

Minutes of the Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission
City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
Thursday, February 11, 2010
at the Village Center

Commission members in attendance: Jane Soderberg, Ann Gallagher, Jim Fairbairn, Jeff Ferrell, Karen Barsch, Katy Brown and Councilmember Klasina VanderWerf.
Employees present: Ryan Berninzoni - Parks Trails and Recreation Administrator, Bill Bauer - Parks Crew Chief and Pamela Broyles - Administrative Assistant.

Absent: William Callison

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 14, 2010 MINUTES

Ms. Katy Brown moved to approve the January 14, 2010 minutes with the approved corrections. Ms. Ann Gallagher seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF LUCINDA GREENE AS EQUESTRIAN LIAISON

The presentation by Ms. Lucinda Greene was rescheduled for the March 2010 meeting.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

No audience participation.

DISCUSSION OF DOGS OFF LEASH AT WOODIE HOLLOW PARK

Ms. Soderberg introduced the City's Animal Control Officer Michelle Edwardson.

Ms. Edwardson addressed the Commission and encouraged members to ask questions regarding their concerns with the dogs off leash issue.

Ms. Soderberg stated that based on discussions at the previous PTRC meeting the number one issue for the Commission is the enforcement of the leash law. Ms. Soderberg asked Ms. Edwardson if there are trouble spots and if she feels there is adequate signage in the Village to enforce the leash law.

Ms. Edwardson responded that the biggest obstacle with the leash law in 2009 was at Kent Denver School and transitioning to the enforcement of the leash law. As a whole, she believes that the City has a good handle on the leash law and rarely receives complaints. She noted that all Cities have to deal with dogs off leash because there is not enough enforcement to catch every offender. She added that although she is the only Animal Control Officer for the City, the Patrol Officers and Code Enforcement Officers also issue citations for dogs off leash, which provides more enforcement for Cherry Hills Village compared to Cities of similar size.

Ms. Brown asked what the average ticket count is for the City.

Ms. Edwardson responded that 77 tickets were issued in 2009 for "Dogs off leash" and "Control of dogs." Control of dogs includes dogs running at large and off leash.

Ms. Barsch asked how many calls are received by the City with complaints of dogs off leash.

Ms. Edwardson responded that she keeps a log of all the phone calls she receives and in 2009 she received a total of five calls.

Ms. Brown asked if any of the citations that were issued were considered dangerous situations.

Ms. Edwardson responded that the majority were from dogs off leash. She explained that an aggressive dog citation is separate from a dog off leash citation.

Mr. Fairbairn asked how many residents have called to complain about dogs off leash in the Woodie Hollow Park area.

Ms. Edwardson responded that four out of the five complaints received in 2009 were from the Woodie Hollow Park area and from the same person. Ms. Edwardson noted that this total does not include calls that may have been made to Police Officers and Code Enforcement Officers. Ms. Edwardson also noted that she did not include the calls she received for dogs at large.

Mr. Fairbairn asked Ms. Edwardson if she believes the Woodie Hollow Park area is considered a dog park area.

Ms. Edwardson responded that in the past the Woodie Hollow Park area was more abused and she received more complaints right after the City enacted the leash law. She added that since this issue was recently brought up she has been spending more time in the Woodie Hollow Park area and has only witnessed one or two people and their dogs were on a leash. She stated that in general she does not believe that people use or abuse Woodie Hollow Park more than anywhere else in the City.

Ms. Edwardson outlined the ticket process for dogs off leash:

- First violation generally starts with a \$50.00 fine.
- Second violation is a \$75.00 to \$80.00 fine.
- Third violation is a mandatory court appearance.

Ms. Soderberg asked if all the trailheads are marked with signs regarding the City's leash law.

Ms. Edwardson responded that there are a couple of spots they are still working on, but most people know that the City of Cherry Hills Village enforces the leash law.

The Commission recommended that residents be informed of the leash law when they register their dogs.

Mr. Ferrell asked if the complaints are about one dog or several dogs running loose at the same time.

Ms. Edwardson responded that it is usually one person with either one or two dogs. She reported that she has never witnessed a group of people with dogs off leash.

Ms. Edwardson informed the Commission that she will increase patrol at Woodie Hollow Park during the summer. She noted that Three Pond Park, Woodie Hollow Park and Kent Denver are the target areas.

The Commission thanked Ms. Edwardson for coming and moved forward with general discussion to address the concerns of residents on the leash law issue. It was noted that Jay Goldie, Director of Public works, has addressed the fence issue and Mr. Berninzoni informed the Commission that a proposed fence was included in the Arapahoe County Grant Application.

The Commission recommended that a sign be posted at the proposed underpass when entering Cherry Hills Village so people are aware of the City's enforcement of no dogs off leash and to place notices in the Village Crier and on the City's website.

SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS

a. SUMMARY SHEET REVIEW

Trail Enhancement Update - Jeff Ferrell and Jim Fairbairn

Mr. Ferrell suggested that the proposed trail project titled "St. Clair Property" should be identified as "Stanford Avenue - Lafayette to Downing" because there are four different properties involved and St. Clair was just the former owner of one parcel. He reported that Rob Zucarro, Planning Manager, provided additional research which found that the entire section of Stanford Avenue between Lafayette and Downing was vacated in 1954 by Ordinance No. 2, which was passed by the Board of Trustees (now City Council.) Accordingly, the land from Stanford Avenue was returned to the four properties, which was recorded by the County Clerk and Recorder in Book 881, page 47. Mr. Ferrell noted that the abandoned roadway is still visible and separated from the surrounding properties by fencing or vegetation. It is open to public access and appears to be used as an informal trail or walkway at present. He recommended moving forward with the proposal by initiating a conversation with the four property owners about granting an easement in order for the City to make the old Stanford Avenue an addition to the trail network and make improvements.

The Commission agreed to move forward once input was received from City Council.

Councilmember VanderWerf recommended moving forward with contacting the neighbors and said she would address City Council on the issue.

Ms. Soderberg will arrange a meeting to discuss approaching the homeowners.

Mr. Fairbairn reported that he is going to make contact with property owners on the Radcliff Trail connection to see if the project can move forward.

Incentive Program Update - Ann Gallagher

Ms. Gallagher reported that she is working on the legal wording of the incentive program. Mr. Berninzoni reported that he will do some more investigating on the legal issues.

Special Events Update - Katy Brown

Ms. Brown reported that the Special Events Subcommittee held a productive meeting with Lucinda Greene regarding the summer equestrian event. Ms. Brown recognized Ms. Greene as being very instrumental in organizing the equestrian community for the equestrian event scheduled for Saturday, June 12, 2010 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. The event will include riders starting at different locations around the City and finishing at John Meade Park where the community can enjoy activities such as equestrian demonstrations and activities for kids. The Committee is considering having drinks provided by a fundraiser and the City will provide doughnuts.

Website and Signage - Katy Brown

The Commission discussed the need for some updates in the Park's section of the City's new website. Ms. Brown volunteered to assist with the updates.

Communications/Crier Article - Ann Gallagher

There was nothing to report on this subject

General Updates - Karen Barsch

Ms. Barsch reported that she has been working with Mr. Berninzoni on plans to construct a port-a-potty in the Dahlia parking lot. Ms. Barsch referred to a picture of the proposed port-a-potty and after researching several options she is recommending that the Commission move ahead with the project and schedule a public meeting at the April 2010 PTRC meeting. Ms. Barsch communicated that the cost to clean and maintain the structure is approximately \$3,500.00 per year making it an inexpensive proposition.

Ms. Gallagher recommended sending a letter to neighbors in the area and the Arapahoe Tennis Club regarding the public meeting.

Councilmember VanderWerf recommended that the letter also be sent to Cat Anderson who is in favor of the project.

Ms. Soderberg confirmed that the PTRC will make a recommendation to City Council after the public meeting.

b. PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ENHANCEMENTDiscussion on a possible playground structure at Dahlia Hollow Park

Mr. Berninzoni reported that in 2009 the PTRC decided to move forward with a public meeting to determine if there is interest in adding a play structure at Dahlia Hollow Park. Mr. Berninzoni provided a sample letter and a map showing the addresses that will receive the letter informing them of the public meeting scheduled for March 11, 2010.

Mr. Berninzoni stated that he has received a large amount of literature on possible play structures for the park and asked the Commission for direction and a general description of what is needed or wanted in the park so he can narrow the search before the public meeting.

Ms. Barsch asked what the budget amount is for the play structure.

Mr. Berninzoni responded that \$15,000 has been budgeted for the play structure.

Mr. Ferrell asked what the ground structure is like in the park and will it need to be leveled.

Mr. Berninzoni responded that there are a couple of options to consider such as, one large play structure or a structure that is spread out into different sections.

Mr. Ferrell recommended that a possible site for the play structure be picked prior to the public meeting since residents will probably ask that question.

Mr. Berninzoni responded that there are three possible spots where the play structure could be placed. His plan is to provide an aerial photo of the park showing the three possible sites and then let the community decide the best location.

Ms. Brown pointed out that public input will provide a general feeling of whether they want a play structure and whether they would use the play structure. She added that if there is interest then discussion can move forward as to what the community wants.

Mr. Fairbairn introduced the idea of building the play structure on the slope similar to a park in Vail so it is less visible and would have less impact on neighbors. He noted that this would also allow the structure to be more spread out so kids could run around. Mr. Fairbairn suggested that the structure be a rustic natural play area that will keep with the rural setting in the Village and not a brightly colored structure that would stand out. He also suggested that the structure focus on different age groups.

Ms. Brown suggested that the letter to residents include why Dahlia Hollow Park was chosen and the positive impact the park could have on the community.

The Commission discussed possible ideas for the play structure and possible locations keeping in mind that there is a trail that runs through the center of the park.

Ms. Barsch cautioned against building a play structure that people are so drawn to that they want to drive to it. She suggested focusing on a structure that meets the needs of the community.

Mr. Berninzoni noted that the play structure will be limited based on budget, but said the project could possibly be funded through a grant opportunity.

The Commission emphasized that the public meeting will be informative only to determine the needs and wants of the community and possible sites and structures. No decisions will be made at the public meeting.

REPORTS

Belleview Underpass Update

Mr. Berninzoni reported that at the January 19, 2010 City Council meeting, Council directed staff to move forward with applying for the 2010 Arapahoe County Grant. He informed the Commission that the awarding of the grant is generally announced the second week of June. Mr. Berninzoni reviewed the projected timeline for the project that was completed by the City Engineer. The timeline describes what will happen if the City receives the grant and if the project moves forward. Mr. Berninzoni asserted that no money will be spent and nothing will be done without City Council's support and approval. Mr. Berninzoni also stated that before moving forward with the planning and design of the underpass the PTRC will hold another public meeting to share ideas for the trail and tunnel. Mr. Berninzoni noted that he has received approximately 25-30 support letters for the underpass with a majority of the letters coming from the equestrian community.

Fence Donation at Annex Park

Mr. Berninzoni provided pictures of a wall structure that would adjoin the fence that Mr. Keller is proposing to build along Hampden Avenue. He stated that he believes the fence is a great idea, but the concern is whether the City wants a fence that is going to last 10-15 years or do they want to put a more permanent structure like a wall that will last 30 years. Mr. Berninzoni believes that after looking at the wall, the best option would be a replica of what is already there. He stressed that it is important that the Commission make the right recommendation based on the long term.

Mr. Keller noted that it is apparent that the wall Mr. Berninzoni is referring to is moving due to a lot of clay in the ground. Mr. Keller reported that he has talked to four of the eight neighbors and they were all positive about the proposed fence with the only concern being the long term maintenance of the fence. He said the overall consensus is that a fence for 20 years is better than no fence at all. Mr. Keller informed the Commission that he has budgeted approximately \$25-\$28 per linear foot for a fence and suggested that if a permanent structure like the wall is preferred then maybe the City or the neighbors would consider investing money to upgrade.

The Commission asked Mr. Keller to consider a more permanent structure and cautioned that they need to think about a long term solution and take it slowly. Mr. Berninzoni will forward the letters from neighbors to Commission members.

Jim Muhm Dedication

The Commission discussed possibilities for the Jim Muhm dedication such as, planting a tree in his honor, placing a boulder with a plaque in his name or adding a sentence on the trail map when it is reprinted stating, "This map was created by Jim Muhm in 2001." Commission members favored the idea of placing a boulder with a plaque in Blackmer Common and planting a tree that would shade the bench that is currently there.

Mr. Berninzoni will write a proposal for the Jim Muhm dedication for the next meeting that the Commission can approve. The Commission will then forward the recommendation to City Council for final approval.

New Business

Mr. Berninzoni reported that he will schedule a presentation by Mr. Bob Searns to review the results of the Little Dry Creek project. He reported that Mr. Searns is in the process of finalizing the information he has gathered.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that he will also schedule a presentation by Bill Bauer, Parks Crew Chief, to go over the plans and goals of the Parks Department.

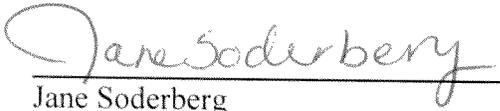
City Council Report

Councilmember VanderWerf reported that Urban Drainage is in the process of thinning out vegetation near the Cherry Hills Elementary School and Dahlia Hollow and she suggested that the Commission consider replanting something for habitat.

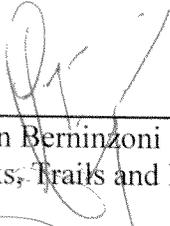
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

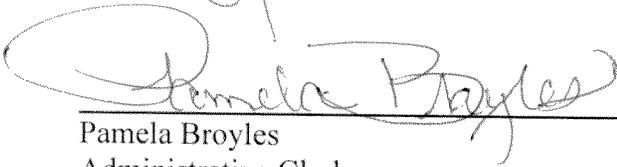
The next scheduled PTRC meeting is March 11, 2010



Jane Soderberg
Committee Chairperson



Ryan Berninzi
Parks, Trails and Recreation Administrator



Pamela Broyles
Administrative Clerk