

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission
City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
Thursday, January 12, 2012
at the Village Center

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

Absent: James Fairbairn

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Jane Soderberg called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 10, 2011 MINUTES

Ms. Katy Brown moved to approve the November 10, 2011 minutes with the suggested corrections to Mr. Ferrell's report. Mr. Bill Lucas 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 the Stanford trail donation was presented to City Council on December 13 2011 and City Council approved the donation. Mr. Berninzoni stated that the goal now is to re-grade the entrance to the trail and install new bollards.

Special Events Update

Ms. Brown reported that the 2011 Holiday Tree Lighting event was successful with lots of activities to include hayrides, reindeer, tree lighting, carolers and Santa. The next event will be Movie Night in the Park. The Special Events Commission will meet in February to begin planning the car show event for fall.

Website and Signage

Mr. Berninzoni reported that he is working on new signage for the City parks that will be universal. He presented a sample of the new color. The new sign will have shorter legs and they will add a picture frame around the sign to provide a more rural look.

Communications/Crier Article

There was nothing to report on this subject.

General Updates

Ms. Barsch reported that City Council is considering the proposed charter amendment that would make it mandatory that any changes to the City parks would need to go before the citizens for a vote.

Councilmember VanderWerf stated that although a majority agreed with the charter amendment, there is some concern. She noted that if the City were in an economic crisis they would need to sell a park or raise taxes and this type of measure would prevent that from happening.

Ms. Barsch suggested that the PTRC should make a recommendation to City Council regarding the proposed amendment.

b. Parks, Trails and Recreation Enhancement

(i) Opening discussion on City Parks Improvement Inventory

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the Commission's number one priority for 2012 is to begin inventory of the City parks and open spaces for future planning. He would like feedback from Commission members on how they would like to address this priority.

Mr. Lucas asked if there is sufficient funding in the budget to lay the ground work for starting this project.

Mr. Berninzoni responded that City Staff will be able to do a majority of the ground work.

Ms. Brown indicated that the idea to inventory the City's parks came from research on how other communities have addressed their parks. Ms. Brown suggested contacting other communities to see if they used consultants and have the Commission develop a list of criteria to valuate the strengths and weaknesses of each park.

Ms. Barsch suggested doing a community survey to determine which parks are used and what citizens like or don't like about the parks.

Mr. Ferrell suggested that a good starting point would be for each Commission member to visit the parks and familiarize themselves so they can identify the strengths and weaknesses of each park. He suggested they pick a park each month to visit.

Ms. Brown agreed that visiting each park would be very effective and suggested adding a check list of criteria to look for. She also agreed that they should proceed with some type of survey to determine what is needed.

Ms. Soderberg recommended hiring an outside firm to conduct the survey and analyze the results.

Mr. Lucas noted that he has an acquaintance at the Greenway Foundation and asked if it would be helpful to have him attend a meeting and talk about the challenges other communities have faced and how they handled them. The Greenway Foundation visits several communities and they deal with a lot of parks people who want to enhance their parks.

The Commission agreed that it would be very helpful and asked Mr. Lucas to make arrangements to have him speak at a future meeting.

Ms. Barsch asked Mr. Berninzoni if he could provide a list of property and parcels that the City owns.

Mr. Berninzoni said he will prepare a parks inventory list and a criteria list to present to the Commission.

REPORTSUpdate on Plowing of High Line Canal Trail

Mr. Berninzoni reported that at the November 10, 2011 PTRC meeting, a resident raised the question whether the City of Cherry Hills Village should initiate snow removal operations on the High Line Canal Trail. Staff is currently in the process of contacting other jurisdictions that maintain the trail along the High Line Canal. Mr. Berninzoni did receive feedback from Denver that they do plow sections of the High Line Canal, but their section is paved. He stated that Greenwood Village does not plow the High Line Canal and as you move further south to Highlands Ranch and South Suburban they also do not plow the trail. Mr. Berninzoni recommended maintaining the trail the same way they have in the past unless they hear a lot of feedback from the community. Mr. Berninzoni discussed the options with Jay Goldie, Director of Public Works, and determined that the City could face maintenance issues by plowing the trail.

Mr. Ferrell indicated that it seems like a tremendous undertaking and a large expense.

Mr. Lucas noted that we hear a lot from the Community the philosophy that we are a rural environment and it counters that if we look at plowing the trails. He stated that he has run on the High Line Canal since the 70's and there have been days when he had to use his cross country skis, but he believes plowing the trail benefits very few people and not the community as a whole. He is concerned that it would not be a good use of resources.

Mr. Callison indicated that if the trail is not plowed on either side of the City then it seems useless for us to do it.

Parks Division Maintenance Log

There was nothing to report on this subject.

City Council Report

Councilmember VanderWerf reported that the High Line Canal Working Group submitted their "Concept Paper" to GOCO for a multi project grant request. Their grant request was chosen to move forward to the next step. Ms. VanderWerf informed Mr. Berninzoni that the High Line Canal Working Group hired a company to do a study in Aurora along the High Line Canal to inventory the trees. They looked at the condition of the trees and how mature the trees are. She suggested that when planting trees along the High Line Canal that it is important to consider replacing the Cottonwoods that are reaching the end of their life cycle and also to determine which side to plant the new trees on.

NEW BUSINESS

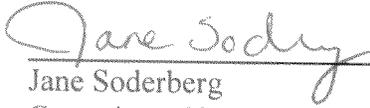
Mr. Berninzoni introduced a new tree planting program that he is implementing. The program will offer a variety of species of trees at a low cost to residents. Mr. Berninzoni is working on a proposal where citizens can purchase the trees at \$5.00 more than the City's cost and those funds will be placed in the City's Open Space Fund. The information will be posted on the City's website and in the Village Crier. The City will also start a small in-house tree nursery to be used for planting trees in the community. The trees will be available in April and depending on the interest in the program staff will order additional trees next year.

Mr. Berninzoni announced that the City will be applying for an Arapahoe County Planning Grant this year to be used for planting trees along the High Line Canal.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

The next scheduled PTRC meeting is February 9, 2012.



Jane Soderberg
Committee Chairperson



Ryan Berninzoni
Parks, Trails and Recreation Administrator



Pamela Broyles
Administrative Clerk