

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission
City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
Thursday, February 12, 2009
at the Village Center

Commission members in attendance: Theresa Gilpatrick, Bill Callison, Heidi Schmidt Hammell, Jim Fairbairn, and Klasina VanderWerf. Employees present: Ryan Berninzoni, Bill Bauer and Melissa Formby.

Absent: Jane Soderberg, Ann Gallagher

Call to Order

Ms. Theresa Gilpatrick called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Approval of January 8, 2009 Minutes

Ms. Gilpatrick asked for the word "avoid" to replace the word "cause" in the third paragraph of the "update on land donation percentage change" section.

A motion was made by Ms. Heidi Schmidt Hammell, seconded by Mr. Jim Fairbairn to approve the January 8, 2009 meeting minutes as amended.

Audience Participation

Frank Scannell – 4300 E. Mansfield Ave.

Mr. Scannell asked if someone could briefly review the status of a possible trail on Mansfield Avenue.

Ms. Gilpatrick informed Mr. Scannell that a study session would be held after this meeting to discuss the possibility of a trail on Mansfield Avenue. She added there is nothing currently on the table that is permanent and no decisions have been made. The PTR Commission is still in the discussion phase.

There was no one else in the audience who wished to speak.

Ms. Schmidt Hammell stated that the Mansfield Trail is currently in a proposal phase and that any decision made by the Commission would be a recommendation only and would have to go before the City Council and Planning and Zoning Commission for their approval.

Subcommittee Discussions

Parks, Trails and Recreation Enhancement

Summary Sheet Review

Ms. Gilpatrick distributed an email from absent members Ann Gallagher and Jane Soderberg listing what projects they would like to be involved in.

Mr. Fairbairn stated he would like to be involved in the following projects:

- Trail expansion by Woodie Hollow Park and the Vine Street area.
- Help with the continued maintenance of trails, tree planting and serve in an advisory capacity for the parks.

Ms. Schmidt Hammell stated she would like to be involved in the following projects:

- Research trails and parks inventory studies.
- Design a photo library using photos she has taken of the parks and document what types of trees and amenities they have.
- Continue to go out to all of the trails and parks and work with the community on maintenance issues.

- Work as a liaison to staff on maintenance issues such as horse arenas and trails and continue to assist with research and answering questions between neighbors and staff.
- Work as a liaison on the Mansfield Trail proposal if needed.
- Maintain her involvement with the tree plantings.
- Learn more about working with Denver Water and the upkeep and maintenance of the Highline Canal.

Mr. Callison stated he would like to be involved in the following projects:

- He would like to see more diverse trees throughout the parks that could tie into the GPS system previously discussed and implementation of the GPS system.
- Work towards a community garden.
- Work towards “going green” and recycling.
- Utilize City space to work towards children’s education in the parks system focusing on topics such as trees, wildlife, bugs, etc.

Ms. Gallagher stated, in her email to Ms. Gilpatrick, she would like to work on the following projects:

- Trail Development and Connections Committee.
- A recycling effort with local schools.
- Work towards utilizing a GPS system and hiring an intern to help with the process.

Ms. Soderberg stated, in her email to Ms. Gilpatrick, she would like to work on the following projects:

- Green Policy
- Identifying lands of interest within the City.
- Developing parks and a community garden.
- Assist City staff with maintaining the City website.
- Working towards keeping an ongoing schedule for signage for the new sign board.

Ms. Gilpatrick stated she would like to work on the following projects:

- Continue working on long term trail development.
- Work with the Trails Subcommittee on a five year game plan on trail expansion so that Mr. Berninzoni can set up a grant rotation and have an idea of what is coming up.
- Continue to work on the Greenwood Village tunnel connection.

Ms. Gilpatrick asked the Commission to provide an outline and game plan for their goals at the March meeting.

Recreation and Events Subcommittee

There was nothing to report on this subject

Communications/PR

There was nothing to report on this subject.

Trails Expansion Committee

Ms. Gilpatrick and Ms. Soderberg met with Mr. Jim Muhm regarding trail expansion. Mr. Muhm provided a map showing existing trails, possible trails, trail easements and utility easements. The group identified some targets and Mr. Muhm also provided a running spreadsheet of all the work he has done and what work could still be done. He was very giving of his information and incredibly helpful.

Ms. Gilpatrick, Ms. Soderberg and Ms. Gallagher sat down and prioritized the list to come up with a 5-year trails expansion plan.

Coyote Issue

Mr. Fairbairn stated there have been a lot of articles written about the large amount of coyotes in Cherry Hills Village, Denver and Greenwood Village. He mentioned he has personally noticed an increase in coyote activity and asked the Commission to engage in more discussion about the issue.

Mr. Berninzoni provided the Commission with a handout that he received at the local Coyote Symposium held the day before.

Mr. Callison stated it is an issue and should be watched and discussed. He said the number of coyotes has grown since last year and he has observed them running in packs making it a dangerous situation. He stated the City needs to pay attention to this issue.

Mr. Berninzoni said Animal Control Officer, Michelle Edwardson, is working on a plan of action and more information would be brought forward in the near future.

Ms. Schmidt Hammell said it is necessary to continue healthy discussions about the problem as it is a large part of the parks and trails system. She stressed the importance of keeping an eye on the coyote's behavior, mannerisms, and their way of life.

Ms. Gilpatrick asked if Ms. Edwardson could address the Commission to educate them on the coyote issue.

Mr. Berninzoni said a plan of action is still being decided but added Ms. Edwardson would be happy to attend a Commission meeting to discuss the issue with them.

Mr. Fairbairn said it would be best to have a collective opinion on the part of the Commission to provide to City Council.

Ms. Gilpatrick asked staff to arrange for Ms. Edwardson to conduct a presentation before the Commission in March or April.

Mr. Berninzoni stated the City is working on a plan and intends on taking action towards the problem. He will schedule a time with Ms. Edwardson to visit the Commission.

Councilor Klasina VanderWerf stated she attended the Coyote Symposium and pointed out that it is impossible to eradicate the coyotes. She said it is important to attempt to haze or scare the coyotes so they continue to be afraid of humans.

Reports

Update on land donation percentage change

Mr. Berninzoni stated the Council Bill regarding the land donation percentage change was taken to Council and approved on first reading. The second reading will be brought forward in March.

Update on John Meade Horse Arena

Mr. Berninzoni stated the Commission directed staff to provide a detailed description of the events that have happened with regard to the John Meade Horse Arena. He said he has had numerous phone calls with Ms. Schmidt Hammell and other professionals that have made great suggestions in terms of long term maintenance and keeping the arena safe. He said the arena is safe and usable, but it could be better. The idea of making the arena better is to try finding some sort of additive and staff is getting close to finding the appropriate additive that is needed; a clay/silt mix is being reviewed.

Ms. Schmidt Hammell asked Mr. Berninzoni if any of the excess sand in the arena was ever removed.

Mr. Berninzoni said staff removed a large amount of excess sand and added it to the thinner areas of the arena. He said they have an idea in place that they hope to implement within the next month. He added that Surefoot is going to do some more grading and maintenance on the arena.

Update on Three Pond Park

Mr. Berninzoni stated the Commission directed the Parks Department to look into maintenance issues of Three Pond Park. He stated that consideration for rebuilding the perimeter fence for safety was discussed. He informed the Commission that staff has repaired rails and a brand new gate has been installed. The fencing around the perimeter is still being considered, but time, money and manpower is making it difficult.

Maintenance Log Update

Mr. Berninzoni had no update but encouraged the Commission members to visit Woodie Hollow Park to look at the new shelter. He added the shelter should be done in the next month.

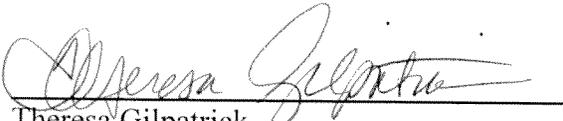
City Council Report

Councilor Klasina VanderWerf had no report.

Ms. Gilpatrick informed the Commission that Parks & Public Works Assistant Pamela Broyles has to put a great deal of time, energy and work into verifying legitimate organizations when processing recreation reimbursements. She stated she did not know how involved the process was and asked staff to look at streamlining the process. She added the Commission would be happy to help review and re-write the current reimbursement form. She commended Ms. Broyles for the work she has put into the reimbursement program and asked Mr. Berninzoni to report back with the final number of recreation reimbursements submitted in 2008.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.



Theresa Gilpatrick
Committee Chair



Ryan Berninzoni
PTR Administrator



Pamela Broyles
Administrative Clerk

A Study Session was held to continue discussing a possible trail on North Mansfield Avenue.