

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission
City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
June 12, 2008
at the Village Center

Commission members in attendance: Jane Soderberg, Heidi Schmidt Hammell, Ann Gallagher, Marcia Frew, Jim Fairbairn. City staff members present: Ryan Berninzoni, Parks, Trails and Recreation Administrator, Pamela Broyles, Administrative Assistant.

Call to Order

Ms. Jane Soderberg called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Approval of May 8, 2008 Minutes

Ms. Ann Gallagher moved to approve the May 8, 2008 minutes. Ms. Heidi Schmidt Hammell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Soderberg welcomed new PTR Commission member Jim Fairbairn.

Audience Participation

Nancy Bauman
2455 Cherryridge Road
Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113

Ms. Bauman reported that her yard borders the southwest corner of John Meade Park in Cherryridge. Ms. Bauman expressed concern over the noise disruption caused by the Movie Under the Stars that was held in John Meade Park on June 8, 2008. She stated that the planners need to consider that neighbors live near John Meade Park and asked that the event not take place at that location again.

Ms. Soderberg expressed an apology for the disruption.

Mr. Jim Muhm Trail Report

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

Mr. Muhm reported that he provides an annual report to the PTR Commission on the condition of the trails in Cherry Hills Village. He stated that the report is subjective and his remarks are, "One person's opinion."

Mr. Muhm graded the overall trail system a "B" for 2008. He reported that trail maintenance is going very well this year with trails being mowed early and mowed well. There is still some fence work that needs to be done, but he understands that it is not a high priority. He recommended that tree trimming be added to the agenda soon because of overgrown trees on the trails.

Mr. Muhm reported that trail cleanliness remains good with the exception of the Glenmoor Trail. Mr. Muhm contacted the code enforcement officer a few weeks ago to ask how many citations have been written for littering on the trails. The officer could not find record of any citations. Mr. Muhm asked the code enforcement officer to enforce the trail littering ordinance one year ago, but feels nothing has been done. Mr. Muhm reported that there are always candy wrappers and cigarette butts around the trash receptacle located at Glenmoor. The location of the trash receptacle makes it convenient for people to mow their grass and fill the trash container with grass clippings. If the container is full, any trash that is put on top blows onto the trail.

Employees from the Glenmoor Country Club eat their lunches in the area adding to the trash problem. Mr. Muhm would like the City to move the containers so they are not directly adjacent to two City trails.

Councilmember Frew will speak with Steve at the Glenmoor Country Club about the trash problem.

Mr. Muhm reported that other than the Glenmoor location, the trails in the Village are very clean. One major improvement is the trail at Quincy and Holly. In the past there was trash everywhere; now it is clean and a great improvement.

Mr. Muhm graded Trail Enhancements a "D." He stated the PTR Commission published a statement saying trail connectivity and trail expansion were a major priority for the Commission. He believes the words were not followed up with action.

Mr. Muhm pointed out two particular items of concern: First, is the failure to follow up with the long term effort to try and secure a trail easement along Little Dry Creek. He reported that \$15,000 has been budgeted every year since 2005, and a consultant was appointed to the project.

Ms. Soderberg reported that the consultant, Bob Searnes, studied the project, but the cost was much larger than the \$15,000. Ms. Soderberg believes the PTR Committee made recommendations to Bob Searnes to hold informal meetings with neighbors that were affected.

Ms. Hammel Schmidt reported that residents, where Little Dry Creek runs through their property, were opposed to the trail easement.

Ms. Soderberg suggested contacting Bob Searnes for an update.

Mr. Muhm reported he is not discounting the difficulties with obtaining a trail easement, but from a long term perspective, however difficult the project is today, it will be worse in 30 years.

Mr. Muhm reminded members that the Highline Canal Trail is a wonderful amenity for the eastern part of the Village, and the idea is to some day have a comparable corridor on the western side of the Village. He understands this is a continuing effort.

Mr. Muhm reported his second disappointment was the failure to follow through with Councilmember Bonnie Blum's recommendation to speak with the governing board of Glenmoor to negotiate a trail easement on the north side of Glenmoor.

Councilmember Frew voiced her support for additional access in Glenmoor. She will work with Mr. Jim Muhm on obtaining an easement.

Mr. Muhm graded Trail Construction and Reconstruction a "B."

Mr. Muhm recommended that members visit the completed Rady Trail. He reported that the trail is well done and is a great improvement to the trail system. He described the barn as a piece of art that looks like a movie set.

Ms. Gallagher asked if the sod that was planted on the Rady Trail will continue to grow, or if it will need to be replanted since it is turning brown.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the mixture that was put into the sod will eventually take over and the grass should grow.

Mr. Muhm asked about the status of the letter Ms. Gilpatrick was going to send to Mr. Goff regarding a trail easement.

Ms. Gallagher reported that the committee is waiting to receive a copy of a letter that was sent to Mr. Goff in the past to make sure they are not repeating themselves.

Ms. Soderberg thanked Mr. Muhm for his report and for his time.

Subcommittee Discussions

Parks, Trails and Recreation Enhancement

Inventory of Open Space and Trail Connections

Ms. Soderberg reported that Mr. Welborn introduced the idea of an inventory of trees at the master plan meeting. She recommended that the PTR Commission take an inventory of open space and trails, and implement a plan listing which trail connections and parks are most desirable.

Ms. Gallagher asked Ms. Soderberg to clarify if the Commission would look at the current inventory and design a plan to prioritize trail connections.

Ms. Soderberg responded that there are only a few large pieces of land left in the Village, and she would like the PTR Commission to have a plan in place so if an opportunity arises, the Commission would be prepared to act on it.

Ms. Schmidt Hammell asked if the new plan would stem from the information already acquired from the Blue Ribbon Panel. She believes it would be useful to use what is already in place since a lot of work went into preparing those documents

Mr. Muhm reported that a similar effort was made in 2004, and a report was written by the Parks and Trails Committee. Mr. Muhm provided Ms. Soderberg with a copy of the report to review.

Ms. Soderberg recommended reviewing any previous studies that were completed and including that information in this project.

Ms. Soderberg reported that the inventory list would also be helpful to give to City Council. She recommended forming a committee that would be ongoing.

Lot Subdivision Discussions

The PTR Commission has discussed the possibility of changing the cash in lieu from 7.5% to 10% when lots are larger than 10 acres.

Ms. Gilpatrick emailed City Manager Eric Ensey for direction.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that he was forwarded an email from Mr. Ensey and was asked to examine what surrounding cities are doing in terms of what percentage they ask for when residents subdivide their land. Mr. Berninzoni sent several emails and made phone calls requesting this information. He received a response from Greenwood Village stating they do not have a set percentage, but their Parks Commission determines what they deem appropriate. The percentage is based on the size of the property. Mr. Berninzoni will provide a more detailed report once Cities respond back to his requests.

Ms. Soderberg asked if Mr. Ensey reported on any legal concerns, or reasons not to pursue the increase.

Mr. Berninzoni responded that the email did not mention legal issues, but he will have the City Attorney review the information.

Ms. Soderberg responded that the sooner this can be done the better so the PTR Commission can make a recommendation to City Council.

Ms. Soderberg reported that the Planning and Zoning Commission is supportive of the PTR Commission's request to increase the cash in lieu to 10%.

Ms. Gallagher recommended the PTR Commission form a joint resolution with the Planning and Zoning Commission to give to City Council.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that he would like to have all the numbers together and have a prior discussion before presenting a resolution to City Council.

Ms. Soderberg recommended the Commission review the resolution at the next meeting after Mr. Berninzoni has a chance to contact the City Attorney.

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

Ms. Soderberg reported that the overall response to the movie night was very positive and she was pleased with the outcome and the amount of people who participated.

Ms. Schmidt Hammell recommended that if another movie night is planned, consideration should be given to the neighbor's concerns.

Ms. Gallagher reported that she was not concerned with one night a year as long as the event was held during the time restrictions set by the City. She recommended perhaps moving the event to a Friday or Saturday night, and later in the summer to address some of the neighbor's concerns.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the course has been set for the "Race for Open Space." Kent Denver approved access through their property. The sponsor letter has been approved and will be mailed to sponsors in the next few weeks.

Communications/PR

Ms. Gallagher reported that she has been communicating with Martha Welborn on articles for the Village Crier, and Ms. Welborn will allow her to view edited pieces. Ms. Welborn provided her with suggestions on how she would like the articles written. Ms. Gallagher reported she plans to write a lot this summer.

Trails Expansion Committee

Ms. Soderberg asked if there are any members who want to serve on the Trails Expansion Committee.

Mr. Gallagher asked if the Trails Expansion Committee will go hand and hand with the committee that is being formed to study trail connection and inventory.

Ms. Soderberg responded that it would stem from the inventory committee.

Ms. Soderberg recommended discussing this agenda item again in the fall.

ReportsDesign Update on Woodie Hollow Shelter

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the Commission is still in the initial design phase of the Woodie Hollow shelter. The City is applying for a GOCO grant, which would supplement the costs of the shelter. Mr. Berninzoni reported that the commission needs to make a decision on what design they want for the shelter before he can move forward.

Mr. Berninzoni provided members with price quotes for a 20 x 20 shelter. He based the bid on the octagon shelter that the commission favored.

Mr. Fairbairn asked why Commission members are considering replacing the current Woodie Hollow shelter.

Mr. Berninzoni reported the shelter is old and needs repair. The City continues to get complaints from residents. The Commission proposed to replace the shelter because it is not utilized well in its current condition.

Councilmember Frew asked what the intended use is for the new shelter.

Mr. Berninzoni reported the shelter is primarily used for recreation as a picnic shelter and a horse shelter. The plan is to add picnic tables that can fold up; however, the shelter is still in the planning stages and plans are open for discussion.

Mr. Fairbairn reported that he is familiar with the shelter and believes the current shelter is adequate. He seldom sees the shelter used. Mr. Fairbairn recommended using the money to plant additional trees in the City of Cherry Hills Village rather than a shelter that is not used very much.

Councilmember Frew asked if the Commission received the perspective of resident's in the neighborhood, and if they are in favor of a new shelter. She recommended collecting more information and to consider how much use a new shelter would get.

Ms. Schmidt Hammell reported the shelter is a nice addition to get out of the sun and rain with a horse. She suggested the Commission consider refurbishing the old shelter to save some cost, and do some upgrades instead of tearing the shelter down and building a new one.

Mr. Berninzoni reported he would look into the cost of refurbishing the current shelter.

Ms. Gallagher reported that Commission member Bill Callison strongly supported a new shelter. The neighborhood was also in favor of a new shelter.

Councilmember Frew reported that a new shelter is pricey and she would like to hear the reasons and benefits of a new shelter. She suggested the Commission look at other things the money could be used for and establish a priority list.

Mr. Fairbairn reported that if the majority of people who use the park want the improvement, then it should be looked at more seriously. He believes the current shelter is a fine shelter and keeps the rain out.

Ms. Soderberg reported that the shelter was determined a priority, and the PTR Commission wanted to do something nice for the community in that area by improving the park. Ms. Soderberg recommended discussing the reasons for the shelter at the next meeting when Commission member Bill Callison is present.

Update of Parks portion of City Master Plan

Ms. Soderberg reported that a copy of the changes Mr. Jeff Welborn made to the master plan, based on the latest from Planning and Zoning, is provided in the packet.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that Planning and Zoning will have their final discussions on the master plan this week.

Ms. Soderberg reported that the master plan has been a long process, but it has been a positive experience to work with the Planning and Zoning Commission on a common goal. Ms. Soderberg commended Mr. Jeff Welborn for doing a great job by taking charge and dealing with any conflicts.

Rady Trail Update

Mr. Berninzoni reported the City is in the process of finalizing paperwork for the Rady Trail and the documents are at Arapahoe County being recorded at this time. The City plans to refund 90% of Mr. Rady's deposit and will keep 10% for an additional year to insure against any costs that may incur.

Councilmember Frew asked Mr. Berninzoni to recap what the Rady Trail dedication is for new members who are not familiar with the project.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the City dedicated an old existing trail to Paul Rady, who in return built a trail that runs north and south and east and west around his barn property that connects to the old trail.

Councilmember Frew asked for clarification on the deposit.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the deposit was used specifically to make sure the trail was completed. Mr. Berninzoni reported that all the upgrades on the trail, including the fences, were approved by City Council.

Mr. Fairbairn reported that he has not witnessed sod being used in this type of scenario and he is concerned how the sod will set in the soil. He stressed the importance of having a surface that is good for horses and for walking on. He suggested that the remaining 10% deposit may need to be used to reseed the trail to ensure a good surface.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the sod is a great mixture of various grasses.

Open Space Fund Update

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the total in the open space fund is \$169,827.93. This figure excludes the \$437.00 that was received from the movie night event.

Ms. Soderberg asked if a portion of the open space fund was used by the old City Council to cover the cost of land purchased for the Village Center.

Mr. Berninzoni reported he was not aware of funds being used in the past.

Councilmember Frew asked where the money for the open space fund comes from.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that a portion of the funds comes from land donations and special events, but the majority of the money is acquired when people subdivide their property.

Maintenance Log Update

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the parks department has hired all of their seasonal employees and they are working to get caught up with the parks, trails and open space.

Mr. Fairbairn asked if the parks department waters the trees.

Mr. Berninzoni responded that the City has one person that spends 20 hours per week watering all the trees.

Mr. Fairbairn asked for a rough estimate on how often one tree gets watered per year.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the City hand waters each tree approximately 30 minutes per month with a large water truck equipped with a pressurized watering system.

Mr. Berninzoni will get back to Mr. Fairbairn with a more accurate number on the amount of water used.

Mr. Fairbairn reported that he believes the City needs to double their watering on newly planted trees up to 3 years old. Mr. Fairbairn reported that there are a lot of fatalities due to the lack of water the trees are receiving. He suggested that the City budget for more water and there would be more growth and survival.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that increasing the budget would not help because they have one specific person that tends to all the trail trees and numerous acres of parks.

Ms. Schmidt Hammell asked that since separating from South Suburban, does it seem overwhelming for the City to keep up with maintenance.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that he has worked for the City of Cherry Hills Village for 4 years and the City has seen major improvement in the past 4 years. The issue with the trees is caused from the drought when the City did not water the trees for 2 years because of the water restrictions. The City is now seeing the backlash of that.

Mr. Fairbairn reported that even during the drought Denver Water was saying trees still need to be cared for and watered.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that he was instructed by the street superintendant at that time that there would be no watering.

Mr. Fairbairn reported that it was a mistake to stop watering.

Mr. Fairbairn asked Mr. Berninzoni if he felt 20 hours of watering per week was enough.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the City can only do so much. By restricting one person to water for 40 hours a week would result in other things not getting done.

Ms. Soderberg commented that it does not sound like a water issue, but a lack of manpower.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that when the City plants new trees the contractor waters the trees for the first year, and any new trees planted by the City are watered by City employees.

Ms. Schmidt Hammell asked if the above ground irrigation system at Volunteer Park is scheduled to come out soon.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that this should be the last year for the above ground irrigation system.

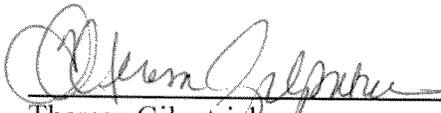
Ms. Schmidt Hammell reported that there is a coyote den in Volunteer Park and asked that residents be careful because the coyotes are becoming very comfortable. Ms. Schmidt Hammell spoke with the City Animal Control Officer, Michelle Edwardson, who stated coyotes cannot be relocated. Ms. Schmidt Hammell asked that anyone with information on the coyotes report the information to Ms. Edwardson so she can track their behavior and where they are going.

City Council Report – Marcia Frew – Next meeting September 11, 2008

Councilmember Frew reported that the PTR Commission has a lot of work to accomplish and City Council's goal is to add an additional person to the Commission. Ms. Frew would become a liaison to the PTR Commission and not a voting member. The candidate they would like to add is very motivated and would be a great addition with a parks background.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.



Theresa Gilpatrick
Committee Chair



Ryan Berninzoni
Interim PTR Administrator



Pamela Broyles
Administrative Clerk