

Minutes of the Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission
City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
Thursday, September 10, 2009
at the Village Center

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

Absent: Jim Fairbairn

Call to Order

Ms. Jane Soderberg called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Approval of June 11, 2009 Minutes

Ms. Ann Gallagher moved to approve the June 11, 2009 minutes. Ms. Katy Brown seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of August 13, 2009 Minutes

Ms. Katy Brown moved to approve the August 13, 2009 minutes. Ms. Ann Gallagher seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Welcome new PTRC member Karen Barsch

Ms. Soderberg welcomed the new Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission member Karen Barsch.

Ms. Barsch shared that she has lived in Cherry Hills Village for 15 years, she is an attorney and has three children. She also mentioned that she is an avid runner and she is very familiar with the High Line Canal.

Audience Participation

Jason Matherly
10 Random Road
Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113

Mr. Matherly addressed the Commission with concerns about weeds and signage in the Village. He stated that he has lived in the Village for 10 years and he has 780 feet of trail and road that surrounds his property. He said he is a trail user and he has a lot of experience with the trails close to where he lives and around Cherry Hills Village. He stated that he has become increasingly concerned with the state of both noxious and nuisance weeds in the parks and trails system. He also mentioned that he spoke to City Council about this issue last week. Mr. Matherly expressed concern that the weeds are spreading onto his property from the trail and he provided Commission members with pictures of weeds in different areas along the trails. He believes the City is not requiring homeowners who damage the trails during the course of construction projects to fix the trails or bring them back to standard. He is also concerned that the City is not enforcing ordinances by forcing neighbors of adjacent properties to take care of the weeds on their properties.

The second issue Mr. Matherly is concerned about is that the City is not replacing stop signs on bike trails and he believes this is a safety issue. He was told by the City that the signs are not being replaced because they are not enforceable according to code. He asked that the PTRC advise the City to replace the signs.

The third issue Mr. Matherly is concerned over is the size of the “Motorized Vehicles Prohibited” signs on the trails. He stated that the City has removed the large signs that can be viewed from a vehicle and replaced them with smaller signs that are hard to read. He was told by the City that the large signs were removed in response to a municipal court decision.

Mr. Matherly asked the PTRC to make the following recommendations:

- 1) Engage in an effective program of proactive noxious and nuisance weed reduction and management of City trails and in City parks, as well as on adjacent private lands;
- 2) Stop removing large “Motor Vehicles Prohibited” signs from City trails, or, replace them with new large signs that are clearly readable from a motor vehicle; and
- 3) Restore missing “Stop” signs on City bike/pedestrian pathways to promote public safety.

Presentation by Bob Searns in regard to Little Dry Creek Trail

Mr. Searns reported that he is a professional planner of trails and greenways and has worked in the area for 35 years. One year ago he was asked to submit a proposal on the Little Dry Creek corridor and erosion reduction. Mr. Berninzoni recently asked him to put together a proposal and possibly come up with a plan for this corridor. In response to that request, Mr. Searns put together a Scope of Work Resource Study as a starting point. He reported that the study is a combination of the resources available and working with the community to try and arrive at some kind of game plan to move forward. The study area basically includes the length of the Little Dry Creek Corridor to the boundaries of Englewood. He stated that the study is not a trail study, but a trail might be an element that could come out of this.

He said the idea would be to put together some base maps and look at existing studies and plans for the corridor. He would talk to some of the agencies that are stakeholders along with residents and staff, and he would meet individually with property owners that will be directly affected. He would also involve the greater community to get ideas and look at current activities that are in the area. He would like to produce a white paper report and get a strategy for the corridor based on all of the input from these groups to bring back to the PTRC and to City Council.

His study would include:

1. White paper report
2. Graphic plan map / power point (showing resources)

Mr. Searns stated that he would be the staff person working on the study and would be assisted by Mark Wilcox the landscape architect. The cost would not exceed \$23,650 and would take approximately 4-6 months to complete.

Mr. Callison asked Mr. Searns if he could dissect the proposal and start with steps one and two to determine whether the project is doable and whether to proceed with the project.

Mr. Searns responded that they can move forward one step at a time and if it is determined that the community is not ready to proceed then he will provide the documentation that they acquired up to that point.

Mr. Ferrell asked if step one would include a plan map or graphics. He said a concern of the Commission is erosion along the creek and where it might be encroaching on properties, and if there are existing easements and rights-of-way.

Mr. Searns responded that they would provide a schematic map that shows the opportunities and findings.

Ms. Soderberg reported that the Commission's focus on this project has shifted to preservation and erosion control and the integrity of the creek. She said the Commission would like to focus on the first step to include wildlife identification. She also stated that the Commission would appreciate any assistance Mr. Searns could provide with grant writing to help fund this project.

Mr. Searns noted that a wildlife study would be provided based on available data from the Division of Wildlife.

Commission members thanked Mr. Searns for the presentation.

Ms. Soderberg recommended that the Commission move forward with the project.

MS. KATY BROWN MOVED THAT THE PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION COMMISSION PROCEED WITH STEP ONE OF THE LITTLE DRY CREEK STUDY AS PRESENTED BY BOB SEARNS TO PROVIDE AN ANALYSIS OF THE RESOURCES AND APPROVE ___\$5,100___ IN FUNDS FOR THE STUDY. MS. ANN GALLAGHER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Subcommittee Discussions

Parks, Trails and Recreation Enhancement

Summary Sheet Review

Ms. Soderberg reported that the Summary Sheet has been revised and continues to be a work in progress. The goal for this report is to have a day to day resource of everything the Commission is working on and has worked on. She asked that Commission members forward all changes to Pamela Broyles and also send her a copy. She stated that the Summary Sheet will be a helpful tool for City Council and other boards to refer to.

2010 Parks, Trails, Recreation and Open Space Budget Discussion

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the Commission needs to present a proof of the budget for the 2010 fiscal year and asked Commission members to provide input and ask questions.

Ms. Gallagher questioned whether there is enough money in the budget under "Weed Control" for next year.

Mr. Berninzoni explained that there is additional money in other sections of the budget that is used for weed control. He reported that most of the weed removal is done mechanically by staff and with the miles of trails and parks that staff has to maintain the cost of herbicide would not be feasible considering budget restraints.

Ms. Soderberg questioned why there was no dollar amount listed for the Recreation Reimbursement program.

Mr. Berninzoni responded that he is waiting for figures from the Finance Director, Karen Proctor.

Ms. Brown noticed that the budget for Special Events was reduced from \$15,000 to \$8,000. She stated that the Special Events Subcommittee discussed having an equestrian event in the spring of 2010 and asked if an additional \$4,000 could be added to the Special Events budget.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the budget was cut because of economic times and there was money sitting in the fund that was not being used.

Mr. Callison said he thought the City held the Earth Day event in the spring.

Ms. Brown reported that the Special Events Subcommittee decided that the weather was too unpredictable in April and with the lack of participation it was decided not to have the event.

Ms. Soderberg asked about the status of a GPS system to be used for tree inventory in the City.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the GPS system was originally going to be added to the Public Works budget, but after budget cuts it was moved to Capital Improvements. The cost for the system still needs to be determined.

Ms. Gallagher suggested adding available funds to finish the berm and trees that South Suburban promised to families to provide a buffer from the trail. She suggested adding a line item to the budget for landscaping and other incentives so if the opportunity arises the Commission can offer incentives to homeowners.

Councilor VanderWerf recommended adding a line item for incentives in the budget with a small amount of money to start with.

Mr. Berninzoni stressed that it is important for Commission members to sell the idea at City Council and come armed with a plan.

Ms. Soderberg said the Commission already has some possible trails they want to pursue in 2010 and would like to use the incentive funds for this purpose. She would like City Council to discuss the idea so the Commission has some guidelines when they talk with neighbors.

Ms. Gallagher asked that Commission members be informed when the idea will be presented to City Council so they can plan to attend.

Mr. Ferrell asked for clarification on the figures for Capital Improvements on Mansfield and Dahlia and asked about the status of the striping on Mansfield.

Mr. Berninzoni explained that the figures in the budget for Mansfield and Dahlia are based on removing the junipers located at the corner house. The City is looking at the possibility of widening that corner so that trucks can make the turns easier. He said the owners have been contacted and they are on board with the idea.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that temporary stripes will be added to Mansfield Avenue within 1 to 2 months and will be made permanent next year when Public Works completes the repaving project.

Ms. Soderberg recommended putting something in the budget for the Radcliff low water bridge in case the Commission decides to move forward with the project next year.

Mr. Berninzoni said he would look into the old bridge proposal.

Ms. Brown noted that when comparing the budget she found it was very comprehensive in terms of maintenance, but when comparing the budget to the master plan priorities she questioned whether the Commission is setting their priorities based on the master plan.

Ms. Soderberg responded that the Commission is having a study session at the October 2009 meeting to address the master plan and to take actions steps.

Ms. Brown expressed concern that if budget items come out of that study session will the Commission still be able to add the items to the 2010 budget.

Mr. Berninzoni confirmed that budget items can still be added.

Ms. Brown asked for clarification on the Arapahoe County Open Space Fund expenditure section from 2008 and what the \$205,000 listed as "Other revenue" was for.

Mr. Berninzoni will research the \$205,000 expenditure and report back to the Commission.

2010 Parks, Trails, Recreation and Open Space Priority List Discussion

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the Commission needs to come up with a 2010 project priority list. He asked members to visualize and prioritize accordingly and he will provide an outline to present to Commission members at the next meeting.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that his number one goal for 2010 is maintenance with a focus on weeds, trails and bollards. He provided members with a new project list he is working on for 2009-2010.

Ms. Gallagher reported that maintenance is also her number one concern and putting effort and money into taking care of what we have.

Mr. Callison reported that maintenance is number one and will always be number one. He said it is nice to see how much better things are maintained now than they were a few years ago.

Ms. Brown added that Staff is the expert on what needs to be maintained and it is the roll of the Commission to work with Staff on new items that the Commission would like to address each year. She said she picked the following projects based off of the master plan.

- Signage - to create standards for consistent signage throughout the village.
- Safe Trail Crossings - to do a comprehensive evaluation of crossings similar to the Belleview Underpass and University Crossing and decide whether or not to pursue.
- Consider playground equipment and facilities that will accommodate special events.
- The real opportunity is in some of the smaller pocket parks and adding something that makes those parks worth visiting such as, picnic tables or playground equipment.

Ms. Soderberg mentioned that the Commission already designed a new logo so that signs including trail bollards would be consistent.

Mr. Callison listed the following three items as his priority:

- To plant additional and varied trees in clusters and groves to make it more appealing to the eye and provide shade.
- To continue to improve Woodie Hollow Park. The picnic table is visually appealing and because it is a large space he would like to see a small playground added. He said a lot of families with children walk along the park and there is nothing for them on that side of town.
- Add signs on Quincy Avenue that would alert bicyclists to pay attention since Quincy is a major biking thoroughfare with two schools and several driveways and roads. Stop signs could create a visual reaction in the rider that there is a street crossing ahead and prevent someone from getting run over.

Ms. Barsch reported that she is also in favor of adding something to attract people to pocket parks like play structures that create a community feel. She said there is nothing that draws people to several parks in the Village.

Ms. Barsch also suggested placing a port-a-potty at the Dahlia Bridge off of the High Line Canal. She said there is a need at this location and she believes the tennis club near the area might be very supportive because people will ask to use their facility. She said there is already a parking lot at the location where it could be made to look nice and it would also be good for some of the older residents.

Ms. Soderberg asked that the Little Dry Creek Study also be added to the list.

Ms. Brown reported that the Special Events Subcommittee discussed the need for more and better ways to communicate upcoming events. The committee is contemplating the idea of more signs like the City sign in front of the Village Center. She suggested incorporating signs at key points in the city where some of the entry features are being added.

Recreation and Events Subcommittee

Ms. Brown expressed an interest in working on the new Parks website that is being designed. She said the website could be one of the mechanisms for communicating special events. Ms. Brown is also pursuing an equestrian event in the City for early June and has opened lines of communication with interested parties.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that staff is starting to plan the 2009 Holiday Tree Lighting Party on December 4, 2009.

Communications/PR

Ms. Gallagher reported that she received a call from the family that was upset last year after the Movie Night and they were very pleased that the movie was moved to a Saturday night and later in the summer.

Mr. Berninzoni informed Ms. Gallagher that the bench donation for Merle Chambers was installed.

Ms. Gallagher will write an article for the Village Crier regarding the 2009 Holiday Tree Lighting Party.

Trails Expansion Committee

Mr. Ferrell reported that it has come to his attention that there is an effort underway to bring together the various and different municipalities that the High Line Canal runs

through. He reported that under the Colorado Trust for Public Lands there is a gentleman by the name of Justin Spring who is heading up an informal group of interested parties to draft a grant to get some funds from Great Outdoors Colorado. The funds could be used to undertake a more coordinated approach to look at issues on the Highline Canal including maintenance issues and things like buffers along the canal, uses of the canal and the different parties and pedestrians that use it. The idea is to coordinate a plan for improvements and maintenance along the length of the Canal.

Mr. Ferrell was asked to serve as a liaison between this group and the PTR Commission and keep the Commission advised of what is going on.

Ms. Soderberg reported that having Mr. Ferrell involved with this group is a great idea and will be very helpful.

Ms. Soderberg reported that she received an update by phone from PTR Commission member Jim Fairbairn on the Radcliff Low Water Crossing Bridge. Mr. Fairbairn has contacted two homeowners on the east side and he will work with Mr. Berninzoni to come up with a plan with incentives to approach the homeowners.

Maintenance Log Update

Mr. Berninzoni reported that there is nothing new to report.

Belleview Underpass at Little Dry Creek Update

Mr. Berninzoni reported that once this project commences it will be fast and progressive.

City Council Report - Klasina VanderWerf

Councilor VanderWerf reported that the outdoor movie event was successful and everyone had a great time. She commended staff for their work on the event.

Councilor VanderWerf also reported that the High Line Canal effort that Mr. Ferrell was speaking about is being approached in a similar way as the South Platte effort. She said the idea is to write for a planning grant from GOCO. She said this is a great opportunity and long term planning could pay off especially for things like trails and wildlife habitat.

New Business

Ms. Soderberg reported that the Mooney petition for vacation and relocation of a trail proposal was denied at the Planning and Zoning meeting and the proposal will now go before City Council.

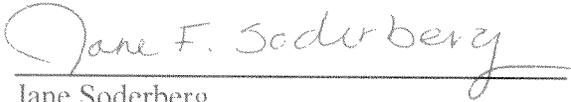
Ms. Soderberg outlined a plan for the October 8, 2009 meeting:

- A work session to discuss the master plan
- Thank you celebration for Theresa Gilpatrick and Heidi Schmidt Hammell
- A presentation by the City Engineer on waterways and Three Pond Park.

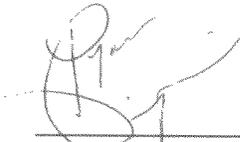
The next PTRC meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2009.

Adjournment

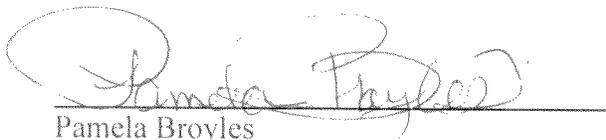
The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.



Jane Soderberg
Committee Chairperson



Ryan Berninzoni
Parks, Trails and Recreation Administrator



Pamela Broyles
Administrative Clerk