

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission
City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
Thursday, June 11, 2009
at the Village Center

Commission members in attendance: Jane Soderberg, Ann Gallagher, Bill Callison, Katy Brown, Jim Fairbairn, Jeff Ferrell, Klasina VanderWerf. Employees present: Ryan Berninzoni, Pamela Broyles.

Absent: Theresa Gilpatrick

Call to Order

Ms. Jane Soderberg called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of May 14, 2009 Minutes

Mr. Bill Callison moved to approve the May 14, 2009 minutes. Ms. Ann Gallagher seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Audience Participation

No audience participation.

Welcome new PTR Commission Members

Ms. Soderberg welcomed Ms. Katy Brown and Mr. Jeff Ferrell as the new PTR Commission members and asked them to share a little bit about themselves.

Ms. Brown reported that she currently lives in the Mansfield Heights area and has lived in Colorado for fifteen years. She is self-employed and owns her own development company. She also enjoys teaching yoga and ballet and has a two year old child.

Mr. Ferrell is retired and also lives in the Mansfield Heights area. He has a son and daughter that both graduated from Kent Denver School. Mr. Ferrell and his wife have lived in Cherry Hills Village for five years and they have family that has lived in the Village for many years.

Presentation on Coyote Management Plan "Michelle Edwardson"

Ms. Michelle Edwardson, Animal Control Officer with the City of Cherry Hills Village discussed the new Coyote Management Plan that City Council recently approved. Ms. Edwardson informed members that the information can also be accessed on the Cherry Hills Village website. Ms. Edwardson reported that the main purpose of the plan is for public safety and to make sure there is a plan in place so that City staff can respond to calls in a consistent manner. The City will implement a plan to educate the community with educational materials provided by the Division of Wildlife. The City will also develop new ordinances and update ordinances that are currently in place.

Ms. Edwardson reported that the City has developed a hazing program for residents to take responsibility for their own properties. She stated that one of the main reasons the community is having a coyote problem is because we have just observed them for so many years and complacency has allowed them to be comfortable around humans. The City is asking residents to start hazing the coyotes by throwing things at them, or using water guns with vinegar and water. She stressed that the goal is not to injure the coyotes, but to make it uncomfortable for them. She stated that coyotes are attracted to food, water and shelter and this community provides everything they need to survive. She said coyotes will eat anything from vegetables and fruits to pets. Ms. Edwardson explained that if all of these things are removed and a coyote still shows aggression towards humans then a police officer will be called out to shoot the coyote with a paintball gun.

If the coyote continues to show aggression, the Division of Wildlife will step in and shoot the coyote once the situation is investigated.

Ms. Edwardson warned that feeding coyotes causes aggression and the City encourages residents to report anyone who is feeding coyotes. The City is also tracking the following statistics:

- Dens
- Attacks on pets
- Aggression
- Sightings

The PTR Commission thanked Ms. Edwardson for her presentation.

Subcommittee Discussions

Parks, Trails and Recreation Enhancement

Follow-up discussion regarding the wetlands at Three Pond Park

City Council member Alex Brown gave a presentation at the May 14, 2009 Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission meeting regarding the condition and preservation of the ponds at Three Pond Park. Mr. Berninzoni reported that staff is looking for direction from the PTR Commission on whether to proceed with hiring a professional that is familiar with this issue and whether to add this item to the future budget.

Ms. Soderberg stated that the Commission discussed moving forward with a water analysis of the entire Village because the future of the ponds and wetlands has never been addressed. The Commission felt it was a good idea to investigate because of concern for future needs and whether water will continue to be available with the drought situation. Ms. Soderberg suggested that a first step might be to identify some possible candidates to determine how they operate and what the cost would be. She would like to see this item added to the budget this fall.

Mr. Callison stated that a consultant could provide a scope of work and cost analysis. He stated it is important to know if the ponds are fed entirely from the Highline Canal. He suggested starting with all of the wetlands and ponds within the City of Cherry Hills Village and if that is determined to be too expensive then the study could be narrowed down.

Mr. Fairbairn stressed that it is important not to let the wetlands dry up and he agrees with looking at the whole picture and narrowing it down if necessary.

Mr. Berninzoni will look into possible candidates and what the cost would be.

Ms. Brown noted that the possibility of directing storm drainage from Mansfield Heights was discussed at the previous meeting and this concept may also provide some opportunities.

Summary Sheet Review

Ms. Soderberg explained what the purpose of the Summary Sheet Review is to the new members.

Mr. Fairbairn reported that he has been working on the easement between High Street and Cherrymoor. He made initial contact with neighbors who said it may be an uphill battle to move forward. Mr. Fairbairn questioned whether there are funds available to encourage residents by offering incentives such as, a privacy fence, motion lights or planting trees depending on what their concerns are.

Councilor VanderWerf suggested that the PTR Commission bring the concept of having available funds to offer incentives before the City Council. She stated that she believes the City should be in a position to offer these incentives and she would help advocate this idea.

Mr. Berninzoni recommended giving a short presentation to City Council with the general idea being based on trail acquisition.

Follow up discussion regarding off-leash dog park

Mr. Berninzoni reported that a presentation was given at the last meeting regarding an off leash dog park within the City limits. Staff is looking for direction from the Commission on how to proceed.

Ms. Soderberg reported that she received an email from a resident in total opposition of a dog park. She stated that the Commission expressed concern with a lack of space and the fact that the parks in the City are used by people for recreation. She stated that the Commission also felt that the City does not have the funds to expand open space for dogs at this time. She said that two dog parks in close proximity were identified so people do have that option.

MR. CALLISON MOVED TO TABLE THE DISCUSSION BASED ON THE LACK OF FUNDING AND AVAILABLE SPACE. MS. ANN GALLAGHER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Recreation and Events Subcommittee

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the City will move forward with the second annual outdoor movie night on Saturday, August 22, 2009 at John Meade Park.

Ms. Gallagher said that she will contact the neighbor that complained about the noise at last year's event and give her advance notice of the date and time of the event.

Councilor VanderWerf reported that the Land Preserve will once again host the ice cream social on movie night.

Ms. Soderberg reported that the City confirmed the second annual Holiday Tree Lighting party for December 4, 2009.

Ms. Gallagher will contact the choir director at Cherry Hills Village Elementary School to see if the students are available to perform at the Holiday Tree Lighting event.

Communications/PR

Ms. Gallagher asked Mr. Berninzoni for an update on the status of recent bench donations so she can move forward with writing articles for the Crier.

Trails Expansion Committee - four year plan

Ms. Soderberg reported that anyone is welcome to join the Trails Expansion Committee and provide input. She explained that the Committee identified trail connections in areas that are a priority and came up with a four year plan.

Commission members discussed the following items on the four year plan:

Greenwood Tunnel

Mr. Berninzoni reported that he is meeting with Greenwood Village in three weeks to discuss moving forward with the Greenwood Tunnel project.

Little Dry Creek Scenario

Ms. Soderberg recommended moving forward with an independent third party to approach the neighbors and appease them regarding the Little Dry Creek restoration project. She said the Commission agreed to determine what a consultant would cost and a timeline to contact neighbors about the erosion problem.

Councilor VanderWerf recommended that the Commission portray this project as refurbishing the area. She also stated that the City may have some easements that should be investigated.

Mr. Callison said he believes that the easement Councilor VanderWerf is referring to is now airspace and may not be an option. He also stated that the Commission may find that a few neighbors are going to say "No" to any suggestions and the Commission may not want to spend a lot of money trying to figure out a game plan if they have no access to anything.

Ms. Soderberg said she agrees, but in the meantime the trail continues to erode and this issue needs to be addressed.

Ms. VanderWerf stated that the consultant Bob Searns would be a great asset and has experience dealing with residents on these issues.

Mr. Fairbairn suggested that the City review the proposal from Bob Searns.

Mr. Berninzoni said he will review the proposal and break it down for the next meeting.

Ms. Gallagher suggested breaking the proposal down to an hourly wage.

Mr. Callison stated that it may be important and helpful for the consultant to know that there was a large project completed over fifteen years ago where the bank curves. There was a large amount of rebar installed in this area to secure the bank and there may be no value in offering to secure the bank in this section because it has already been secured. He added that further south of this area there is a huge erosion problem.

Councilor VanderWerf reported that Urban Drainage will often match the money for these types of projects and the City should investigate this possibility and also apply for a GOCO grant for this project.

Mansfield Avenue

Ms. Soderberg inquired about the timeframe for adding the stripes on Mansfield Avenue.

Mr. Berninzoni answered that the stripes would be completed within the next month or two.

Reports**Maintenance Log Update**

Mr. Berninzoni provided members with a survey to complete relating to the master plan. The Planning and Zoning Committee would like to have a study session to prioritize and start acting on the master plan.

City Council Report - Klasina VanderWerf

Councilor VanderWerf reported that the Kat Anderson Fund is a reality and City Council will bring forward a resolution to put money into the fund. She stated that City Council did not create a new fund, but established that any money received from subdividing will only be used to purchase open space. City Council will review the fund annually to consider putting additional funds into it. Councilor VanderWerf stated that with the current economy City Council does not want to put a large sum of money in the fund at this time.

Adjournment

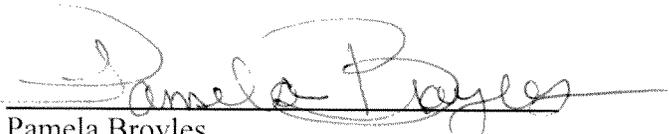
The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.



Jane Soderberg
Committee Vice-Chair



Ryan Berninzoni
PTR Administrator



Pamela Broyles
Administrative Clerk