

Minutes of the Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission  
City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado  
Thursday, November 10, 2011  
at the Village Center

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

Absent: Jane Soderberg, Jim Fairbairn

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Katy Brown called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 13, 2011 MINUTES**

Mr. Bill Lucas moved to approve the October 13, 2011 minutes with the suggested corrections to Mr. Ferrell's report. Mr. Jeff Ferrell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Ms. Suzie Halle'

17 Random Road

Cherry Hills Village, CO

Ms. Halle' stated that she is an equestrian in the Village and she is not here to complain, but to propose a solution. She noted that the City has several bridle trails and the Village is careful to keep them safe for equestrians and pedestrians. She reported that she was riding her horse on a trail where there are no motorized vehicles allowed when she heard the loud sound of an ATV. She dismounted from her horse and was proceeding down the trail when she saw the driver of the ATV and his son. She stopped to let the ATV go down Monroe Lane and the driver stopped and said "We have to get in there." Ms. Halle' asked him if he was referring to the bridle trail and he said "Yes, we need to take some hay bails back". She indicated that they knew there are no motorized vehicles allowed on the trails, but instead of having a confrontation she proceeded down the trail. She said the ATV got on the trail a second time and bumped her off of the trail. She is concerned that they broke the law and then bullied her to get her off of the trail endangering her and her horse. She then called the Police and gave the officer her report and requested that the driver of the ATV be issued a ticket. She called the Police Department the next day and was told that the person was given a warning. She said this is upsetting to her because this person broke the law and she thought that the City had a no tolerance policy. She said she asked to speak to the Chief of Police because she believes the driver deserves a ticket and a message needs to be sent. The officer told her that the message came from the Police Chief who said that the warning was acceptable.

She is concerned that this sends a message on the part of the Village that we do have tolerance for behavior like this and the Police Department needs to understand the seriousness of the situation if a horse gets loose. She asked the PTRC to enforce a no tolerance policy and to approach the City or Police Department and state that we pride ourselves on being a rural place that accommodates horses. She asked the PTRC to revisit the warning and state that they take this offense very seriously and would like to have a ticket issued to the person on the ATV.

Mr. Callison asked Ms. Halle' if she spoke with City Council about this incident. He stated that the Police need to be able to exercise discretion on how they are going to handle a situation. He added that if it requires changing rules and regulations she needs to talk with her Council member.

Mr. Ferrell noted that by charter the PTRC can only make recommendations to City Council.

Ms. Halle' asked the Commission to make a recommendation to Council showing their support for a no tolerance policy.

Mr. Jeff Welborn  
4901 South Fairfax Street  
Cherry Hills Village, CO

Mr. Welborn stated that he is here with his wife to ask the PTRC to consider a policy to remove snow from the High Line Canal. He noted that in the past there has been concern that if the Canal is plowed it affects the people who snowshoe and cross-country ski. Mr. Welborn clarified that they are not asking for the entire width of the High Line Canal to be plowed, but to go down the trail with one blade and push the snow off to one side. He said this would allow this amenity that the Village pays for to be available to everyone year-round. Mr. Welborn explained that after a snow fall, people are immediately walking on the trail and then it freezes making it so treacherous that you can't go down the trail on a horse, and can barely walk on the trail. Mr. Welborn suggested that if the City considers plowing the trail it could enable easier maintenance to the High Line Canal. He explained that one of the problems is that water stays in pockets and creates pockets of muck. Mr. Welborn said he believes the City can accommodate all users of the Canal if they cut a small swath along the trail. He stated that they are asking for City resources, which all taxpayers contribute to, to make this amenity available to everyone in the tough months. He said he does not know what the costs are and he does not have any facts or statistics, but he is asking the PTRC to make a recommendation to staff to look into the possibility.

Mr. Callison asked how often the trail is unusable after a normal winter.

Mr. Welborn responded that the trail is down for at least a week after every snowstorm. He said the High Line Canal has beautiful trees so you get a dry patch and then a spot that is treacherous because it is shaded. He stressed that the community has worked very hard to have this amenity and they lose the use of the trail, even in a normal winter, for 3-5 days after every snowstorm.

Ms. Suzie Halle'  
17 Random Road  
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Ms. Halle' added that she is an equestrian and cross country skier and she believes plowing a path on the canal is a great idea. She agrees with leaving a section for the cross country skiers. She also indicated that a request was made to the PTRC in the past to clear the bridges of snow and ice because it is hard for horses to get over the bridges. She said the City cleared the bridges for a couple of years, but then stopped.

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

Mr. Ferrell said he has nothing new to report. He said Mr. Berninzoni will make a photo presentation at the next meeting showing the work staff did at Dahlia Hollow Park.

Special Events Update

Ms. Brown reported that the Special Events Committee recently met and the Holiday Tree Lighting event is scheduled for December 2, 2011. The Committee decided not to reschedule the equestrian event after having to cancel for two consecutive years. She said the Committee will start working on the car show in January and there is a car dealership that has expressed a lot of interest in helping with the event and providing cars. The Committee will also pursue getting cars from the community.

Website and Signage

There was nothing to report on this subject.

Communications/Crier Article

There was nothing to report on this subject.

General Updates

There was nothing to report on this subject.

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

Mr. Berninzoni presented the final report for the 2012 projects and priorities. He said there were a number of quality suggestions made and those suggestions are included in the list. He did not make a detailed list because many of the smaller suggestions can be accomplished in house by the Parks staff. He said the plan is for Jane Soderberg to present the list to City Council on December 13, 2011.

Ms. Brown asked how the budget items for 2012 compare to the previous year.

Mr. Berninzoni responded that the amount budgeted for Special Events will remain the same. He said the funds for tree maintenance come out of Fund 30, and he cut that fund by \$14,000.00 due to budget restrictions. He noted that since he has been with the Parks Department they have never used the amount budgeted for tree maintenance.

**(ii) 4460 S. Downing Trail Easement Donation**

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the City Attorney and the McQuaid family approved the agreement for the trail easement at 4460 S. Downing this morning. Mr. Berninzoni will present the agreement for a trail easement donation to City Council on December 13, 2011.

Mr. Callison expressed concern that since the trail does not go all the way through, is the City creating a path for people to trespass on private property. He suggested not putting signage that would attract people to the trail.

Mr. Berninzoni stated that he believes the liability issue has been addressed. He said they are not going to make any changes to the trail, but there will be bollard trail markers placed at the end of the trail. He said the question was brought up to the City Attorney, and it was determined that if the liability presents itself the City will close the trail so nobody can use it.

Mr. Ferrell added that two of the three property owners did give verbal approval to public access on the vacated right of way. He said he does not believe the trail easement will attract any additional usage since it is mainly used by people in the neighborhood. He said this trail easement donation is an opportunity to secure the trail for public access in the hopes that the trail can be connected in the future.

MR. JEFF FERRELL MOVED TO APPROVE THE DONATION OF A TRAIL EASEMENT AT 4460 SOUTH DOWNING STREET. MS. KAREN BARSCH SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Callison stated that he liked the idea presented by Mr. Welborn to plow the High Line Canal. He said he doesn't know if it is doable, but since the City already owns the truck with the snow plow, and employs the person who drives the truck, it is worth looking into.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the City has discussed this issue in the past when it was brought to the City's attention. He said the biggest reason the City hasn't acted on it is because the cons outweigh the pros. He said both sides of the trail have an abrupt edge making it a hazardous condition for staff. Staff is also concerned that disturbing the trail could make it worse and it is not City owned property. He said there were some great points made and plowing the trail would increase the usage.

Councilmember VanderWerf asked what type of equipment the City would use to plow the trail.

Mr. Berninzoni responded that the City owns a Tool Cat that could be used.

Ms. Barsch recommended calling Greenwood Village to ask what their experience has been since they do plow the High Line Canal.

Ms. Brown said it is important to understand the parameters of when to plow the trail since it is not as high of priority as the main thoroughfares. She is also concerned that we could violate our own policy of not allowing motorized vehicles on the trail. She suggested researching what the costs and expenses would be.

Mr. Berninzoni stated that City vehicles are exempt on the trails. Mr. Berninzoni will talk with Jay Goldie about the issue and report back to the Commission at the January meeting.

#### Open space property

Mr. Lucas provided some updates to the Commission on the property referred to as the Dragon's Den. He said it is owned by the church and there is a floodplain that runs through it. He said they are asking just shy of \$3 million for the property. He had a brief discussion with the listing agent and nothing is happening on the property right now. Mr. Lucas visited the property and said it is an interesting piece that would be great for open space, or could be used by the City for storing equipment where it would be separate, but convenient.

Ms. Brown reported that this property could possibly be used for some of the items on the wish list during the Village Center discussions. She said it could be used for public meeting rooms and there is space for a lot of ideas.

Mr. Lucas suggested putting something simple like a coffee shop on the property to generate revenue and could help pay for itself.

Summary Sheet

Mr. Ferrell presented a sample of a new format he is recommending for the Summary Sheet. The new format separates the "Completed" items from the ongoing matters that the Commission is currently dealing with. The new format allows the Commission to focus on what they have on hand and the document was shortened from a legal size to 8.5 x 11 to save on paper.

The Commission liked the new format.

REPORTS

Parks Division Maintenance Log

There was nothing to report on this subject.

City Council Report

Councilmember VanderWerf asked the Commission to view the new cement pad that was placed in front of the Village Center for the first piece of art that was dedicated to the City. She said the sculpture will be dedicated on November 29, 2011 at 10:30 a.m., and a small reception will follow. The sculpture is of a pioneer woman and is referred to as "Sundown".

Councilmember VanderWerf was excited to announce that the Arapahoe County 1A issue on open space passed. She stressed how important this will be with the focus on the High Line Canal and open space. She said this could be one way to fund two properties on the High Line Canal.

Councilmember VanderWerf noted that Councilmember Alex Brown has expressed interest in the Dragon's Den property and is looking into possibly budgeting for a consultant to look at the property.

ADJOURNMENT

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

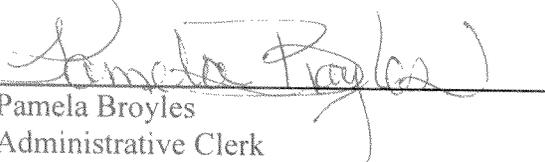
The next scheduled PTRC meeting is January 12, 2012.



Jane Soderberg  
Committee Chairperson



Ryan Berninzoni  
Parks, Trails and Recreation Administrator



Pamela Broyles  
Administrative Clerk