

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

Commission members in attendance: Ann Gallagher, William Callison, Jim Fairbairn, Jeff Ferrell, Karen Barsch and Klasina VanderWerf. Employees present: Ryan Berninzoni, Parks Trails and Recreation Administrator and Pamela Broyles, Administrative Assistant.

Absent: Jane Soderberg, Katy Brown

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Ann Gallagher called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 12, 2009 MINUTES

The November 12, 2009 minutes were tabled until the January 14, 2010 meeting to clarify a statement in the minutes made by Jane Soderberg.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

No audience participation.

SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS

Parks, Trails and Recreation Enhancement

SUMMARY SHEET REVIEW

Trail Enhancement Update - Jeff Ferrell and Jim Fairbairn

There was nothing to report on this subject.

Incentive Program Update

Ms. Gallagher suggested that the Commission discuss approving an incentive program that would exclude subdivision situations so that the Commission doesn't get into a situation with a Homeowner's Association.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that he will look into the legal aspects before the Commission makes any decisions.

Ms. Gallagher reported that in reading the minutes from the November meeting, the Commission suggested writing a general statement for the Incentive Program and to review each project on a case by case basis.

Special Events Update

There was nothing to report on this subject.

Website and Signage

There was nothing to report on this subject.

Communications/Crier Article

Ms. Gallagher reported that Ms. Martha Welborn is writing an article for the Crier on the 2009 Holiday Tree Lighting event.

General Updates

There was nothing to report on this subject.

REPORTSBellevue Underpass at Little Dry Creek Update

Mr. Berninzoni reported that in 2004 City staff began the initial phase of planning for the possible development of a pedestrian/equestrian underpass under Bellevue Avenue at the south end of Woodie Hollow Park. The initial phase consisted of members of the Cherry Hills Village Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission and members of City staff engaging in conversations with Greenwood Village Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission, members of Greenwood Village staff and residents of Greenwood Village. In reviewing information from these past meetings Mr. Berninzoni found that a lot of the information is very vague and does not contain anything other than the Commission asking for the status of the project.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that Cherry Hills Village and Greenwood Village are currently on schedule to move forward with the Bellevue underpass and trail connection in 2010. Mr. Berninzoni is currently working with Greenwood Village to determine what the tunnel will cost. He reported that the total cost for this project will include the tunnel design, a hydraulic study and building costs.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that staff is planning for a public input hearing at the January 14, 2010 PTRC meeting. Staff will mail letters to adjacent homeowners and public notices will be posted.

Mr. Berninzoni introduced City Engineer Troy Carmann from Icon Engineering who is present to answer any questions.

Mr. Ferrell asked if the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) needs to approve the Bellevue Underpass project.

Mr. Carmann responded that CDOT does encompass some of the right-of-way so the project will require some kind of license agreement to allow for construction. He said that CDOT would not necessarily be an obstacle, but they would have some comments.

Mr. Fairbairn asked if the tunnel would have lights at night.

Mr. Berninzoni responded that any ideas for lighting will be included in the Agreement with Greenwood Village, but at this time he is not sure what the lighting conditions will be.

Mr. Fairbairn asked the height of the tunnel is being considered to accommodate the equestrian community.

Mr. Carmann responded that this subject was part of the pre-design conference with Greenwood Village and what to allow through the tunnel. He stated that based on early discussions they are probably not going to allow even dismounted equestrian use provided there is a raised surface in one of the bays. He said that Greenwood Village is driving the parameters and he is not sure what direction they are heading with this, but at this time it is not a clear equestrian crossing and there will be some issues with getting it to work.

Mr. Callison commented that the current design has a lot of concrete and asked if the City has given some thought to a design that looks more attractive.

Mr. Berninzoni responded that the preliminary design is a basic, bare bones look and the City is hoping to get some input from the citizens at the public meeting.

Ms. Gallagher asked Mr. Berninzoni to provide an update on how the cost will be shared between the City of Greenwood Village and the City of Cherry Hills Village.

Mr. Berninzoni responded that they are in the process of determining the perimeters of the property and they are still in discussions as far as what the split will be. He said that ideally it will be a 50/50 split for the tunnel itself, which would exclude the cost of the trail connection going north.

The Commission questioned how the construction will affect the traffic on Belleview Avenue.

Mr. Carmann responded that the disruption should be very minimal since the construction will not require any structural deformation to the roadway surface, or anything adjacent to the guardrail or fences. He thinks the main interruption will be turning vehicles around that come in through the Cherry Hills gate on the north side of Belleview.

Ms. Gallagher asked if there is a timeframe established for the construction.

Mr. Berninzoni responded that there is no timeframe in place at this time.

Mr. Carmann added that the equipment being used for this construction project will be smaller such as the size of a Bobcat.

Ms. Gallagher confirmed that Mr. Carmann will be available at the January 14, 2010 meeting to present the project to the public in more detail.

Ms. Gallagher asked if the City has put any money aside for this project.

Mr. Berninzoni responded that the City has set aside \$100,000.00 in 2010.

Mr. Callison asked Mr. Berninzoni if he has heard any feedback from residents that may have issues with the project.

Mr. Berninzoni responded that there has been some opposition to the project from residents on the north side of Little Dry Creek.

City Council Report

Councilmember VanderWerf commented that whenever there is public input regarding trails and parks, people often say that we need to connect beyond our borders and this project will accomplish that. She went on to commend everyone who worked on the Tree Lighting event.

Councilmember VanderWerf reported that Norris Design presented their final design for John Meade Park and the Village Center buildings at the recent City Council meeting. She reported that they are responsive to the need for a central park and a place for the community to gather and they are also working on the wetlands area. A public hearing is scheduled for January 19, 2010.

Councilmember VanderWerf gave an update on the Highline Canal project and she believes that Arapahoe County recently placed an ad for a facilitator for the project so it seems that they are moving forward.

Councilmember VanderWerf announced that City Council has passed the 2010 budget.

New Business

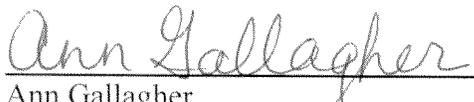
Mr. Berninzoni announced that Mr. Jim Muhm, a pioneer to the Cherry Hills Village trail system has passed away.

Ms. Gallagher proposed that the PTRC December meetings either be canceled or moved to another time since the Commission tends to have little business to discuss at that time.

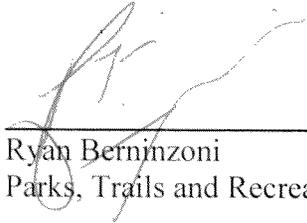
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm

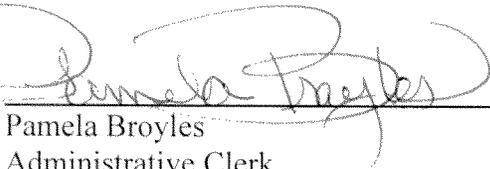
The next scheduled meeting is January 14, 2010



Ann Gallagher
Vice Committee Chairperson



Ryan Berninzoni
Parks, Trails and Recreation Administrator



Pamela Broyles
Administrative Clerk