

Minutes of the Parks & Trails Commission
City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
May 8, 2008
at the Village Center

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

Call to Order

Ms. Theresa Gilpatrick called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of March 13, 2008 Minutes

Ms. Phyllis Hayutin moved to approve the April 10, 2008 minutes. Ms. Ann Gallagher seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Audience Participation

Be' Aspinwall
4401 S Vine Way
Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113

Ms. Aspinwall reported that she lives in Cherrymoor behind St. Mary's Academy and utilizes both the Woodie Hollow and John Meade Park horse arenas. She understands that the footing is to be redone in the horse arenas this summer and she would like to offer her support and assistance when choosing the person or persons who will complete this project. She stated it is critical that the horse arenas are done correctly and she is concerned about who will complete the work.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the project is pending the results of the grant that the City applied for. Officially, the City set aside a select amount of money for the arena, but this does not cover the overall expense. The work on the arena is pending on whether the City is awarded the grant.

Mr. Goldie reported that the John Meade Park arena is the only arena that is scheduled for work at this time.

Mr. Callison asked Ms. Aspinwall if the footing was satisfactory at the Woodie Hollow arena, or if there was a specific problem she was referring to.

Ms. Aspinwall reported that the arena is not great, but it is usable. She reported that in the summer the arena gets dusty and needs to be watered. Overall she rated the arena a C-. She stated that if only one arena is scheduled for repair then she agrees that the John Meade Park arena should be a priority because it is used more.

Mr. Callison asked if the Woodie Hollow arena is a hazard or safety issue.

Ms. Aspinwall reported that the arena is a hazard for horses because the footing is not good and horse injuries are a real risk. She added that good footing in the arena is crucial.

Ms. Aspinwall also reported that St. Mary's Academy is watering and creating a swamp off of the soccer hill to the east. She is concerned about Mosquito's and the West Nile Virus. She would like the City to look into drainage options in that area.

Mr. Callison reported that this swamp is a real problem every year, and becomes a mosquito breeding area. St. Mary's Academy waters their baseball and soccer fields creating an underground stream.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that he will look into this problem.

Ms. Aspinwall reported that she received a questionnaire in the mail regarding the reconfiguring of the Village Center and there was no mention of equine in the survey. She asked if the City was not being equine friendly or if they were considering getting rid of equine altogether.

Committee members stated they are not aware of any plan to discontinue support of the equine community and that it was an oversight by the consultant.

Ms. Hayutin reported that Ms. Aspinwall should talk to someone on the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding her equine concerns, or attend one of their meetings.

Mr. Jim Muhm Trail Report

There was nothing to report on this subject

Subcommittee Discussions

Parks, Trails and Recreation Enhancement

Goff Trail Discussion

Ms. Gilpatrick reported that she has a copy of a nicely written letter that was mailed to a resident a few years ago inquiring about land donation. Ms. Gilpatrick would like to use the letter as a tool to draft a letter to Mr. Goff regarding a trail easement. Mr. Goldie informed Ms. Gilpatrick that a copy of the letter may have already been sent to Mr. Goff. Mr. Goldie will confirm whether a copy of the letter was previously sent and get back to Ms. Gilpatrick.

Lot Subdivision Discussion

Ms. Gilpatrick reported that Ms. Soderberg brought up an interesting point that she would like the PTR Commission to discuss. Currently, when a large subdivision comes before the PTR Commission, the Commission follows the 7.5% rule for land donation. Ms. Soderberg is recommending that the PTR Commission entertain the idea of increasing this gift to 10% on a large lot.

Ms. Soderberg reported that a large lot would be defined as ten or more acres. Increasing the donation to 10% would force the developer to dedicate a true open space or small park. The 7.5% land donation is more of a trail than a piece of land. She would like the PTR Commission to make this recommendation to get the process started.

Ms. Hayutin reported that she would prefer to specify that the land donation needs be a 16 foot wide trail to accommodate horses. She would rather make the requirement for a wider trail than to place more restrictions on the homeowner.

Ms. Gallagher reported that staff would need to determine if the specified area would benefit from a trail before making that decision. She stated that some areas would not connect from one trail to another.

Ms. Hayutin reported that she misunderstood and thought it was strictly trails they were referring to.

Ms. Soderberg explained that if there was not a trail available, or if the City would not benefit from a trail in that area, then she would like to see a small pocket park donated. She stated that there are only a few large pieces of land left in the village that are 10-20 acres, and this is the last opportunity to acquire a land dedication from these properties.

Ms. Soderberg reported that the 7.5% land dedication has never been designed specifically as a trail, but as a land donation that the PTR Commission then determines what the best use of the land would be. She stated there may be a reason that the donation is set at 7 1/2% and this is something the Commission needs to look into.

Mr. Callison stated that he agrees with the concept, but suggested talking to the City Attorney as soon as possible to make sure there are no legal issues with the idea.

Mr. Gilpatrick will write a memo to Eric Ensey, the City Manager, asking him to research whether it is feasible and legal to increase the land donation percentage on properties with ten or more acres, and if there are no legal issues how should the PTR Commission move forward with the process.

Ms. Gilpatrick asked Commission members if they were in favor of making an inquiry about the proposed land donation increase. All were in favor.

Recreation and Events Subcommittee - Race for Open Space and Movie Night

Ms. Gilpatrick reported there has been a tremendous amount of hard work and the group is very excited about the upcoming race and movie night. She thanked Ryan Berninzoni and Jay Goldie for the work they did on getting a new City Center sign that can be seen when coming and going on Quincy Avenue. The sign will have the ability to insert posters for special events. Ms. Gilpatrick asked Ryan if the sign would be completed before the June 8th movie night.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the final plans need to go before City Council, but the temporary signs will be placed around the City before the movie night.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that he spoke with David Femmer who has now plotted three courses for the race, and all of them have been too long or too short for the 5K race. Mr. Femmer would like to get permission from Kent Denver High School to access a portion of their property so he can still use the original course and make the distance 5K. Mr. Berninzoni will contact Kent Denver to get permission to access a portion of their property.

Ms. Gilpatrick suggested honoring Kent Denver High School at the race to thank them for allowing access to their property.

Communications/PR

There was nothing to report on this subject

Trails Expansion Committee

Mr. Berninzoni provided an update on the open space fund:

Segelke Property: An application has been completed. Once the plat is received, Staff will take it to the County to finalize. The City has not received the open space payment of \$210,000.

Leede property: The application has been finalized and the City received a cash-in-lieu payment of \$11,000. Staff is just waiting on the status of the Goff Trail. Jay Goldie informed members that the City requires the gate to remain closed until there is a connection to prevent vandalism in the area and prevent a liability to the City.

Peterson Property: No official application has been received by the City.

Rady Property: On May 19, 2008, Ryan Berninzoni, Jay Goldie and Eric Ensey are scheduled to meet with Mr. Rady. If the trail meets the specifications agreed to, the City will take control of the trail at that time.

Ms. Gilpatrick asked that options for the Mansfield Avenue Trail be on the June 2008 agenda.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that he is in the process of putting ideas together and will present the ideas in June.

Reports

Design Update on Woodie Hollow Shelter

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the shelter is currently being reviewed and he is in the process of putting plans together based on the Commission's recommendations at the last meeting.

Maintenance Log Update

Mr. Berninzoni reported that several projects are on the backburner unless a safety issue occurs, while Staff works on mowing and irrigation prep for the summer.

Review of the proposed Parks, Trails and Open Space portion of the City's Master Plan

Ms. Gilpatrick reported that Ms. Soderberg did a great job preparing documents to present to the Planning and Zoning Commission. They were informed that a master plan by design cannot include any legislative language. The word "must" has to be replaced with "shall." Mr. Jeff Welborn assisted in rewriting the paper and a final draft of the white paper will be submitted to the Planning and Zoning Commission on Tuesday night if anyone from the PTR Commission would like to attend.

The PTR Commission is interested in bringing closure to the master plan project, however they believe the process should be open, and encourage constructive and positive communication.

Councilmember Frew reported that the actions of the Planning and Zoning Committee meeting were discussed at the City Council meeting and they were disappointed not only that the meeting was very counterproductive, but everyone at City Council agreed that conversations need to be streamlined and cutoff if the conversation turns hostile.

Open Space Fund Update

Mr. Berninzoni will provide members with the balance of the land dedication money at the June meeting.

Ms. Gilpatrick reported that she spoke with the listing agent for the St. Clair Property and asked if the property sells to a party who wishes to split the property, are they familiar with the land dedication rule. The agent responded, "Yes", and referred to the 7.5% rule. The listing agent is aware of the interest the PTR Commission has in the north section of the property.

City Council Report

Ms. Gilpatrick welcomed Councilmember Marcia Frew to the PTR Commission.

Councilmember Frew reported that City Council spent a lot of time discussing open space at the Council Retreat. Council Members voted on priorities for the master plan, and open space and keeping the character of the neighborhood consistently came in second as a top priority.

Ms. Gilpatrick asked Councilmember Frew if City Council discussed the possibility of the City purchasing land for open space.

Councilmember Frew reported that City Council is not opposed to purchasing land, but they have a concern with where the funding will come from.

Ms. Hayutin inquired about the status of the Village Center.

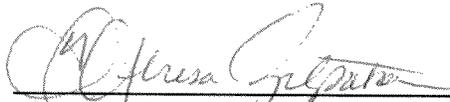
Councilmember Frew reported that City Council discussed the Village Center and options to finance the project. City Council is in favor of a new Village Center, however all decisions will need to go before the voters. The Police Department was vocal about the need for the Village Center and issues they are having due to space restrictions and recruiting issues.

Councilmember Frew reported that the PTR Commission has done an amazing job on the master plan and City Council recognizes your hard work.

Mr. Berninzoni asked that if members are unable to attend a PTR meeting, to please send him an email or call him to let him know.

Adjournment

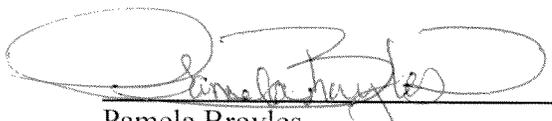
The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.



Theresa Gilpatrick
Committee Chair



Ryan Berninzoni
Interim PTR Administrator



Pamela Broyles
Administrative Clerk