

Minutes of the Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission
City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
Thursday, October 14, 2010
at the Village Center

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

Absent: Katy Brown, Councilmember Klasina VanderWerf

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2010 MINUTES

Ms. Karen Barsch moved to approve the September 9, 2010 minutes. Mr. Jeff Ferrell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was no audience participation.

SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS

a. Summary Sheet

Trail Enhancement Update

Mr. Ferrell reported that the Trail Enhancement Subcommittee met on October 6, 2010 at the Village Center with Jane Soderberg, Ryan Berninzoni, Rob Zuccaro, Klasina VanderWerf and himself. The subcommittee discussed the vacated Stanford Avenue roadway and some ideas about securing permission from current property owners to add the Stanford Avenue roadway as an addition to the Cherry Hills Village trail network. He stated that the committee discussed current usage of the vacated roadway by the public as an informal trail and also the usage by current residents for access. The committee also discussed existing easements such as water and sewer, zoning, building code issues to include setbacks, alternatives for a proposed trail, liability issues for the City and the desires of current property owners and neighbors as the committee currently understands them. The consensus of the committee was to approach the four property owners about a possible easement by drafting a letter approved by the City Attorney. The committee will then initiate a conversation with the property owners.

Special Events Update

The Special Events Committee continues to plan for the 2010 Holiday Tree Lighting event on December 3, 2010. Staff will contact Kent Denver School to see if a choir is available to sing holiday music during the event.

City staff will mail a letter to Ms. Theresa Gilpatrick regarding the proposed car show.

Website and Signage

There was nothing to report on this subject.

Communications/Crier Article - Ann Gallagher

An article will appear in the Crier regarding the Holiday Tree Lighting event.

General Updates

Ms. Soderberg reported that a subcommittee met regarding the resurrection of the conservation easement discussions. The committee is currently reviewing background information and will do additional research before making a recommendation to City Council. If approved, the PTRC will have the information reviewed by an attorney.

b. Parks, Trails and Recreation EnhancementDiscussions on Improvements at Dahlia Hollow Park

Mr. Berninzoni presented a proposal for playground equipment at Dahlia Hollow Park. The proposal included pictures and costs of different sized climbing rocks. Mr. Berninzoni also provided a sample of what the proposed rock is made of. The cost of the climbing rock does not include shipping and Mr. Berninzoni will establish the cost for shipping once the Commission chooses which rock they are interested in. Mr. Berninzoni reported that he measured the area at Dahlia Hollow Park where the playground equipment will be installed and it is 43' x 43' limiting the amount of equipment that can be placed in the area. Mr. Berninzoni recommended holding a public input meeting at the January 13, 2011 PTRC meeting if the Commission chooses to move forward with the improvements.

Mr. Ferrell pointed out that there is a large vacant lot that borders Dahlia Hollow Park to the south with no identifiable boundary between the park and the vacant lot. He suggested adding a split rail fence to make the park look more attractive and to separate the homeowner's lot from the park, which also addresses some of the concerns of the homeowner. Mr. Ferrell will make initial contact with the homeowner to present the proposal before the public input meeting.

The Commission discussed several options and agreed that the six foot boulder would fit in the proposed area, but the concern is that it does not accommodate children under five years old.

Mr. Callison suggested adding a small climbing rock that would fit nicely in the space and the two climbing rocks would then accommodate all age groups.

Mr. Berninzoni will research the cost for the six foot rock, a small rock for children under five years of age, a split rail fence and one bench to include shipping costs. He will put together a packet for the November PTRC meeting.

Ms. Soderberg suggested adding a schematic of the park proposal with the letter that is being mailed to residents regarding the public input meeting.

The Commission also discussed budgeting extra money in 2011 to add park improvements at John Meade Park and possibly apply for a grant.

REPORTSUpdate on Portable Restroom

Ms. Barsch reported that she met with a concerned resident who is upset about the portable restroom that was approved for Three Pond Park. The resident expressed three things that would address his concerns:

1. He asked that the City wait until the leaves fall to ensure that the portable restroom will not be in his view.
2. He would like to move the portable restroom to the east as his biggest concern is the increased traffic from runners, construction workers, etc.
3. He would like "No Parking" signs added on Colorado Boulevard.

Ms. Barsch reported that she will keep in contact with the concerned resident.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that "No Parking" signs have already been added on Colorado Boulevard.

Ms. Soderberg thanked Ms. Barsch for her professional handling of the situation.

Update on 2011 PTRC Priorities and Projects

Mr. Berninzoni reported that he included a list of the priorities and projects for 2011 in the PTRC packets. He said the Commission seems to be in agreement with the goals for 2011 and the list needs to be presented to City Council next month.

Ms. Soderberg suggested moving forward with the next phase of the Little Dry Creek study. She believes it is important that the information be presented to the neighbors so they can ask questions and determine whether to move forward since the City has no control over the Little Dry Creek property. She stated that she does not want the information from the initial study sitting in a file and not being used.

Mr. Callison stated that the funds used for the initial study was money well spent and was not wasted even if the Commission chooses not to move forward with the next phase. He noted that the study determined that there is a large amount of private property and not much City property. He encouraged the Commission to minimize spending and make decisions in chunks rather than going to the next step right now when the money that was budgeted could be used somewhere else.

Ms. Barsch questioned if the Commission could send a letter to the affected homeowners informing them that the City has information on the Little Dry Creek study if they are interested.

Ms. Soderberg stated that there is specific information on each property that she believes needs to be in the homeowners hands and because the information is so in depth and complex it would be better if the information is presented by Bob Searns.

The Commission discussed whether to allocate money to the 2011 budget for the proposed Stanford Trail.

Mr. Berninzoni recommended that when the Commission is ready to move forward with the Stanford Trail they can approach City Council for funding.

Ms. Soderberg addressed Open Space Acquisition and stated that City Council will not appropriate any money to the Cat Anderson fund in 2011 and it has fallen on the PTRC to take action to fund this account. She stressed the importance of the fund and that it is part of the Master Plan to enhance open space.

The Commission discussed the option of allocating money as a budget expense for the Cat Anderson fund and whether they need to provide something specific for the money to be used.

Mr. Berninzoni responded that the City is currently facing a deficit in the 2011 budget and City Council is being cautious with the budget right now.

Mr. Callison recommended that the Commission leave it alone for a year because current finances are difficult.

Ms. Soderberg responded that the funding is important and part of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission's mission. She suggested that when presenting the budget to City Council it is important to address the issue that no money is going into the Cat Anderson fund.

Mr. Callison suggested that there should be a statement from the Commission that it is important to allocate money to the Cat Anderson Fund at some point, but not at this time.

Recreation Reimbursement Update

Mr. Berninzoni reported that City staff has restructured the Recreation Reimbursement program to assist staff with processing the reimbursements and to make it easier for residents to understand the program. The changes will go into affect starting January 2011 and the City will post changes in the Crier and on the website.

The Commission supported the recommended changes.

New Business

Ms. Soderberg stated for the record that if special events are held on Public Park property there is an application that needs to be completed and it needs to go before the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission. She said it is important that protocol be followed.

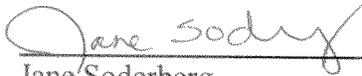
City Council Report

There was nothing to report on this subject

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

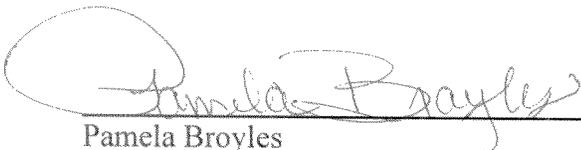
The next scheduled PTRC meeting is November 11, 2010



Jane Soderberg
Committee Chairperson



Ryan Berninzoni
Parks, Trails and Recreation Administrator



Pamela Broyles
Administrative Clerk