

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission
City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
Thursday, October 13, 2011
at the Village Center

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

Absent: Bill Callison

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2011 MINUTES

Ms. Katy Brown moved to approve the September 8, 2011 minutes as presented. Mr. Jim Fairbairn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Ms. Ann Gallagher
4440 South Clarkson Street
Cherry Hills Village, CO

Ms. Gallagher addressed the Commission to voice her support of the off leash dog proposal that is being presented this evening. She believes the proposal is a good idea and encouraged the Commission to consider using any additional funds that are not needed for the licensing program to be used for open space funding.

Ms. Gallagher also thanked the Commission for their continuing efforts on the Stanford Avenue Trail project. She stated that the family who granted the easement is very happy and hopeful that their commitment will encourage other property owners to reconsider.

SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS**a. Summary Sheet****Trail Enhancement Update**

Mr. Ferrell presented maps of the vacated Stanford Avenue Trail project. He reported that the Commission's work on the project is complete and it is now in the hands of City staff to proceed with the easement that the McQuaid family has offered to the City. Mr. Ferrell referred to several meetings that have taken place over the past year with the four homeowners involved in this project.

Mr. Ferrell pointed out that the results of the survey on the Stanford Avenue Trail reflect that an easement from the Barnard family would be of no use to the City due to landscaping on the property that forms a barrier between their driveway and the old roadway. The landscaping has encroached into the vacated street and covers the entire amount of what would be an easement area. Mr. Ferrell reported that he did have a follow-up meeting with the Barnard family and they agreed to the installation of bollards along Downing Street on their side of the vacated Stanford Avenue Roadway, which will help restrict unwanted vehicle traffic. The bollards will be removable by the two property owners.

Mr. Ferrell also had a final meeting with the McQuaid family and they gave their approval to leave the easement area and street as is. Mr. Ferrell said that he met with Ryan Berninzoni at the Downing entrance, which is still torn up and muddy due to the Denver Water work that was previously completed, and Mr. Berninzoni agreed that the City could fill that area in with gravel.

Mr. Ferrell referred to meetings held over the past year with Dr. Katz and an investment partnership that includes a lawyer who responded that they are holding the property at 4525 Lafayette for investment purposes and they have no intention of granting an easement on a lot they are holding for sale. Mr. Ferrell outlined a section on the map of this property, which is the approximate location of the subdivision plan that has already been filed and accepted by the City. This was referred to as the St. Clair property and can be divided into three parcels. Mr. Ferrell stated that the Katz property is the only prospect at this point for an additional easement since it is the only property that is contiguous with the easement that the City will be receiving.

Mr. Ferrell reported that the work at Dahlia Hollow Park is complete and the new split rail fence was well received. Mr. Ferrell also had the opportunity to talk with the homeowner that lives next to the steps that were installed in the park. The homeowner suggested leaving a shoulder along the side for bikes, strollers, dogs and cross country skiers who use the trail. City staff was able to incorporate this feature. Mr. Ferrell and Ms. Barsch also had a pleasant conversation with the Klingensmith family who shared the history of how this space became Dahlia Hollow Park. They shared that before the site became a park it was used as a dump while building the Mansfield Heights Subdivision. Mr. Ferrell noted that the Klingensmith's have been irrigating and mowing the nice green area that surrounds their home.

Special Events Update

Ms. Brown reported that the next City event is the Holiday Tree Lighting scheduled for Friday, December 2, 2011. The Special Events Committee will meet to make final arrangements.

Mr. Fairbairn commented that he would like to see more lights on the tree for the tree lighting event.

Website and Signage

There was nothing to report on this subject.

Communications/Crier Article

A flyer for the upcoming Holiday Tree Lighting event is included in the Crier. Mr. Ferrell recommended adding an article on the PTRC end of year report.

General Updates

There was nothing to report on this subject.

b. Parks, Trails and Recreation Enhancement

(i) Continued discussion on 2012 PTRC Projects and Priorities

Mr. Berninzoni asked the Commission members who were not present at the last meeting to add their comments for the 2012 Projects and Priorities.

Mr. Fairbairn presented the following list:

- Planting additional trees and increase watering.
- Trail maintenance, mainly fence repair.
- Tree Inventory System.

Mr. Ferrell presented the following list:

Maintenance

- Pruning dead trees and brush on the north side of Dahlia Hollow Park and around the upper ponds in Three Pond Park.

Projects

- Support Ms. Brown's suggested Strategic Plan approach to City Parks.
- Install a picnic table at the top of Three Pond Park on the High Line Canal to enjoy mountain views.
- Since the wall at Volunteer Park (Annex) will not be built, consider placing a split rail fence along Hampden between the two existing walls subject to CDOT requirements.

Trails

- Vacate Trail 5145, which goes off of Trail 4452 from Holly towards Dahlia and south towards the High Line Canal where it dead-ends. There were possibly conversations in the past about establishing a trail easement down Tenaya Lane. Suggest initiating a conversation with the owner of the property and do some kind of exchange by vacating that old trail in exchange for a trail easement on Tenaya Lane.

Open Space

- The City owns a lot just off of Colorado Boulevard at the end of South Jackson Street that backs to the High Line and is otherwise completely inaccessible to anything or anybody. A homeowner has expressed interest in the past to purchase the property and Mr. Ferrell proposes exploring the idea of selling the property and putting the money in the Cat Anderson Fund.

Special Events

- Host a dog agility demonstration or competition in the City's horse arena.
- Place signs at Three Pond Park similar to the Botanic Garden by trees and shrubs so people can identify what is there.
- Hold an annual event to inventory birds in the area.

Ms. Barsch presented the following list:

Projects

- Continued attention to the noxious weeds, especially along the High Line and in Dahlia Hollow.
- Plant more trees.
- In support of the proposed Trail Enhancement Committee doing an evaluation of each park to enhance the use of parks.
- In support of improving the entry way at the intersection of Colorado and Hampden.

Priorities

- Amendment to the City Charter to protect open space

Mr. Ferrell asked if there is a way to communicate to residents about Russian Olive Trees and encourage them to remove the trees from their yards. He suggested an article in the Crier identifying that the trees are classified as noxious weeds and will at some point be on the mandatory removal list.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that he will email a final list of the top projects and priorities to Commission members for approval before presenting the list to City Council.

(ii) Voice and Site Control Dog Certification Discussion

Mr. Fairbairn presented a video on the voice and site control dog certification program currently in place in Boulder Colorado. Mr. Fairbairn reported that he is presenting a proposal to City Council in an attempt to pass a certification program in the Village to allow dogs off leash. Mr. Fairbairn described the certification process to include; licensing each dog and passing a certification test given by a professional trainer hired by the City. If the dog passes the test then the person would be required to pay to have the dog certified. Mr. Fairbairn proposed that the income generated through the licensing, testing and certification process could be used for proper signage and education and any additional funds could be used for open space or park and trail improvements. Mr. Fairbairn noted that the most important thing is that people who have a certified dog will have a well behaved dog.

Mr. Ferrell asked if there is a specific area or park in mind for the dogs to be off leash.

Mr. Fairbairn responded that he has not determined an area yet, but he wants to stay away from dog parks. He stated that people are already letting their dogs off leash and they are not necessarily well behaved dogs.

Mr. Lucas asked if there is a demand for dogs off leash in the community.

Mr. Fairbairn responded that although he does not have a percentage he believes there is a demand. He stated that the dog trainer that he has been working with has a lot of clients in Cherry Hills Village who have expressed an interested.

Ms. Brown commented that there are a lot of people who walk their dogs off leash who would probably comply with this program. She stated that this may be an opportunity to help set some guidelines of what is expected and address the message from residents who want a more open rural feel. She also agreed that this could be an opportunity to generate some income to make the trails more dog friendly by having more dispensers and trash cans. She asked whether you would need to be a resident to be certified.

Mr. Fairbairn responded that he believes you should have to be a resident to qualify for certification.

Mr. Lucas asked how the City would enforce allowing residents only to be certified when they approach non-residents with their dogs off leash.

Mr. Fairbairn responded through education and proper signage that states dogs must be leashed unless certified by Cherry Hills Village.

Mr. Lucas asked who would police the program.

Mr. Fairbairn responded that Code Enforcement, the Police Department and Animal Control will enforce the program.

Mr. Lucas asked if the Police Department and Animal Control are endorsing the program.

Mr. Fairbairn responded that he has been in contact with the City's Animal Control Officer and he is not for or against the program and said he would do whatever the City requests.

Ms. Barsch cautioned that the City does not have a large staff to enforce it.

Mr. Lucas commented that his concern is whether this is what the greater community wants. He said he has wonderful well trained hunting dogs, but they are not always perfect and what happens if there is an unintended consequence. He said he is also concerned that the City could have the same problems that Kent Denver recently experienced by allowing a few dogs off leash and it got out of hand. He cautioned that by trying to do something good it could attract people from all over the central area.

Ms. Soderberg stated that it has to be in a designated area in order to be controlled by Police. She said there are bikers, equestrians, runners and walkers along the High Line Canal, which would make it hard to enforce.

The Commission agreed that the High Line Canal would not be a good place to allow dogs off leash and it should only be on trails that are less used.

Ms. Brown suggested contacting Boulder to request data about how many tickets they issue, how many people they have policing their program and how they handle any unintended consequences.

Mr. Fairbairn stated that he talked with Lucinda Greene who is part of the equestrian community and she said the horse community is in favor of the program.

Mr. Ferrell asked how much money people would be willing to pay to certify their dog.

Mr. Fairbairn estimated that only about 20% of residents register their dogs with the City and that number could increase with this program. He also talked with a trainer who has several Cherry Hills Village residents in his program and they are willing to pay for certification. Mr. Fairbairn stated that Cherry Hills Village would get a percentage of those funds.

Mr. Lucas asked if the certification would be annually.

Mr. Fairbairn responded that annually would be too often and he would recommend every five years.

REPORTS

Parks Division Maintenance Log

There was nothing to report on this subject.

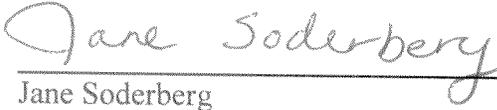
City Council Report

Councilmember VanderWerf reminded Commission members that the Arapahoe County Open Space funding is on the ballot that was recently mailed. She also mentioned that parts of the brush located at Three Pond Park are left there for habitat purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

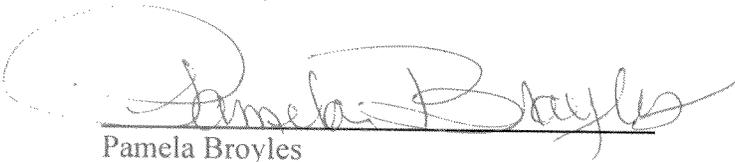
The next scheduled PTRC meeting is November 10, 2011.



Jane Soderberg
Committee Chairperson



Ryan Berninzi
Parks, Trails and Recreation Administrator



Pamela Broyles
Administrative Clerk