

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Parks & Trails Commission
City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
January 17, 2008
at the Village Center

Commission members in attendance: Theresa Gilpatrick, Heidi Schmidt Hammell, Phyllis Hayutin and Councilmember Harriet LaMair. City staff members present: Paul Burkholder, Parks & Trails Administrator, Jay Goldie Director of Public Works and Jessica Sager, Administrative Clerk.

Call to Order

Ms. Theresa Gilpatrick called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Jane Soderberg arrived at 6:04 p.m.

Ms. Ann Gallagher arrived at 7:02 p.m.

Approval of December 6, 2007 Minutes

Ms. Gilpatrick asked for a correction on page 3 of the minutes. She requested the word deter be changed to defer. She moved to approve the December 6, 2007 minutes as amended. Ms. Phyllis Hayutin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Audience Participation

Dennis Coughlin
3875 South Harrison Street
Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113

Mr. Coughlin distributed a letter to the commission members addressing the proposed bridge that would cross the Highline Canal at the end of Mansfield. He advised the commission that the homeowners of the four lots in the area came together and purchased the fifth lot with the agreement to never develop that fifth lot. He stated the homeowners paid the City to vacate Harrison Street and they had the area re-platted. He said the homeowners are anxious to keep the neighborhood private and quiet. They held a meeting, that commission member Heidi Schmidt Hammell attended, and their primary concerns included the increase of any kind of traffic and noise.

Councilmember Harriet LaMair commented that she had no knowledge of an additional lot purchase.

David Mosteller
3875 South Harrison Street
Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113

Mr. David Mosteller gave the commission members the history behind the purchase of the fifth lot.

Councilmember LaMair stated she appreciates their perspective on not wanting a bridge or a trail near Mansfield.

Mr. Coughlin reiterated their desire to keep the neighborhood quiet.

Councilmember LaMair asked Mr. Coughlin if the neighbors uniformly oppose the bridge.

Mr. Coughlin answered the homeowners are very opposed to idea of a bridge.

Ms. Gilpatrick stated she appreciates their effort and time in coming to the meeting to advise the commission of their concerns.

Jerry Peterson Minor Subdivision Public Meeting

Mr. Paul Burkholder presented the Jerry Peterson minor subdivision. He commented that the situation has changed since the last Parks, Trails and Commission meeting. He said the applicant has provided a survey of the land. He stated he understands the commission's desire to acquire

land and parks throughout the City and that the City does not have any land in this location outside of a trail #2841. He commented that if the commission chooses to recommend the applicant's suggested land donation, the Parks Division would be able to maintain it in a manner similar to the other open spaces within the City.

Mike Pharo
2835 West Oxford Avenue, #6
Englewood, CO 80110

Mr. Mike Pharo provided a sketch of the property with current vegetation and the proposed new vegetation. He advised the commission of Mr. Peterson's plans for irrigating the area. He stated with the new proposal the donation would be 1/3 land and 2/3 cash-in-lieu.

Ms. Schmidt Hammell commented that she likes Mr. Peterson's plan for irrigation.

Ms. Gilpatrick stated she appreciates Mr. Peterson's willingness to work with the commission on keeping the area as natural as possible.

Ms. Schmidt Hammell commented that she is in favor of keeping the area natural and not adding anything that would require a lot of maintenance.

Mr. Pharro stated the area already had a lot of vegetation and the trees on the sketch are existing trees. He commented that a natural park instead of a manicured park would be a good fit to the trail.

Ms. Gilpatrick moved to recommend to the Planning and Zoning Commission the applicant's presented land donation and cash-in-lieu donation as required in Section 17-3-30 of the City of Cherry Hills Municipal Code in the subdivision of Lot 3, 3 Lynn Road, City of Cherry Hills Village as presented by Mr. Peterson and Mr. Pharro. Ms. Soderberg seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

St. Clair property proposal – Ms. Pat Boulding

Pat Boulding
1415 East Tufts Avenue
Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113

Ms. Pat Boulding advised the commission that the St. Clair property has been sold, but she does not know who purchased the property. She recommended the commission contact the new owner and find out what their plans for the property are. She suggested the City try to acquire the northern acre of the property that is adjacent to a vacant road. She said this is the only undeveloped parcel of land in old Cherry Hills Village. She is concerned that the lot will be subdivided into three new lots and the new owners will construct big houses onto the smaller lots.

Ms. Hayutin asked what the minimum lot size could be.

Ms. Boulding answered the lots could be 1 acre.

Councilmember LaMair commented that the City Manager, Eric Ensey, has said the acreage is very tight and they may only be able to subdivide into 2 lots.

Ms. Boulding advised the commission of the efforts that she and the other neighbors have done in order to protect the property.

Councilmember LaMair stated City Council would like some input from the commission if the new owner does contact the City.

Ms. Gilpatrick answered the commission has discussed constructing a park on the north end of the property adjacent to the alley.

Councilmember LaMair asked if the neighbors would be willing to split the purchase of the property in a similar fashion to the neighbors on Mansfield that just appeared before the commission, if there is some interest on behalf of the new owner.

Ms. Boulding answered that it may be a possibility. She said the neighbors have previously been trying to protect the whole property.

Ms. Schmidt Hammell asked if Ms. Boulding and the other neighbors have discussed any changes to the property for the future.

Ms. Boulding answered they discussed constructing a park at the property, but there would be parking issues. She stated she would like to see some park benches installed, but does not think a playground would be a good idea. She said ideally they would prefer to see the property's present condition maintained.

Ms. Gilpatrick asked Mr. Burkholder to try to find out who the new owner of the property is.

Councilmember LaMair suggested Mr. Burkholder speak to the City Attorney before he contacts the new owner to make sure there aren't any conflicts of interest.

Mr. Jim Muhm Trail Report

Jim Muhm
4951 South Holly Street
Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113

Mr. Jim Muhm expressed his concern with the lack of dates on the maintenance log. He would like to see a date or a month on the log when the Parks Department will respond to the maintenance issues and suggested changing the column labeled response to response schedule. He asked Mr. Burkholder when the signs and bollards were going to be replaced.

Mr. Burkholder answered that they are currently working on the replacements now and the project will extend beyond this winter.

Mr. Muhm asked if he has an expected completion date.

Mr. Burkholder answered that it is not top priority.

Mr. Muhm asked if the Parks Department is doing any fence repairs and if any would be done this winter.

Mr. Burkholder answered that fence repairs are done as they have time and the Parks Department has been working on maintenance and snow removal issues.

Mr. Muhm noted for the record that trail #5439 has posts that are down and rails that are out.

Councilmember LaMair asked Mr. Jay Goldie if the old maintenance log had completion dates.

Mr. Goldie answered that he was unsure, but he doesn't believe it had specific dates.

Councilmember LaMair commented that the Parks Department needs to have some flexibility and she questioned whether it would be beneficial to add completion dates to the maintenance log. She stated that the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission cannot determine what the top priority is, they have to leave that to the Parks Department to determine.

Ms. Hayutin commented that South Suburban had a maintenance log with completion dates when they were maintaining the parks and trails. She was under the impression that one of the benefits of being excluded from South Suburban was so the residents could decide what the priorities were and how and when they were done.

Councilmember LaMair asked Mr. Burkholder if staff decides what goes on the maintenance log.

Mr. Burkholder answered that all requests get added to the maintenance log. He stated it is difficult to keep a running total of fences and staff needs to know right away if there are fences down. He explained he has to rely on the residents because they do not have the staff to keep up with all the fence maintenance issues. He also explained that raising the trail is timely and expensive.

Ms. Hayutin suggested hiring more staff.

Ms. Soderberg suggested they identify which trails require the most work.

Mr. Burkholder explained they have hired one new full time person, but the trails are all under snow at this time.

Councilmember LaMair asked Mr. Muhm if he has heard the idea Mr. Kevin Iverson suggested with regards to rating all the trails and prioritizing the maintenance issues.

Mr. Muhm stated he does not like that idea. He expressed his concern that the lower rated trails will not be maintained. He said the trails do not require a lot of maintenance except for mowing.

Councilmember LaMair commented that it would seem the trails require a fair amount of maintenance. She believes it would be good idea to prioritize the trails.

Ms. Gilpatrick noted they have to be mindful of people, constraints and budget; as they want the best trail system possible.

2008 Grant Proposals

Mr. Burkholder asked if items need to be a top priority to pursue a grant. He advised the commission that Arapahoe County grant applications are due by the end of the month. He will seek approval from the commission before applying for any of the other grants.

Subcommittee Discussions

Parks, Trails and Recreation Enhancement Mansfield/Clarkson survey's/feasibility studies

Mr. Burkholder advised the commission a survey needs to be done on Clarkson before they can go any further.

Long Term Budgeting and System Planning

Mr. Burkholder reported that the 2008 budget was approved by City Council.

Conservation Easement Subcommittee

There was nothing to report on this subject. The commission held a brief discussion on the Cat Anderson donation to the City.

Recreation and Events Subcommittee Special Events Discussion

Ms. Soderberg mentioned that she has booked a vendor for the Race for Open Space. She suggested the events subcommittee meet.

Mr. Burkholder asked the commission if they would like to sponsor the community fair this year.

Ms. Gilpatrick stated that there is not a line item in the 2008 budget for the community fair and all the special events funds have gone towards the Race for Open Space and the movie night. She said the commission can approve funds to go towards the fair or they can suggest Mr. Scott Higgins fill out the special events permit and they will review it then.

Ms. Soderberg suggested Mr. Higgins plan the community fair for the same day as the Race for Open Space.

Mr. Burkholder asked which direction the commission would like to go if Mr. Higgins asks for funding for the community fair.

Ms. Gilpatrick told Mr. Burkholder to advise Mr. Higgins to attend a Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission meeting if he would like funding, but they have elected to use their special events funds for the race.

Ms. Soderberg advised the commission the race was moved to the 3rd Sunday in September.

Reports

Annex tree planting

There was nothing to report on this subject.

Master Planning/White Paper

Mr. Burkholder reported that the white paper has been delivered, but there was nothing new to report.

Maintenance Log Update

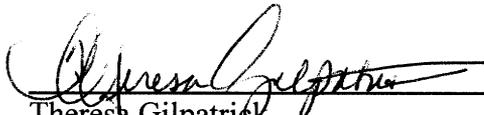
There was nothing new to report on this subject.

City Council Report – Harriet LaMair – Next Meeting February 5, 2008

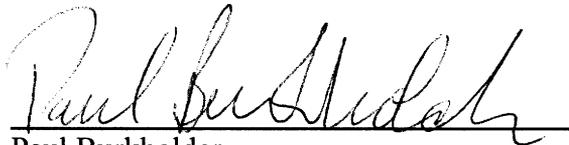
Councilmember LaMair advised the commission that City Council accepted Kat Anderson's donation and described the specifics of the donation. She mentioned that Mr. Merle Chambers' property is going up for sale and it is approximately 20 acres. She said the Land Preserve is currently speaking with Mr. Chambers, but they will not be able to work out an agreement similar to Kat Anderson's. She updated the commission on the survey that is going to be mailed to the residents for the Master Plan. She will report to City Council the commission's preferences on the St. Clair property at their next meeting.

Adjournment

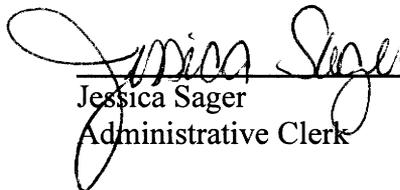
The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.



Theresa Gilpatrick
Committee Chair



Paul Burkholder
PTR Administrator



Jessica Sager
Administrative Clerk