

Minutes of the Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission
City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
Thursday, August 13, 2009
at the Village Center

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

Absent: Jim Fairbairn

Call to Order

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

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair:

Mr. Berninzoni asked for nominations for a new Chair since Chairperson Theresa Gilpatrick resigned from serving on the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission (PTRC).

Ms. Gallagher motioned to nominate Jane Soderberg as Chairperson of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission. Mr. Callison seconded the nomination.

The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Soderberg accepted the nomination and agreed to serve as Chairperson of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission.

Ms. Soderberg motioned to nominate Ann Gallagher for the position of Vice Chair of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission. Mr. Callison seconded the nomination.

The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Gallagher accepted the nomination to serve as Vice Chair of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission.

Audience Participation

Councilmember Klasina VanderWerf
City of Cherry Hills Village

Councilor VanderWerf informed members that the South Suburban Parks Foundation is organizing an event on Saturday, October 3, 2009. The walk will follow Big Dry Creek and will start at noon with a celebration from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. She suggesting going to the South Suburban Parks Foundation website for more information and the event will also be advertised in the Village Crier. She asked members to spread the word about the event.

Subcommittee Discussions

Parks, Trails and Recreation Enhancement

Summary Sheet Review

Ms. Soderberg reminded members that they should have picked three items from the Summary Sheet that they would like to work on. She suggested that each member concentrate on one item and provide a progress report at the September meeting. She stressed that the Summary Sheet can be updated by anyone on the Commission.

Ms. Brown asked if there is a way to highlight items that have already been determined. This would make it easier for new members to focus on items that are ongoing instead of items that have already been addressed.

Ms. Soderberg suggested separating the list into two sections; one being active and the other being items that have already been acted on. The Commission will address changes to the Summary Sheet at the September meeting.

Ms. Brown also suggested that if there is a comfort level between Commission members to share documents in a technology form, is it possible that the Summary Sheet could be posted so that members can make their own updates and changes to the document. She stated that it may be more helpful for members to add their own actions and comments, but if Commission members are more comfortable with staff making the changes that would also be fine. She stressed that it would be important to have one master document that everyone is working from so that all changes are current.

Ms. Soderberg reported that she is working on a Green Policy for the City of Cherry Hills Village and asked if anything has been discussed during City Council regarding this issue.

Councilor VanderWerf reported that she is not sure if the Residential Development Standards Committee has made any recommendations regarding this, but stated that it will be a very important topic with the new Village Center.

Ms. Gallagher asked if it is appropriate for the PTRC to ask the Residential Development Standards Committee to consider looking into a Green Policy.

Ms. Soderberg did not feel it was appropriate since the PTRC does not know whether this subject is on their agenda.

Councilor VanderWerf stated that the Residential Development Standards Committee is focused more on construction and development and homes towering over others.

Recreation and Events Subcommittee

Ms. Brown questioned whether a policy should be established for people who are interested in holding fundraisers at City events.

Ms. Soderberg reported that there has been discussion about a new application process and the requirement that the party must come before the Commission and present a proposal.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that staff made the decision in the interest of the City not to allow a separate fundraiser at the movie event because it is a City sponsored event. Since the event was originally setup to encourage donations to the Open Space Fund it was determined that allowing additional fundraisers could take away from those donations. Mr. Berninzoni recommended leaving it up to the PTRC to make the decision on future requests.

Ms. Soderberg questioned whether the PTRC should have some kind of policy in place for Commission members to refer to.

Ms. Brown asked if there are any City Ordinances or codes on this topic.

Mr. Berninzoni stated that there are codes related to fundraisers.

Mr. Callison asked if the PTRC could just say "No" in the future to fundraisers at City sponsored events.

Mr. Berninzoni suggested keeping the door open to some events that may have sponsors or other circumstances.

Ms. Gallagher suggested inserting a sentence or clause that states there will be no outside vendors so that it is not a blanket policy. Ms. Gallagher said it would be helpful to have some type of policy in place so that when the City is confronted with this issue again they will know how to respond.

The PTR Commission agreed to add a policy or clause regarding fundraisers at City Events for future reference.

Ms. Soderberg confirmed that the current policy on fundraisers will be updated to make it more specific.

Movie Night Update

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the movie event is in the final stages. The movie "Hook" will show on Saturday, August 22nd, at John Meade Park. The event will include an ice cream social and popcorn. Mr. Berninzoni encouraged the PTR Commission to attend. Mr. Berninzoni reported that the City purchased luminary lights that can be reused each year.

Ms. Gallagher reported that she did make a courtesy phone call to the neighbor who was concerned with noise informing them about the event.

Communications/PR

Ms. Gallagher asked Mr. Berninzoni if the Merle Chambers bench donation has been installed yet.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that one of the trees planted by the bench has died and they are waiting for a replacement. Once the tree is replanted the bench will be placed.

Trails Expansion Committee

Discussion on Little Dry Creek

Ms. Soderberg confirmed that all PTRC members received a copy of the "Scope of Services" for the Little Dry Creek corridor prepared by Mr. Robert Searns with the GreenWay Team.

Ms. Gallagher stressed that it is important to get an impartial person or group involved with the Little Dry Creek erosion issue since it is an emotional subject.

Ms. Soderberg agreed and added that it needs to be stressed that erosion reduction is the Commission's main purpose so that people do not think that the only focus is a trail through their property.

Ms. Brown stated she was unsure whether the purpose of the GreenWay Proposal was prepared for the Little Dry Creek Erosion issue and whether the proposal would still stand since it was provided a year ago.

Ms. Soderberg stated that the issue is still about Little Dry Creek and how the PTR Commission should proceed. She stated that the creek is eroding and there is currently no study or plan in place. The Commission is considering hiring someone to give a comprehensive report and to discuss this issue with the neighbors.

Councilor VanderWerf stated that the report was looked at for the master plan. She also reported that she has heard feedback from people at Public Hearings and they rave about Bob Searns and his ability to communicate on subjects like Little Dry Creek.

Mr. Callison suggested that the PTRC encourage moving forward with Step No. 1, Reconnaissance and Background, which is understanding the land and rights-of-ways and where trails hang in the air because of erosion. He stated that this could be useful information that could determine whether there is anything to meet with individuals about and whether to move forward to the next phase. He suggested that the goal should be to provide a base map showing current Cherry Hills ownerships, rights-of-ways and easements. He believes that the waterways in the Village should be a separate item.

Ms. Gallagher suggested that general knowledge about what needs to be done in the future to preserve that corridor and make sure the erosion does not continue to happen should be the main goal. The Commission also needs to determine whether to focus on this section only, or to also pursue Three Pond Park.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that he has contacted the City Engineer regarding a study on Three Pond Park and the engineer will put something together to present to the PTRC.

Mr. Callison said his concern is that he walks through this area and parts of the trail are getting dangerous. He stated that the entire area is in floodplain, but most of the creek is on private land. He said the City has a public trail running right along this area and he believes that children and other trail users are going off trail. Mr. Callison stressed that the Commission should not only look behind private property, but should include the whole eroded ditch so they know what drainage problems exist in the entire area.

Ms. Brown mentioned that she is not sure how much control the Commission has over private land. She stated that the Commission can't force people to deal with erosion issues, but if the City has a map showing when it starts to involve the area that the City maintains then we really are responsible for making sure it is safe.

Ms. Soderberg asked Commission members how they would like to proceed. She stated that if the Commission chooses to start with Step No. 1, which would be a comprehensive look at the creek and other areas and the erosion issue, they could go to Bob Searns and say this is what we are looking for at this point and could you give us a proposal with recommendations and cost.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that he will arrange to have Bob Searns attend the next PTRC meeting and everyone can communicate their needs to him so he can get a description of exactly what the Commission is looking for and prepare to move forward.

Councilor VanderWerf added that Bob Searns is also a very successful grant writer.

Ms. Soderberg mentioned that if the Commission can get something approved at the September PTRC meeting then there would still be enough time to apply for a grant.

Reports

Maintenance Log Update

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the Parks crew continues to maintain the grass that is rapidly growing. He will design a new Maintenance Log in the near future.

Ms. Soderberg asked if there are any major maintenance projects for the 2010 budget.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the Parks crew will tackle some trails that are in need of repair.

Ms. Soderberg stated that maintenance of the High Line Canal continues to be a top priority of the Commission.

2010 Parks, Trails, Open Space and Recreation Budget Update

Mr. Berninzoni reported that he is currently working on the 2010 Parks budget. He will bring forth a draft budget for the Commission to review and discuss at the September meeting. He also plans to go review the Commission's goals for 2010 and strategize and prioritize the list.

Ms. Soderberg asked Mr. Berninzoni if he could email the budget to Commission members in advance so they have a chance to review it.

Mr. Berninzoni will email the budget and the Commission's priority list from last year.

Ms. Soderberg asked if there have been significant changes to the budget with the current economic condition.

Mr. Berninzoni stated that City Council will make the final determination on the budget, but the departments have been asked to cut back on things.

Mr. Callison asked for an update on the status of the City's revenues.

Councilor VanderWerf reported that revenues are down in obvious areas such as the Arapahoe County Shareback funds, but revenue is up in the photo red light program. She stated that Cherry Hills Village is more fortunate than other municipalities because the City has money in their General Fund.

Bellevue Underpass at Little Dry Creek Update

Mr. Berninzoni reported that he recently met with the Greenwood Village engineers and they are going full speed ahead with the Bellevue Underpass. The plans for the project will be finalized within the next month or two and he will keep the Commission up-to-date with the progress.

Ms. Soderberg asked if any funds would come out of the Parks Budget for this project.

Mr. Berninzoni stated that they will be negotiating the money that is expected from the City of Cherry Hills Village. He said it is important that the City show they support the project. He added that the City will be looking at a Public Hearing around November to inform residents of any plans.

Mr. Callison asked if a Public Hearing was essential and what would be the purpose.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the purpose of a Public Hearing is to provide residents who live around Little Dry Creek and Bellevue the opportunity to give their feedback on the project.

Three Pond Park Wetland Discussion Update

Mr. Berninzoni reported that he met with the City Engineer and they walked the area of Three Pond Park. He said the Engineer will hopefully have some information for

Commission members at the September meeting that will provide direction on the drainage issue and what needs to be done to preserve the pond.

Ms. Soderberg stated that when Councilmember Alex Brown initially addressed the PTRC with the wetlands issue, she thought the Commission had discussed a more comprehensive look at water issues in the entire Village. Ms. Soderberg asked if the Commission is still considering an analysis of all the wetlands and drainage issues in the Village, or do they want to focus on Three Pond Park only.

Ms. Gallagher asked if the Commission thinks the project as a whole is too much to pursue at this time.

Ms. Soderberg expressed concern that the City has no information or background on the water issues in Cherry Hills Village, or how much water the Village actually has. She asked if a more comprehensive look at the water issue might benefit the City for many reasons such as open space and development.

Ms. Gallagher suggested that some of the issues that the PTRC is considering are large items that require a lot of attention. She asked if the Commission should postpone the Three Pond Park water issue until the October meeting when they can give it their full attention.

Ms. Soderberg agreed adding that the Commission could use some expert advice before discussing the issue and the extra time would allow for the City Engineer to gather additional information.

Ms. Soderberg asked Mr. Berninzoni to talk with the City Engineer and ask him to provide information on the wetlands for the entire Village and not just Three Pond Park.

Mr. Ferrell asked Mr. Berninzoni if the City has a map that shows where the designated wetlands are in the City besides the map from the Army Corp of Engineers.

Mr. Berninzoni responded that there is no other map.

Ms. Soderberg suggested that this item is something that the Commission should consider taking to City Council for their input. She also recommended addressing this issue at the October meeting when they have more time for discussion.

Mr. Berninzoni said he will talk with the City Engineer to discuss how long the study might take and he also suggested inviting Councilmember Alex Brown to the October PTRC meeting when this agenda item will be discussed.

Master Plan Implementation Survey

Ms. Soderberg stated that the survey given to PTRC members is an important part of the master plan and the Commission needs to have a work session to complete the form. Ms. Soderberg asked that this topic be added to the September agenda so the Commission can move forward.

Mr. Callison asked that the form be emailed to Commission members.

City Council Report - Klasina VanderWerf

Councilor VanderWerf reported that City Council created a dedication fund where the City takes cash in lieu of land. The fund will be called the Cat Anderson Fund. The fund

balance was \$150,000 and City Council wanted to do something to acknowledge the City's commitment and agreed to transfer another \$150,000 from the General Fund for a total of \$300,000. The fund is intended to be inspirational where people will have an opportunity to donate their own money.

Councilor VanderWerf reported that City Council is also looking into the possibility of stimulus funds to help fund an underpass at University and Quincy.

Ms. Soderberg asked Councilor VanderWerf for the status of the proposed land donation increase from 7.5% to 10%.

Councilor VanderWerf responded that the topic has been tabled at this time as there was a lot of pushback from residents that felt they were being singled out.

Councilor VanderWerf also reported that a group has been hired by the City to start at ground zero to look at the whole campus for the new Village Center. They are interviewing people to get ideas and they will come forward with full recommendations in the fall.

New Business

Mr. Berninzoni informed members that construction will begin on the Woodie Hollow Horse Arena the end of this month.

Adjournment

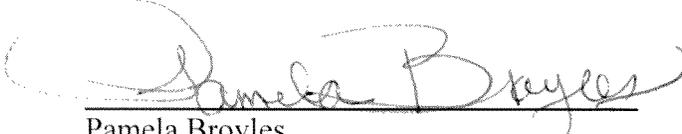
The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.



Jane Soderberg
Committee Chairperson



Ryan Berninzoni
Parks, Trails and Recreation Administrator



Pamela Broyles
Administrative Clerk