

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

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

Absent: Bill Callison, Ann Gallagher

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Jane Soderberg called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 8, 2009 MINUTES**

Ms. Katy Brown moved to approve the October 8, 2009 minutes with the approved corrections. Mr. Jim Fairbairn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

No audience participation.

**SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS**

Parks, Trails and Recreation Enhancement

**SUMMARY SHEET REVIEW**

Trail Enhancement Update - Jeff Ferrell and Jim Fairbairn

Mr. Ferrell gave an update on the Radcliff Trail Connection. He has researched the City's files and found some documents that were drawn up in the fall of 2002, which included a site plan and three easement documents that were considered necessary at the time. However, the easement documents were not executed or presented due to the objection of the property owner that lives on High Street. Mr. Ferrell and Mr. Fairbairn will work to initiate a conversation with property owners in that location to see if perhaps now might be the time to move forward.

Mr. Ferrell gave an update on the St. Clair Property. He reported that this is another abandoned right-of-way that happened in 1970 or before. During his research he found that the property itself had the right-of-way abandoned when the property changed hands in 1970. He suggested that the Commission research further along that street to see if similar right-of-way abandonments had taken place with other properties that might be involved. He noted that this stretch is being used as a trail right now and it does in fact look like an abandoned roadway with some asphalt still there. He also noted that the trail is in pretty rough shape so it might be a good candidate for the Commission to explore further and possibly use the idea of incentives. The Commission could approach it as a beautification project since it already seems to be used as an informal trail.

Incentive Program Update

Ms. Soderberg provided an update from Ms. Ann Gallagher on the incentive program. Ms. Gallagher wrote a paragraph including some dollar amounts that the Commission could use when they approach a homeowner with an incentive plan. Mr. Berninzoni put together a list of different landscape options that the homeowner could view. Mr. Berninzoni will email a copy to all Commission members.

Ms. Soderberg suggested that Mr. Fairbairn could help Mr. Berninzoni with the cost of landscape options.

Mr. Berninzoni will contact Mr. Fairbairn to discuss some pricing options for the incentive program.

Mr. Fairbairn referred to the trails that the Commission is considering and cautioned that a 6-foot privacy fence with trees to provide a buffer could cost \$10,000 to \$20,000. He questioned whether the Commission should even list a dollar amount. He suggested that if an opportunity arises, the Commission could go to Council and present the opportunity and request a specific dollar amount.

#### Special Events Update

Ms. Brown had nothing new to report at this time on the future summer event.

#### Website and Signage

Ms. Brown will be in contact with City Clerk Laura Smith regarding the new website.

#### Communications/Crier Article

Ms. Gallagher wrote an article promoting the Holiday Tree Lighting event scheduled for December 4, 2009.

#### General Updates

Mr. Berninzoni provided Ms. Barsch with a quote for a port-a-potty to be placed at the end of Dahlia in the parking lot. She will acquire some additional quotes and put together something more formal for the next meeting. The picture of the proposed port-a-potty shows it completely enclosed.

Ms. Soderberg asked Mr. Berninzoni if the City has any perimeters with regard to adding a port-a-potty.

Mr. Berninzoni will do some additional research and get back to the Committee.

Ms. Barsch suggested that the Commission may need to address any concerns with The Village Club and homeowners that are in the vicinity before adding the port-a-potty.

Ms. Brown provided an update on the proposed play structure in Dahlia Hollow Park. The Commission had discussed briefly the option of contacting the HOA's directly, but there was some question as to whether it was better to attend their meetings, or to hold an informational meeting at the City. She asked the Commission for input and direction on how to proceed. Ms. Brown said she would be happy to contact the HOA's, but she is concerned that if the City holds an informational meeting we are likely to only hear from people who are not in favor of the project.

Mr. Berninzoni suggested sending letters to 30-50 residents in the neighborhood inviting them to an informational meeting. The Commission could present the idea and explain what they are trying to accomplish and gather input from people that are for and against the idea.

Ms. Barsch suggested making direct contact with homeowners that are immediately adjacent to the site prior to the meeting.

Mr. Ferrell mentioned that he can provide a line of communication with the adjacent homeowner and there are a number of young families on his block that he could introduce the idea to.

Ms. Brown asked if the City has a budget to do mailings and who would the letter be sent to.

Mr. Berninzoni suggested meeting with Ms. Brown to determine which residents to send the letter to. He added that with regard to the Mansfield Trail a letter was sent to all of the residents that were going to be affected. The Commission decided to send letters inviting residents to the February 2010 PTRC meeting.

Ms. Brown and Ms. Barsch will arrange a meeting with the adjacent homeowner as a courtesy to explain the idea.

Ms. Soderberg reported that City Council agreed to allocate funds in the 2010 budget for the preliminary proposal of a possible play structure at Dahlia Hollow Park.

### **PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ENHANCEMENT**

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

Ms. Soderberg provided members with the Parks, Trails and Recreation Committee Land Acquisition Statement that was established on November 15, 2007. City Council requested that the PTRC identify properties that might be good candidates for open space acquisition and based on that request this statement was established. The statement will be used as the criteria when evaluating different properties in the Village. Ms. Soderberg encouraged members to make changes or additions to the statement if they would like.

Ms. Soderberg reported that Mr. Berninzoni is working with CSU to conduct a habitat study within a two mile radius in the City.

#### Discussion on Concepts for Village Center and John Meade Park

Ms. Soderberg opened discussion on the three proposed plans for the new Village Center, specifically focusing on the John Meade park portion of the plans. She stated that the Commission's objective is to focus on the ideas for the park and it is important for the Commission to decide where the community areas are and the active recreational park area.

Commission members reviewed and discussed the different plans that Norris Design presented.

Mr. Ferrell pointed out that he ran into Councilmember Alex Brown at the Village Center and he had a new site plan that Norris Design will be presenting to City Council next Thursday. The plan looked similar to the other concepts, but it included some variations. He stated that the overall plan is to do the work in stages by building out a new fire station, public works and police station on the newly acquired parcel and then undertake the remaining developments. The most significant difference that he saw was that two of the plans showed Meade Lane being closed off. He noted that at the public meetings there seemed to be a consensus that this idea was less than desirable so he does not think they will move in that direction. His recollection of the presentation was that the new multi-use field and the newly acquired parcel off of Meade Lane was not being considered for formal usage such as a soccer field or baseball diamond, but rather an open space concept.

Ms. Brown commented that the discussion has been whether we would have to wait for all of the construction to take place before we could start to address some of the park issues. She believes that concept C shows very little difference from the current park and does not provide any motivating reason for people to use the park that we don't already have.

Mr. Berninzoni recommended that PTRC members attend the City Council meeting next Thursday.

Ms. Soderberg reported that she would like to see an active recreational park in John Meade. She believes the Commission's focus should be to have a central active recreational park. She expressed concern that a final design will go to Council without an improved park.

Mr. Berninzoni stated that he attended a meeting today and the plans do include a decent sized grass park.

Councilmember VanderWerf informed members that David Cooper referred to the area where the playing field is proposed and asked why the City couldn't look at this property as a property that could be traded. He also suggested moving the horse arena to the Cat Anderson property where it would be a better facility for horses anyway. He suggested that if the horse arena is moved, the City could sell or trade this portion for better open space.

Councilmember VanderWerf pointed out a section of the Segelke property that the City could consider purchasing since a large portion of this property is wetlands.

Ms. Soderberg said it is important for John Meade Park to be separated from the Village Center because development of the City Center could take years. She suggested that the Commission come up with a plan next year so they can add this item to the budget. She stated that it is important to keep the momentum going to get the park done and move forward with or without the Village Center.

Mr. Fairbairn stated that the priority seems to be the new building right now and he cautioned that the Commission needs to consider whether the City is considering moving forward with selling portions of the property.

Ms. Soderberg believes that money for improvements to the park could come from grants and not from revenue.

Councilmember VanderWerf stated that the Arapahoe County Open Space Grant would be a great resource. The grant money will end in 2013 unless it is voted in again and this would be an argument for pursuing improvements in the park sooner.

Ms. Brown pointed out that a roadblock might exist if there are plans to sell pieces of the property to acquire other things. She cautioned that the Commission would not want to invest in the park and then turn around and sell it. She suggested waiting for the overall final plan before moving forward.

Mr. Fairbairn added that it is important for the Commission to encourage good parks and recreation during this process so they won't be forgotten while they are planning the buildings.

#### Continued Discussion on City Wetlands

Ms. Soderberg reported that she met with Ryan Berninzoni, Eric Ensey and Stephanie Blucher of the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding the wetland discussion. They included Ms. Blucher because a lot of the wetland discussion came from her and they wanted to gain her knowledge and insight as to why any of this was brought up. Ms. Soderberg learned that during applications for subdivision, the national ordinances did not address specifically the needs of Cherry Hills Village. Ms. Soderberg reported that

during this meeting it was decided that this issue would be addressed by the Planning and Zoning Commission and that Eric Ensey would also investigate how other cities prepare local ordinances. She added that this Commission's role, which can be defined by looking at the master plan, is more preservation of the habitat, wetlands and the natural areas. She said what the Commission learned from conversations last month is that we have no control over the water. She added that Councilmember Brown was kind enough to bring Three Pond Park to our attention, but she is not sure what the Commission can do to direct water to the ponds.

Mr. Ferrell gave an update to Commission members that he has been informed that the work group involving the municipalities along the stretch of the High Line Canal has been put on hold for now. He was told that due to the process that is going on with the Arapahoe County Open Space Master Plan that the people involved with the group decided to wait and see what comes out of the master plan. He informed members that they will hold public meetings through the steering committee and sometime in March is when they are scheduled to have a draft of the master plan.

Mr. Ferrell asked Councilmember VanderWerf if she is part of the steering committee and asked if the City has any representation.

Councilmember VanderWerf responded that the official person that represents the City is Councilmember Russell Stewart, but a couple of residents also attend.

Mr. Ferrell said he plans to keep on top of the process as it unfolds.

## **REPORTS**

### Bellevue Underpass at Little Dry Creek Update

Mr. Berninzoni reported that staff is planning a discussion at the December 10, 2009 PTRC meeting regarding the Bellevue Avenue Underpass in Woodie Hollow Park. This discussion will involve a description of the project, where the project is located and the final outcome of the project. The discussion will be based around Greenwood Village and the progress they are making. Mr. Berninzoni asked City Engineer Troy Carmann to attend the December meeting and present a survey of the area to show the basic concept of what the tunnel will look like, as well as the entry and exit of the tunnel. He said the meeting will be an informational meeting to bring the Commission up to date on where we are and where we are going with this project. Mr. Berninzoni said he hopes to put together a public meeting in January for the residents around this area and encourage them give feedback on what they think should be done. The City put \$75,000 in the fund for the 2010 budget to move this project forward.

### Holiday Tree Lighting Event Update

Mr. Berninzoni reported that staff is working on the Holiday Tree Lighting event scheduled for December 4, 2009. Mr. Berninzoni presented a preliminary schedule of events for the evening. The event will include Santa, carolers, a dancing group, face painting and refreshments. Mr. Berninzoni encouraged Commission members to help with the event.

### City Council Report

There was nothing to report on this subject.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm

The next scheduled meeting is December 10, 2009



Jane Soderberg  
Committee Chairperson



Ryan Berninzoni  
Parks, Trails and Recreation Administrator



Pamela Broyles  
Administrative Clerk