

Minutes of the Parks & Trails Commission
City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
March 13, 2008
at the Village Center

Commission members in attendance: Theresa Gilpatrick, Heidi Schmidt Hammell, Phyllis Hayutin, Jane Soderberg, Ann Gallagher, Bill Callison. City staff members present: Ryan Berninzoni, Interim Parks & Trails Administrator, Jay Goldie, Director of Public Works, Eric Ensey, City Manager, Rob Zuccaro, Planning Manager and Pamela Broyles, Administrative Clerk.

Call to Order

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

Approval of January 17, 2008 Minutes

Ms. Phyllis Hayutin moved to approve the January 17, 2008 minutes. Ms. Jane Soderberg seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Introduction of Ryan Berninzoni as Interim Parks, Trails and Recreation Administrator

Ms. Gilpatrick introduced Ryan Berninzoni as the Interim Parks, Trails and Recreation Administrator.

Ms. Gilpatrick introduced Pamela Broyles as the new Administrative Clerk for Parks, Trails and Recreation and Public Works.

Audience Participation

No audience participation.

St. Clair Property Update

Mr. Ryan Berninzoni reported to the board that as of March 7, 2008, Arapahoe County still lists St. Clair Trust as the owner of the St. Clair Property.

Mr. Jay Goldie reported that the trust officer is not interested in splitting the property at this time.

Ms. Gilpatrick suggested that the commission readdress the possibility of purchasing a portion of the property once the property has sold.

Mr. Goldie reported the property was on auction at one point, but did not sell. He is uncertain whether the property is currently on the market.

Rady Property Update

Mr. Berninzoni confirmed to the commission members that the Rady project will not be finalized, or an easement given until the work is completed to their satisfaction. He stated the trail becomes wet and soggy due to the rain so construction is being completed on the section near Quincy to approximately 200 yards north of the start of the trail.

Mr. Jim Muhm Trail Report

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

Mr. Muhm asked Mr. Berninzoni about the status of trail marker #1441. He is concerned because there is no trail marker at this location.

Mr. Berninzoni responded that although trails are not high on the priority list, he will get to them.

Mr. Muhm reported that while driving by Quincy Avenue where the new easement is located he saw what looked like some new plantings making it difficult to tell where the trail starts and ends. He would like to see the trail marked better.

Mr. Berninzoni said he would look into it.

Mr. Muhm expressed concern with trail marker #5048. The suggested trail needs to have dirt imported and he would like to see repair work done soon since it is getting close to the wet season.

Review of Proposed Parks, Trail and Open Space portion of the City's Master Plan

Mr. Rob Zuccaro introduced himself to the commission as the new Planning Manager. He will be working closely with Eric Ensey on the Master Plan. He provided an update on the proposed Park, Trail and Open Space portion of the City's Master Plan, emphasizing that it is still a draft.

Mr. Zuccaro reported that a survey was mailed earlier in the week to the community to try and address some issues that the City would like community input on. The City is hoping for a good response to gather valuable information. The results are expected back mid to late April. Once returned, City Council has appointed a committee to work on finalizing the plan based on the survey results and to move forward to public hearings and public review. The consultant will provide another draft to this committee based on the results of the survey before being viewed publicly.

Ms. Schmidt Hammell asked if questions and comments could be emailed in the future?

Mr. Zuccaro responded that everyone is welcome to email comments, however he suggested that questions and comments be addressed in front of other members for discussion purposes.

Ms. Gallagher commented that she would like to see something added in the scenic treasures section regarding the donation of the Anderson property.

Ms. Soderberg expressed concern that open space is not addressed in this plan. She asked what documents were used, and if the consultants considered the Land Preserve white paper.

Mr. Eric Ensey responded that although they did not use the white paper word for word they did try to pull out general ideas from the document.

Ms. Soderberg feels strongly that open space should have its own category.

Mr. Ensey asked commission members how they would like to see the open space section set up in the Master Plan.

Ms. Soderberg noted that there are a lot of points on the white paper that she would like to see added. She said although she supports scenic treasures, she feels that open space is a continuing phenomenon and the category should be labeled open space as opposed to scenic treasures.

Mr. Bill Callison stated he agrees with other committee members that it is important to emphasize the concept of open space separate from other items.

Ms. Hayutin expressed concern that their voices were not heard at the master plan public meeting, and there were items included that did not relate to Cherry Hills.

Ms. Gilpatrick reported that the white paper developed by the PTR Commission was posted on the Cherry Hills Village website and talks extensively about open space being broken out from trails. She stated the ground work has been laid and she would like to see a more elevated position for open space since it is a big part of what this commission is trying to do.

Ms. Soderberg stated she would like to see the section titled "Active and Traditional Parks" changed to "Open Space."

Ms. Schmidt Hammell reviewed the "Equestrian Uses" section. She reported that jumps have already been added to the arena. She would like to see water added in the arena for horses, but does not recommend a water trough because of the standing water.

Ms. Schmidt Hammell spoke with Michelle Edwardson, the Cherry Hills Village Animal Control Officer, and she suggested a smaller round ring to board loose horses while they are trying to contact the owner. This would provide better safety and the arena could still be used for riders.

Ms. Schmidt Hammell suggested that adequate access to the trail with room for horses, walkers and bikes to pass are all good points to think about.

Ms. Gilpatrick expressed concern about the wording in the section "Low Impact Facilities" such as volleyball or horseshoe pits. She believes that the commission needs to be careful about creating recreational facilities. The commission supports the idea of a community room within the new building, but at this time would like to stay away from outdoor recreational facilities such as a football field, soccer field, or tennis courts.

Mr. Callison said he thought the commission did address the concept of a basketball court in past meetings.

Mr. Ensey recommended that it may be appropriate to put a general statement that this item will continue to be reviewed in the future if necessary.

Ms. Soderberg asked for clarification on the section titled "Furnishings and Amenities Along the Trails."

Mr. Ensey responded that the Furnishings and Amenities section came from the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Advisory Committee asked that the PTR Commission review this section to see if there is a desire for items such as benches.

Ms. Soderberg recommended taking restrooms and shelters out of this section, but agreed with adding additional trash receptacles.

Mr. Callison suggested that if the City decides to run water to the horse arena they should consider adding additional drinking fountains on the trail.

Ms. Schmidt Hammell responded that the water line for the horses will be seasonal and the City does not have to dig the 5 foot trench.

Mr. Goldie reported that the City is able to tap into the City water line without having to dig the 5 foot trench to the arena and the work could be done in-house for little cost.

Ms. Gilpatrick reported that the water fountain at Holly and Quincy is seasonal, but well used and appreciated. She would support additional water fountains if it is possible.

Ms. Soderberg would like to hear from the consultant regarding the public opinion comments and if any of their comments were included in this document.

Mr. Ensey responded it is his understanding that the consultant used all the information they received in drafting this document.

Ms. Hayutin suggested the comments made by Ms. Soderberg during this meeting be emphasized in the final draft.

Ms. Ensey stated when a more complete draft of this document is brought before the PTR Commission, he would like to bring the consultant to the meeting to answer any questions.

Ms. Gilpatrick reported that it would be interesting to hear from the consultant on how he weighed the information compiled from the white paper versus the Land Preserve paper and citizen input.

Ms. Schmidt Hammell asked for clarification of a Tot Lot.

Mr. Goldie responded that a tot lot has smaller playground equipment for younger children and the idea of a tot lot came from the schools.

Ms. Soderberg said she believes they are considering placing a tot lot at John Meade Park.

The commission would like to reword the paragraph at the top of page 5, and remove the words "largely passive" before the word amenities.

Mr. Ensey suggested that the entire paragraph needs to be reworded. He requested that if there are specific items that the PTR Commission is certain they want included in the Master Plan, to highlight these items on the white paper, and to highlight any section that does not make sense. Mr. Ensey will provide that document to the consultant. Mr. Ensey suggested that after the survey is complete and the revised document is being reviewed at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, it is important to have a representative from this body come forward and explain the position of the PTR Commission. He asked the PTR Commission to get comments back to him as soon as possible.

Ms. Gilpatrick reported that the PTR Commission has publicized the white paper on the website and Mr. Paul Burkholder delivered the paper to Gould Evans.

Ms Debbie Wells
4950 Sanford Cir W
Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113

Ms. Wells noted that the consultants are given a lot of information and they do the best they can to include this information in the document. She said it is important that each group make sure their voice is being heard. She recommended that PTR highlight important issues in their portion of the document to present to the consultant, or present their ideas directly to the Planning and Zoning Commission. She also said the commission should not assume that the consultant will know how to weigh the information for Cherry Hills Village appropriately. She suggested that when Mr. Ensey presents the information it would be very helpful that everyone be in the same room and that both groups agree on the articulation.

Mr. Ensey agreed with Ms. Wells and will invite the PTR Commission to the next Planning and Zoning Commission meeting.

Ms. Gilpatrick emphasized the commission invested a lot of time and energy in developing the paper and they want to make sure that their voices are heard on an equal basis along with the voice of the public and the survey.

Subcommittee Discussions - Parks, Trails and Recreation Enhancement

Mansfield

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the Mansfield project is on hold.

Clarkson Survey

Mr. Berninzoni reported that Western Service Surveying conducted a survey of the east portion of the Clarkson right of way and determined that there is not a right of way past Layton.

Mr. Goldie reported that where the trail is built is where the City has access or right of way; 255 feet north of Layton.

Mr. Berninzoni stated that he does have the survey if commission members would like to view it.

Ms. Hayutin asked if there was anything the City could do with the section that isn't part of the trail.

Mr. Goldie reported that the area is all ditch and the City would need to redo the entire drainage system.

Ms. Gilpatrick reported that the Clarkson Survey had a higher priority than Mansfield because of concerns for the safety of school children and now that Clarkson is not an option she asked if commission members could view the Mansfield Survey at the next PTR meeting.

Mr. Goldie stated he will bring the survey along with letters and records from past meetings to the April PTR meeting.

Long Term Budgeting and System Planning

There was nothing to report on this subject.

Conservation Easement Subcommittee

Ms. Soderberg reported that as a member of the Land Preserve she had a well received reception at her home to honor Ms. Kat Anderson and her contribution to the City.

Recreation and Events Subcommittee

Ms. Gilpatrick reported that plans for the movie night and race are moving forward. The movie night is scheduled for Sunday, June 8th. Both events will be promoted through email blasts, low key signage, the Village Crier, the City Website, local schools and The Villager. The Land Preserve is sponsoring the ice cream social on movie night. The movie is being promoted as a low key family friendly event with no admission, but donations are cheerfully accepted.

Ms. Gilpatrick asked commission members to think about suggestions for a movie.

Ms. Gilpatrick reported that the race for open space is scheduled for Sunday, September 21st. The race is a means to encourage residents to come out and enjoy the trails and will include runners, walkers, families, dogs, and horses. The committee is still looking for volunteers and sponsors. Local schools have been contacted as a means to provide community service to students who are looking for volunteer hours to graduate. Ms. Gilpatrick thanked staff members for their assistance.

Reports

Annex Tree Planting

Ms. Schmidt Hammell reported that she met with Councilmember LaMair, Mr. Jay Goldie and Mr. Ryan Berninzoni to look at recent plans. Staff will mark the proposed trees with stakes to show the proposed location of the trees and present them to the neighbors for comments.

Mr. Goldie stated they are hoping to plant some of the trees this spring and some in the fall.

Grant Updates

Mr. Berninzoni reported the City has applied for three grants in 2008. Two of the grants are with Arapahoe County for the Quincy trail overlay and the John Meade Park horse arena. The third is a GOCO Grant to replace the existing lighting system at the Belleview Avenue tunnel. The City should hear results on all three no later than the middle of June 2008.

Maintenance Log Update

There was nothing to report on this subject.

Green Policy Task Force

Staff provided recommendations to City Council that they will further discuss during the City Council Retreat in the spring. Staff will continue to study what other cities are doing.

2008 PTRC Priority List update

Mr. Berninzoni provided committee members with a copy of the new priority list format.

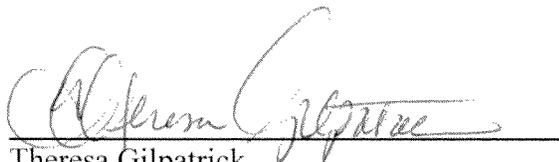
Ms. Gilpatrick stated the new format will set a nice platform for 2009.

City Council Report – Harriet LaMair

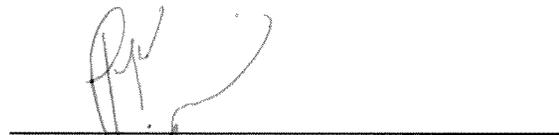
Councilmember LaMair was not present to give report.

Adjournment

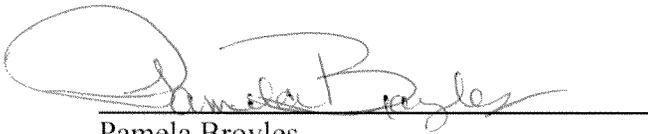
The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.



Theresa Gilpatrick
Committee Chair



Ryan Berninzoni
Interim PTR Administrator



Pamela Broyles
Administrative Clerk