

Minutes of the Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission  
City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado  
December 11, 2008  
at the Village Center

Commission members in attendance: Theresa Gilpatrick, Heidi Schmidt-Hammell, Ann Gallagher, Bill Callison, Jim Fairbairn, Nancy McGrath. City staff members present: Ryan Berninzoni, Parks, Trails and Recreation Administrator, Pamela Broyles, Administrative Assistant.

**Call to Order**

Ms. Theresa Gilpatrick called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**Approval of November 13, 2008 Minutes**

Ms. Nancy McGrath moved to approve the November 13, 2008 minutes. Ms. Heidi Schmidt Hammell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Audience Participation**

Ms. Be' Aspinwall  
4401 South Vine Way  
Cherry Hills Village, CO

Ms. Aspinwall reported that she is concerned about the depth of the footing in the new John Meade Horse Arena. When constructing the new arena, Sure Foot added approximately 3" of sand to the base, which she feels is dangerous and too deep. Ms. Aspinwall recommends taking out some of the footing to make a 2" surface of sand and add some rubber plus mag chloride. Ms. Aspinwall recommends adding mag chloride to decrease the dust in the arena during the summer and to add more resistance for the horses.

Ms. Aspinwall reported that the current jumps at the Woodie Hollow Horse Arena are rotten. She asked the PTR Committee to consider budgeting for new jumps and if there are funds available she would like to start researching the cost to replace the jumps.

Mr. Callison asked if the jumps at the Woodie Hollow Horse Arena would be used very often.

Ms. Aspinwall stated the jumps would definitely be used, but she does not know how frequently.

Ms. Aspinwall reported that the Woodie Hollow Horse Arena is closed in by two bridges which get iced over in the winter months making it dangerous to ride horses across. She recommended adding barrels of sand with a scoop to sit next to the bridges so riders can add the sand for traction making the bridges safer to cross.

Ms. Dannielle Heller  
26 Cherry Lane Drive  
Cherry Hills Village, CO

Ms. Heller thanked staff and the PTR Commission for their support of the horse community and the upgrades to the John Meade Horse Arena. She reported that the new fencing around the arena looks great and a lot of the issues with the arena have been positively addressed. She believes the footing in the arena is good footing, but the depth is too deep. Ms. Heller reported that Sure Foot also built an arena on her property and though she is happy with the arena she also had the same issues with the surface being too deep. She expressed her concern with possible horse injuries on the current depth of sand. She is also adding mag chloride to her arena to control the dust, but stated that the mag chloride also helps the arena not to freeze so it can be used more in the winter.

Ms. Heller reported that Three Pond Park is used by a lot of horse people and dog people. She is concerned for the safety of horse riders since most dogs at Three Pond Park are off leash. She stated there are not enough leash law signs posted around the park.

Ms. Heller is also concerned that horses can get out of the gates at Three Pond Park and onto Colorado Boulevard or the High Line Canal. She would like gates that can open and close making it a safer environment. Ms. Heller reported that there is an entrance to the park that is so narrow that it is dangerous for horses. She would like to have the entrance widened and a gate added for safety.

Mr. Callison expressed that horses getting out of the park is a legitimate safety concern for pedestrians, traffic and horses.

### **Subcommittee Discussions**

#### **Parks, Trails and Recreation Enhancement**

##### Bench Donations – Setting dollar amount for residents who donate

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the current set of guidelines for bench donations does not specify a set price. He is recommending \$2,000 for each bench donation and asked the PTR Commission for their thoughts and recommendations.

Ms. Schmidt Hammell asked Mr. Berninzoni if there are funds available through the City right now for the existing benches that are in need of repair, or would the City need to refer to the original donor for repair costs.

Mr. Berninzoni stated that the City does have a set amount of funds, but not a sufficient amount to maintain all the benches that currently need repair work. Mr. Berninzoni stated that the proposed \$2,000 would cover the original cost of the bench plus repairs, and also help with other benches around the City that need maintenance.

Ms. Gilpatrick stated that all new bench donations must meet the approved guidelines and long term maintenance should not be as costly.

Mr. Berninzoni stated that it is the goal of the City to replace old benches that need repairs with new benches that meet the new guidelines. Families do have the option to maintain their original bench donation at their own cost and the City will attempt to contact the original donors to give them the option to pay for bench repairs before replacing any benches.

Ms. Gallagher reported that there is a list with contact information of people who have donated benches in the past and she will get the list to Mr. Berninzoni.

Commission members discussed the proposed \$2,000 donation and questioned whether the fee is cost prohibitive. Commission members agree that the City having the ability to maintain the benches is invaluable to the families making the donation, but expressed concern that future donations would also be used to repair and maintain old benches.

Ms. Gilpatrick moved that the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission establish a \$1,500 floor for all future bench donations and dedications. Mr. Jim Fairbairn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

##### Holiday Tree Lighting

Ms. Gilpatrick thanked Mr. Berninzoni and the Parks Department for an outstanding job on the Holiday Tree Lighting event. Mr. Berninzoni expressed that he was pleased with the event and he believes it will be an excellent event for years to come.

Mr. Berninzoni thanked the South Metro Fire Department, City Council and City Manager Eric Ensey for their participation in the event.

Communications and PR

Ms. Gallagher reported that she will call Mr. O'Neal regarding the bench donation made in memory of his sister and write an article for the Crier.

Trails Expansion Committee

Ms. Gilpatrick reported that there are several targets that the Trails Expansion Committee wishes to pursue. The Committee will be contacting members of the PTR Commission for their assistance and expertise in the near future.

**Reports**

Update on Mansfield Trail

Mr. Berninzoni reported that there will be a Public Hearing on the Mansfield Trail at the January 8, 2009 meeting and he requested the presence of all PTR Commission members. Mr. Berninzoni will present the Mansfield Trail proposal and allow the audience to express concerns and ask questions.

Maintenance Log Update

Mr. Berninzoni presented a sample of the new bollard markers that the Parks Department will be installing this winter. The previous bollard markers were peeling after a short period of time and the new markers are aluminum based.

City Council Report – Klasina VanderWerf

There was nothing to report on this subject.

New Business

Ms. Gilpatrick and Ms. Soderberg presented the 10% Lot Subdivision proposal to City Council on Tuesday, December 9, 2008. Ms. Gilpatrick reported that City Council asked several questions and the proposal was well received. The City has been asked to draft an ordinance as the next step to move forward.

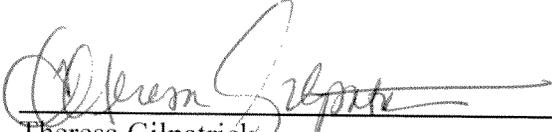
Ms. Schmidt Hammell recommended that the PTR Commission form a subcommittee to review the concerns of the John Meade Park Horse Arena. She recommended that the subcommittee request concerns and solutions in writing. There are several types of rubber and alternatives for the surface of the arena that vary significantly in cost. City staff will be in charge of maintaining the arena and will need to determine what can and can't be maintained.

Ms. Gilpatrick agreed with forming a subcommittee to conduct research, listen to concerns and present a report to the PTR Commission on their findings. Commission members recommended recruiting people that have experience with horses to the subcommittee to provide input.

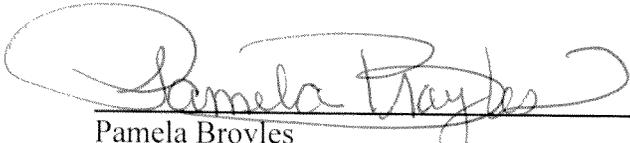
Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 8, 2009.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

  
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Theresa Gilpatrick  
Committee Chair

  
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Ryan Berninzoni  
Interim PTR Administrator

  
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Pamela Broyles  
Administrative Clerk