout, including traffic issues along Quincy Avenue at the Kent Denver driveway and at Colorado Boulevard, Kent Denver's two recent applications for expansion of their building facilities, and the variety of traffic improvement options that had been

considered. He explained that realigning the Kent Denver driveway to Colorado Boulevard and installing a single-lane roundabout would increase the Level of Service (LOS) at the intersection, improve safety for vehicles and pedestrians, and eliminate the need for a Uniformed Traffic Officer. He indicated that the City had received over 120 public comments by email and mail opposing the roundabout, with the reasons primarily being the concern that a roundabout would increase traffic, was not rural, would decrease safety, would increase speeds, and was not needed.

Mayor Pro Tem Hoellen asked if there was any evidence that speed was affected by an intersection or roundabout.

Curtis Rowe of Kimley-Horn, the City traffic engineer, replied that roundabouts were typically installed as speed control measures, and that speeds would only be affected for traffic in the vicinity of the roundabout.

Mayor Christman indicated that it seemed the roundabout was a solution for which the Village did not think there was a problem.

Councilor Brown agreed.

Councilor Sheldon stated that this had been a journey for the Council and that they had been doing what they thought was the right thing. He noted that the impression he had received was that some residents believed that Council was trying to do this without public input, which was never Council's intent, and he was sorry if that was the interpretation. He added that he was pleased that so many residents were in attendance at the meeting and looked forward to further dialogue on this issue.

Councilor Gallagher indicated that it was great to see the community come together and gave him hope for the future that the community valued of the character of the City. He stated that the most common theme in the public comments was that Council had missed the greater context of the issue, which was how the project would impact the character of the City. He noted that Council had good intentions.

Councilor Weil stated that it had been a pleasure to meet and talk to residents about this issue. He agreed that the Council's intentions had been good and they appreciated the feedback they had received. He noted that the level of citizen involvement in this issue spoke to the special nature of this community.

Councilor Sheldon moved, seconded by Councilor Blum to direct the City Manager to immediately discontinue any design work on the proposed Quincy/Colorado roundabout and present City Council at the next available Council meeting an ordinance to return the funds in the amount of \$500,000 to the General Fund balance and \$250,000 to the Parks and Recreation Fund balance, less any amounts expended to date that were previously appropriated for the roundabout design work via Ordinance 2, Series 2018, and remove the \$750,000 appropriation from the 2018 Capital Fund budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Hoellen indicated that he agreed with the motion. He stated that it had always been Council's intention to solicit public input about this issue, and at both readings of the supplemental appropriation Council had confirmed that they were not approving construction of the roundabout before the public input meeting. He regretted that this had not been clear to the public. He noted that Council was taking action tonight because the substantial input received so far made it clear that this project was not desired by the City. He indicated that Council was still interested in receiving public input tonight. He explained that the proposed roundabout had evolved from discussions regarding the new Kent Denver Upper School building as an effective and safe solution. He noted that he had believed a single-lane roundabout could be designed to fit into the

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Village’s semi-rural character and be aesthetically pleasing, but it had been made very clear by the public comments that view was not shared. He indicated that the City was unique in many ways but was not unique in that the Council usually heard from constituents when they were against something. He noted that Council would love to see large numbers of residents at Council meetings on a regular basis. He expressed concern that if traffic on streets like Quincy Avenue and Colorado Boulevard continued to get worse, drivers would cut through on the smaller neighborhood streets instead, and asked to hear people’s opinions on that issue. He suggested that, although the City’s traffic studies did not show speeding on Quincy Avenue, the City should increase speed enforcement on that road if residents believed it was an issue. He stated that he looked forward to hearing more public input at tonight’s meeting. He indicated that the Council members were citizens too and dedicated their time to make the City the best they could.

The following votes were recorded:

Weil	yes
Gallagher	yes
Hoellen	yes
Brown	yes
Sheldon	yes
Blum	yes

Vote on the motion: 6 ayes. 0 nays. The motion carried.

City Manager Thorsen reviewed several other traffic issues in the City. He explained that the new traffic signal proposed for Glenmoor and Belleview Avenue was a joint effort between the City, Glenmoor Homeowners Association, Glenmoor Country Club, Greenwood Village, and CDOT. The funding would be split between Greenwood Village (50%), the City (25%), the HOA and the Country Club (25%). CDOT had approved the signal and the City was initiating the design phase. He explained that staff was looking at several options to address speeding issues on Mansfield Avenue including new striping and additional enforcement. He indicated that staff would be working to address speeding issues on Franklin Street by conducting more speed surveys, working with residents, and possibly utilizing advisory signs and additional enforcement. He stated that staff would utilize advisory signs and additional enforcement to address speeding issues on northbound Colorado Boulevard. He explained that because CDOT owned University Boulevard, the City was limited in what it could do to address the difficulty for residents in the Cherryridge Road neighborhood to exit onto University Boulevard. The issue was complicated by the location of the St. Mary’s Academy entrance. Staff was initiating conversations with all parties and hoped to find a solution to bring to CDOT.

Mayor Christman stated the guidelines for public comment, including that speakers must sign in, give their name and address before addressing the Council, speak for a maximum of three minutes, direct all comments to Council, and be considerate of fellow speakers.

Jason Matherly, 10 Random Road, stated that he had lived in the City for almost 19 years on a three acre property that was very rural. He indicated that the proposed roundabout showed a disconnect between the decision makers, planners and negotiators. He questioned the eight year option in the Kent Denver Development Agreement and asked where the next surprise would come from.

Suzie Halle, 17 Random Road, noted that the Denver Metro Area was exploding with development and that City residents were clinging to the character of the Village. She explained that the Blue Ribbon Panel and Master Plan identified the semi-rural

character of the City. She noted a disconnect between the Master Plan and the roundabout. She thanked Council for reversing their decision. She noted that the improbable connections of streets were part of what created the charm of the City.

Heather Fox, 4220 S. Bellaire Circle, asked what efforts the City had made to persuade Kent Denver to move their start time back a half hour in order to alleviate the congestion that was caused by having both Kent Denver and Cherry Hills Village Elementary School start at the same time. She noted that she did not believe a half hour would impact after school activities too severely.

Howard Sherr, 210 Summit Boulevard, was not present.

Erica Erhardt, 3800 E. Mansfield Avenue, explained that she was a new resident and had lived in the City for about a year. She noted that they had moved from Highlands Ranch and that her husband had regularly cut through Cherry Hills Village on his commute to and from downtown Denver. She added that he had never complained about the stop signs, but rather appreciated them as they provided an opportunity to admire the Village. She indicated that she did not want to increase convenience for cut through traffic with a roundabout and did not believe a roundabout adhered to the culture of the Village. She looked forward to more discussion about traffic issues on Mansfield Avenue.

Glen Warren, 4001 E. Quincy Avenue, indicated that he lived on the northeast corner of Quincy Avenue and Colorado Boulevard and was opposed to the roundabout. He suggested adding more stop signs along Quincy Avenue. He stated that Kent Denver was a great citizen of the City by keeping their campus open and accessible for use by residents. He noted that residents should be tolerant of 30 minutes of traffic in the mornings. He indicated that it seemed like backroom dealings had taken place. He asked Council to amend the Kent Denver Development Agreement to void the eight year option.

Mark Griffin, 3236 Cherryridge Road, was not present.

Paul Rady, 4 Mockingbird Lane, explained that he was the owner of the barn on Quincy Avenue that hosted the Cherry Hills Land Preserve Barn Party each year. He thanked the citizens for their involvement and thanked Council for being responsive to the citizens.

Mayor Christman thanked Mr. Rady for making his barn available for the Land Preserve party.

Rebecca Benes, 12 Random Road, thanked Council for reversing their decision. She discussed the importance of elected officials listening to their constituents and commended Council for doing so.

Bill Fishman, 4205 S. Dahlia Street, stated that he had lived in the City for 48 years and were very often on Quincy Avenue and the High Line Canal. He warned that removing the stop signs at Quincy Avenue and Colorado Boulevard would result in fatalities of pedestrians crossing Quincy Avenue at the High Line Canal, because vehicles did not stop for the flashing pedestrian lights. He explained that Vail had replaced stop signs with a roundabout, which was great for traffic but very dangerous for pedestrians. He asked that Council have more public input meetings before implementing any measures for any traffic issues throughout the City, but warned that they would not work. He indicated that there was no problem in the City, that there would always be traffic and that the current situation was the best that could be hoped for.

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J Brian Searles, 5623 E. Southmoor Circle, indicated that he had lived in the City for 32 years. He thanked Council for reversing their decision but stated he was disturbed at the prescient set by appropriating \$250,000 from the Parks Fund reserves for this project. He reviewed the history of the City's 2002 exclusion from the South Suburban Recreation District. He noted that the court ordered payments to South Suburban would be completed in 2019, and thereafter the tax funds would flow directly into the City's Parks Fund. He expressed concern with what Council would decide to do next with park funds. He stated that they should only be used for open space, parks, recreation and the recreation reimbursement program as approved by the voters in 2002. He also asked Council to reconsider their new fence regulations to allow higher and solid fences be built along Quincy Avenue to protect homeowners from traffic. He thanked City Manager Thorsen for working with the Southmoor Vista neighborhood on traffic calming.

John Pappas, 62 Charlou Circle, stated that he had lived in the City for 62 years. He thanked Council for reversing their decision and indicated that it made him feel that residents had a say in City issues. He noted that the roundabout in Aspen did not work well and that traffic backed up during peak hours.

Alex Brown, 4285 S. Forest Court, was not present.

Diedre Wooden, 5235 E. Princeton Avenue, was not present.

Ann Schuster, 4223 S. Bellaire Circle, was not present.

Duncan W, 4223 S. Bellaire Circle, was not present.

Janice Hunt, 1776 E. Tufts Avenue, was not present.

Maureen Welch, 4816 S. Clarkson Street, was not present.

Laura Lopez, 4245 S. Forest Circle, thanked Council for reversing their decision. She added that she had enjoyed speaking with her Council representative on this issue and that this was an example of representative democracy at work. She appreciated the meaningful and thoughtful discussions that Council had on this issue. She noted that she had moved to the City three years ago in part because of its semi-rural character and charm. She added that according to the book High on Country this was not the first "Save Quincy" movement, as in 1971 a protest had been organized against an interchange of Quincy Avenue and I-25; and was not the first proposed roundabout, as in 1950 a roundabout had been proposed for University Boulevard and Hampden Avenue. She indicated the City's Statement of Purpose from 1971 included protecting the oasis of the City from the hazards of over-civilization, and noted that the roundabout was a hazard of over-civilization. She quoted from High on Country regarding how the City's citizens have organized to defend the character of the community and quality of life.

Michael Tralla, 72 Glenmoor Drive, indicated that he had lived in the City for 35 years, in three different homes and neighborhoods. He stated that he was not in favor of a traffic signal at Glenmoor and Bellevue Avenue. He did not think it would improve safety or congestion and was concerned that the one lane approved by CDOT would worsen the bottleneck of traffic. He suggested that Council query the residents of Glenmoor more thoroughly to determine the true level of support for the traffic signal.

Breck Larson, 5683 E. Southmoor Circle, stated that he agreed with many of the previous speakers and did not want Quincy Avenue to turn into Bellevue Avenue. He emphasized the importance of maintaining the City's character and stated that it seemed that Council members had ulterior agendas. He added that tonight's meeting

should have been more prominently advertised in the Village Crier. He indicated that the informational page on the City's website was bias towards promoting the roundabout and information could be easily found about the dangers of roundabouts. He noted that the City's rendering of the roundabout was not accurate as it did not include pedestrian crossing signs and striping, which would be the non-aesthetic elements of the roundabout.

Dave Berman, 5775 E. Oxford Avenue, was not present.

Michael Kim, 4245 S. Forest Circle, thanked Council for their service and for doing the right thing tonight. He indicated it was the Council's duty to preserve and defend the semi-rural character of the City according to the Blue Ribbon Panel and the Master Plan. He noted that the roundabout was not in keeping with the City's character. He indicated that \$750,000 was not an insignificant amount of money and the \$250,000 from the Parks Fund was a source of great concern. He asked Council to engage in more community forums with all residents to brainstorm and consider the pros and cons of all issues. He indicated that the #SaveQuincy movement should not have been the form or method for communication on this issue. He asked that everyone learn from this experience to listen, respect, and work together.

Sven Collins, 4237 S. Bellaire Circle, stated that he had lived in the City for 32 years. He acknowledged that all the Council members worked hard and thanked them for listening. He thanked the citizens for expressing their input. He agreed that Council should amend the Kent Denver Development Agreement to void the eight year option. He agreed that he was encouraged that Council had listened and responded to the citizens.

Martha Davis, 5050 S. Albion Street, indicated that she was not in favor of a traffic signal at Glenmoor and Belleview Avenue. She explained that she had collected noise data from Belleview Avenue for 33 years, and was concerned that a traffic signal would increase the noise level because it would cause large trucks to stop and restart, as well as cause traffic to backup.

Rob Eber, 3 Middle Road, stated that while traffic on Quincy Avenue was a problem, it was only a problem for 30 minutes in the morning, and the proposed solution was overkill. He noted that the issue never came to the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission for an impact analysis to the Quincy Avenue trail, the High Line Canal trail, and the view corridor along Quincy Avenue. He noted that the citizens had many ideas of how to deal with cut through traffic and suggested that the City Attorney write a memo explaining what the City could and could not do, such as close roads to outside traffic.

Jim Johnson, 4575 S. Franklin Street, expressed concern with speeding on Franklin Street, and invited the Police Department to have an officer sit in his driveway to enforce the speed limit. He also suggested that the City have a friendly conversation with the church on Tufts Avenue so that their attendees would not run the stop sign in their hurry to arrive on time.

Mayor Christman thanked everyone for their input and suggestions.

Mayor Pro Tem Hoellen thanked everyone for their comments. He indicated that Council frequently discussed the Master Plan and that they considered all institutions in the City to be valuable parts of the community. He explained that when an institution came to Council to expand the activities on their property that was the one and only time that Council had the opportunity to negotiate with that institution, versus a request or discussion which could happen at any time. He stated that these negotiations were

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not hostile and that he was proud of staff's professionalism during negotiations and discussions. He indicated that public input was vital to Council's decisions and stated that they would continue to explore new ways of communicating with citizens. He noted that the Village Crier was now issued monthly, the City website had been redesigned, and the City had joined the social network platform Nextdoor. He added that Council members were always willing to attend HOA meetings.

Councilor Gallagher encouraged everyone to sign up for Notify Me, the email notification system through the City's website, which could be customized so that recipients only received notifications on topics they were interested in.

Mayor Christman indicated that staff would add the public comments and Council's motion and vote to the City website.

Councilor Brown stated that she did not have and was not aware of any Council member having any personal agenda. She noted that the discussion of the roundabout began with complaints from residents regarding traffic on Quincy Avenue. She agreed with Mr. Eber that the proposed solution was overkill.

NEW BUSINESS

None

REPORTS

Mayor's Report

Mayor Christman reported that there was a change in the FAA's status and they were working to determine the impact to the City and the Denver Metro Area. She noted that she had seen a fox in her yard in the afternoon.

Members of City Council

Councilor Weil had no report.

Councilor Gallagher had no report.

Mayor Pro Tem Hoellen had no report.

Councilor Brown reported that the Art Commission had voted to recommend a sculpture from a well-known artist at a discounted rate for their sculpture-on-loan program. The recommendation was to place the sculpture on the northwest corner of University Boulevard and Quincy Avenue. She also reported that the Art Commission's annual event would be held on July 25th and that a save the date would be added to the Village Crier.

Councilor Sheldon reported that the High Line Canal Conservancy was hosting two open houses in April: April 10th at Goodson Recreation Center and April 26th at the Aurora Central Library.

Councilor Blum reported that the first meeting of the Code Modernization Steering Committee had been productive and that he believed the process to be a good investment.

Members of City Boards and Commissions

None

City Manager & Staff

City Manager Thorsen had no report.

City Attorney

City Attorney Michow had no report.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.





Laura Christman, Mayor



Laura Smith, City Clerk