

Minutes of the Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission  
City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado  
Thursday, September 8, 2011  
at the Village Center

Commission members in attendance: Jane Soderberg, Katy Brown, William Callison, Bill Lucas, Councilmember Klasina VanderWerf. Employees present: Ryan Berninzoni, Parks, Trails and Recreation Administrator, Bill Bauer, Parks Crew Chief and Pamela Broyles, Administrative Assistant.

Absent: Jim Fairbairn, Jeffrey Ferrell, Karen Barsch

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Jane Soderberg called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 11, 2011 MINUTES**

Ms. Katy Brown moved to approve the August 11, 2011 minutes as presented. Mr. Bill Callison seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was no audience participation.

**SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS**

**a. Summary Sheet**

Trail Enhancement Update

Mr. Berninzoni reported that a survey of the Stanford Avenue roadway was completed. The next step is to set up a meeting with the McQuaids to get a consensus of what they would like the trail to look like. Mr. Berninzoni reported that once they finalize a plan they will have the City Attorney draft a Trail Agreement to present to the homeowner.

Ms. Soderberg reported that Mr. Ferrell asked her to contact Councilman Roswell to alert him of the development of the Stanford Trail. Councilman Roswell was aware and supportive of the project. Ms. Soderberg would also like for the Commission to re-contact the neighbors within two years.

Special Events Update

Ms. Brown reported that the movie night in August was a success. The Special Events Committee held a meeting to discuss the car show and whether there was enough time to plan the event for this year. The Commission discussed the options and decided to postpone the event until next year to allow more time for planning.

Website and Signage

There was nothing to report on this subject.

Communications/Crier Article

Ms. Soderberg provided Mr. Callison with some trail articles to assist with writing articles for the Crier.

General Updates

Ms. Soderberg reported that the Inventory Committee recently met and Ms. Barsch presented some potential properties that the Land Preserve and the High Line Canal Working Group indicated might be of interest. More information was needed and Ms. Barsch will come back with more details and property information. The Committee also discussed the possibility of acquiring property and looked into some financing options.

**b. Parks, Trails and Recreation Enhancement****(i) Discussion on 2012 PTRC Projects and Priorities**

Mr. Berninzoni reported that each year the PTRC meets to list ideas and projects for the upcoming year. Mr. Berninzoni asked Commission members to list their top projects and priorities for 2012. He indicated that there is no guarantee that all projects will be accomplished, but the Commission can discuss them to determine if they are feasible.

Mr. Berninzoni presented his priorities for the Parks Department in 2012 and stated that Staff's main goal is maintenance and making improvements. Maintenance projects will include tree maintenance, tree watering, written guidelines and policies for tree maintenance, trail maintenance and trail repair. Staff will start by identifying the top 5 trails in need of repair. The Parks Department will also continue with entry features within the City to include Clarkson and Quincy and Colorado and Hampden. Lastly, Mr. Berninzoni will continue to focus on improving special events to include the summer movie night and holiday party and any new events that might be added.

Commission ReportsBill Lucas

Mr. Lucas reported that he understands the maintenance priorities and he has seen where other municipalities have taken shortcuts and paid for it in the long term. He indicated that there are some properties that he toured and he questions whether an acquisition would be of benefit.

Mr. Berninzoni asked if there were any specific maintenance issues that Mr. Lucas would like addressed.

Mr. Lucas said that he would like to see some improvements to the landscape on the south side of Quincy Avenue. He said at times it is gravelly and there are blind spots making it difficult for runners and bikers. He would like to see a hedge or something that would give a sense of separation from the street.

Mr. Lucas also commented on the Stanford Avenue Trail and he will contact Commissioner Jeff Ferrell to see if he can be of assistance as the trail easement moves forward.

Bill Callison

Mr. Callison reported the following list of priorities:

1. Tree planting (variety of species)
2. Possible improvements and play rocks in Woodie Hollow Park
3. Landscape improvements along Quincy Avenue to make it visually more appealing

Mr. Callison also indicated that he would like to see more improvements along trails and parks within the City and not as much focus on the entry features.

Katy Brown

Ms. Brown suggested that an inventory system could be useful in cooperation with tree trimming and maintenance and keeping records of all the different species of trees and when they are watered. She indicated it would be a lot of work initially, but it could make it easier for staff in the long run and since there is already funding available she would like the Commission to consider purchasing the system for 2012.

Ms. Brown said she has given a lot of thought to the initiatives that the Commission worked on this year for park improvements and concluded that the Commission needs to embark on these projects with a more strategic approach. She indicated that the City has parks that never get used by people partly because they do not have anything to draw people to them. Ms. Brown would like to see the Commission visit the City's parks and make notes on their strengths and weaknesses, the communities surrounding them and what are the most likely uses for those areas. She advised that the Commission needs a more strategic approach to define what they believe is in the best interest of the City. She would like to see the Commission look at park improvements overall from a much broader perspective.

Jane Soderberg

Ms. Soderberg stated that she agrees with Ms. Brown and she would like to start a park improvement enhancement committee. She believes that now is the time to focus on a strategic plan for the parks because possible funding could end after next year. She stated that she is a proponent of the John Meade Recreational Park because it is the only designated recreational park in the Village with a purpose of recreational activities.

Ms. Soderberg stated that she also agrees with moving forward on purchasing the GPS system. She would also like to see information from the Little Dry Creek (LDC) study distributed to the affected homeowners before 2012 so the Commission can take the item off of their priority list and not have to reapply for additional funds.

Ms. Soderberg concluded that she always includes Open Space Acquisition in the projects and priorities because it should be a part of the Commission's purpose and there are never any funds allocated for this purpose. She would like to see a token amount budgeted for this purpose to show the Commission's commitment to the open space program.

Mr. Berninzoni informed the Commission that he will accumulate the information and allow the members that are absent to produce their lists. Once he has the information he will formulate the top 3-4 projects and priorities and email the list to the PTRC members before presenting the list to City Council in November.

**REPORTS**Parks Division Maintenance Log

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the Annex Wall project has been cancelled. The Parks Department has two large projects they will be working on over the next couple of weeks to include the concrete replacement and restoration off of Belleview between Holly and University and the Dahlia Hollow Park improvements to include irrigation installation, fence installation and staircase restoration.

Ms. Brown asked Mr. Berninzoni if the fence installation scheduled for Dahlia Hollow Park is necessary. She is concerned that adding a fence will make the park appear smaller when it is currently wide open.

Mr. Berninzoni responded that the fence is needed to add delineation and provide a clear understanding of where the boundary is.

Ms. Soderberg added that the City is planting several trees along the fence making it look more like a park setting.

City Council Report

Councilmember VanderWerf shared information on the new Tree Ordinance that Council recently passed. She also reported that City staff will soon be paving Monroe Street and the City will acquire five paved parallel parking spaces that will be reserved for trail users.

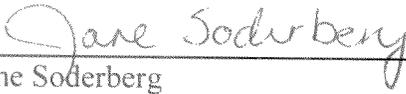
Councilmember VanderWerf noted that the Dragon's Den property in the Village is for sale and most of the property is in the floodplain limiting what can be developed.

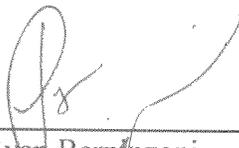
Councilmember VanderWerf concluded that City Council did pass the Bulk Plane and Floor Area Ratio Ordinance that will limit the size house that can be built depending on what zone the property is in. These changes will also limit the size wall that can be constructed depending on the setback of the property.

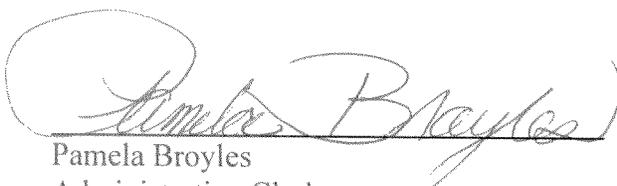
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

The next scheduled PTRC meeting is October 13, 2011.

  
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Jane Soderberg  
Committee Chairperson

  
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Ryan Berninzoni  
Parks, Trails and Recreation Administrator

  
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Pamela Broyles  
Administrative Clerk