

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

Commission members in attendance: Jane Soderberg, Katy Brown, Jeff Welborn, Jim Fairbairn, Jeff Ferrell, Councilwoman Harriet LaMair. Employees present: Ryan Berninzoni, Parks, Trails and Recreation Administrator, Bill Bauer, Parks Crew Chief, Pamela Broyles, Administrative Assistant.

Absent: Bill Lucas, Karen Barsch

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 8, 2012 MINUTES**

Ms. Katy Brown moved to approve the March 8, 2012 minutes as corrected. Mr. Jeff Welborn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Bill Klingensmith  
4720 East Oxford Avenue  
Cherry Hills Village, CO

Mr. Klingensmith addressed the board regarding the proposed bollards to be added in Dahlia Hollow Park. He acknowledged members of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission (PTRC) for their efforts to obtain additional open space and maintaining the existing trails, streams, trees and vegetation. Mr. Klingensmith reported that he is in opposition of adding any manmade objects to the City's parks including the proposed bollards along the northwest boundary of Dahlia Hollow Park. He indicated that the bollards would detract from the natural appearance of the Park, would significantly impair the southward view from the Klingensmith and Kerr homes, would impair the northward view from the nearby trail, would be an unnecessary expense of funds and would be of little benefit.

Mr. Klingensmith shared a brief history of the Park and made reference to Mr. Allen Keesan, the landscape architect who designed the park. He stated that Mr. Keesan's plan was to create an open feeling and not add any fencing. Mr. Keesan created an area of blue grass in the park behind his home and maintained this area while he lived there. Mr. Klingensmith said that he continues to maintain this blue grass area and the adjacent stretch of Dahlia Hollow Creek. He also paid to have the streambed lined with rocks to help with erosion issues.

Mr. Klingensmith referred to a letter he received from the PTRC Chair Jane Soderberg stating that the primary goal of installing the bollards was to relieve confusion of the Park boundaries. He said he has lived there over 20 years and indicated that essentially all users of the park stay on the trail for the purpose of accessing the Highline Canal Trail and only a few leave the trail to walk on the blue grass area.

He indicated that if he and his wife decided to no longer care for the bluegrass and stream the area would fill in with high grass and cottonwood branches and the stream would erode into a gully. He said that the area would no longer be attractive and no one would use the area. Mr. Klingensmith suggested that instead of adding bollards, the PTRC should consider placing an unobtrusive map that clearly delineates the Park boundaries at each Park entrance.

Jim Manning  
4193 South Dahlia  
Cherry Hills Village, CO

Mr. Manning thanked the Commission for adding the fence in Dahlia Hollow Park near his property and stated that he appreciates the trees and improvements that the City recently completed. He asked what good could come out of putting bollards in the Park and what would it do for Cherry Hills Village. Mr. Manning indicated that by keeping the Park the way it is provides a win/win situation for the City and its residents. He stated that the City is not going to have to mow grass, add underground sprinkler systems, fertilize or pick up trash, all of which is a savings to the City. He stated that we owe the property owners a big thanks for taking care of this property for the past 25 years.

Craig Sands  
4740 E Oxford Avenue  
Cherry Hills Village, CO

Mr. Sands stated that he would like to second Mr. Manning's comments about the improvements to the Park and how nice it looks. He said his primary reason for being here is to show support for his neighbors and to ask the Commission to reconsider installing any additional bollards in the Park, or any other manmade features such as a play structure. He said that he enjoys the open space the way it is.

Tripp Kerr  
4700 E Oxford Avenue  
Cherry Hills Village, CO

Mr. Kerr reported that his family has lived in the area for 10 years and one of the reasons they bought their home was because of the view and the openness to the Highline Canal and Park. He stated that for years they have considered putting up a fence to allow their dogs to stay in and to keep the coyotes out, but they chose not to block the view and the openness. He indicated that they are going to be the most impacted by the bollards because if you are sitting on their back patio looking at the Canal, the bollards look like a jail trying to keep them out of the Park. Secondly, he believes that the delineation of the new path that was recently completed does a nice job of delineating the path. He said the trailhead and route is very clear on where you are supposed to go. He said they have witnessed a lot of people stopping along the creek, but they have never seen anybody take advantage of the small triangle space that sits behind the Klingensmith's property and there is not enough room to do anything in that space. He stated that his family is in favor of keeping the Park open and natural and they are not in favor of adding any more bollards.

Ms. Soderberg thanked everyone for coming and stated that she met with Mayor Tisdale and Councilor LaMair at the site this week. They agreed that the appropriate next step is to meet with the adjacent homeowners in a private meeting to discuss the issue and work on options for possible resolution of the issues. Councilor LaMair will contact the homeowners to set up the meeting.

#### **WELCOME COMMISSIONER JEFF WELBORN**

Ms. Soderberg welcomed Jeff Welborn to the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission.

Mr. Welborn shared that he is excited to be on the Parks and Trails Commission (PTRC) and remembers being on City Council when the PTRC was created. He feels very strongly about the importance of this group and their advisory role. He said he loves living in this Village and looks forward to finding more ways to give back to the community after all of the years he has lived here.

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

Mr. Fairbairn reported that he spoke with the neighbor on High Street and the neighbor indicated that he is still in favor of putting a trail through his property to connect High Street and Franklin. Mr. Fairbairn said he is also trying to make contact with the other neighbor involved. He believes it is still promising and he will continue to pursue this project. He said he did tell the neighbor that the City may have some funds to move some trees and add some privacy for the homeowners.

Mr. Ferrell announced that Mr. Welborn joined the Trail Enhancement Committee and his experience will be very valuable. He said they did a site inspection on Pond Road and Holly to look at the on street trail connection. There is a lot of construction in the area and they noticed some stakes that run along the north side of Pond Road that are marked with the word "easement", but they are not clear whether they represent a utility easement or the beginning of the City's easement. He stated that the City has a 20' wide bridle easement that was established when the subdivision was filed with the City. They will keep an eye on the area and at some point would like to make contact with the homeowners so there is an understanding of the public access. Another consideration would be to add a trail marker bollard on the street with a trail number as an identifier.

The Committee also visited the Stanford Avenue Trail that runs along the old Stanford Avenue from Downing Street eastward. They noted that there has been some activity on the St. Clair property, which was subdivided into three parcels many years ago. Mr. Zuccaro, the Community Development Director, told Mr. Ferrell that a plan has been filed with the City to consolidate the three parcels into two. There is also a new fence that has recently gone up that runs down the middle of Stanford Avenue. Mr. Ferrell mentioned that as previously planned they will want to resume or initiate a new conversation with Dr. Katz.

Councilor LaMair mentioned that a neighbor on the Stanford Avenue Trail is concerned that the Commission did not watch out for the community's interest a little more and asked what else could be done. She informed the neighbor that she could apply for funding through the City's Cat Anderson Fund to see if the neighbor who built the fence would consider selling that portion. Councilor LaMair noted that the PTRC would need to support this action and the value of doing this would need to be determined.

Mr. Ferrell reported that the problem with this portion of the old Stanford Avenue is that it does not meet up with the trail easement and would not be a continuous trail.

Mr. Welborn stated that he understands Mr. Ferrell's concerns, but he suggested that they might be better off to approach Dr. Katz while he is still the homeowner to pursue the easement even if the trail does not connect at this time.

Mr. Ferrell responded that he approached Dr. Katz less than a year ago about this and Dr. Katz declined. The PTRC agreed to approach him again this summer. Mr. Ferrell added that the foliage is heavily overgrown in this section and once it fills in the passage restrictions will be more apparent to the community. Mr. Ferrell also suggested that the Commission should finish their obligation on the easement they were given before moving forward. There is some grading work and an additional bollard that needs to be added.

The Trails Enhancement Committee agreed to meet and come up with a plan.

Special Events Update

Ms. Brown reported that the Commission did get a permit to use the Cherry Hills Elementary School for the car show that will be held on September 30, 2012. The Special Events Committee will meet to finalize some plans and review the registration form.

Mr. Welborn asked if the car entries are limited to residents only.

Ms. Brown responded that the Committee would like the entries to be mostly Village residents, but they realize this might not be possible the first year. She said a Ferrari dealership is very anxious to participate in the car show and they can provide all the cars needed to fill in extra space. She said the Commission will be provided with a copy of the registration form to give to interested parties.

Councilor LaMair suggested that the car show and Barn Tour could be on the same day since there will be a lot of people around the City.

Website and Signage

There was nothing to report on this subject.

Communications/Crier Article

Ms. Soderberg announced that she spoke with Commissioner Bill Lucas and he has agreed to write articles for the Village Crier. He has several good ideas and Ms. Soderberg thanked him for taking on this project.

General Updates

There was nothing to report on this subject.

**b. Parks, Trails and Recreation Enhancement**

There was nothing to report on this subject.

**REPORTS****a. Parks Division Maintenance Log**

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the Parks Staff has the irrigation systems up and running in the City. The Crew will begin mowing, weed whacking, spraying and mowing weeds and fixing fence next week. He asked that Commission members notify him if they see something that needs attention.

Mr. Welborn referred to the concern he has about weeds on private property in locations where Code Enforcement doesn't see them. He suggested that it would be helpful if staff reported weed problems that they see on private property while they are out working in the field.

Mr. Berninzoni responded that he already talked with the Crew Chief Bill Bauer about the weed issue and asked that if anyone out mowing observes weeds that are out of control to report back to the Parks Department. He also spoke with Code Enforcement Officer Chuck Friend about the noxious weeds the City needs to be concerned about. Mr. Berninzoni said that he still relies a lot on the residents to report weed issues.

b. City Council Report

Councilor LaMair reported that the gentleman who conducted a study of the Highline Canal and the tree canopy will be giving a presentation before City Council sometime within the next month. She invited the PTRC to attend the presentation adding that he will have slides and information that will be fascinating to view. She will let Ryan Berninzoni know the dates and times.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Brown addressed the Commission regarding the trail crossing lights on the Highline Canal at Quincy and Colorado. He is concerned that bike riders and equestrians have to enter the street in order to activate the lights. He said he does not have any history on accidents or collisions at the crossings, but he has been on the trails early in the morning while it is still dark and it is surprising how many people are out at that time. He said Ryan Berninzoni did some research and found some infrared equipment that could provide a good solution. This radar device can detect people in motion on the trail and trigger the lights automatically. They will put together a packet of information to present to the Commission that will include the pros and cons of the system. If the Commission supports the device he will ask the PTRC to make a recommendation to City Council. He said it is important to make sure we define the Village as a pedestrian friendly community. He believes that over time the flashing lights will alert and condition drivers, many of whom are regular users, that this is not a freeway.

Councilor Brown reported that he distributed a list of business management issues that he would like Council to present to the City Manager to pursue. He believes two of the items will be of interest to the PTRC.

First, he said City Council put money in the budget this year to do a follow-up study on the planning of the Village Center. An analysis needs to be done on spatial and operational needs of the Public Works Department. He said the City will inherit the fire house and although it is usable space, they need to determine if it make sense to incorporate this space in the long term plans. He said the study will also include the long term vision for open space in John Meade Park.

Ms. Soderberg informed Councilor Brown that the PTRC is currently working on a plan for John Meade Park to bring before City Council.

Councilor Brown noted that in the original planning of the Village Center there was a lot of effort put into how people view the John Meade site. He said there was a lot of interest in active recreation and keeping the area natural in appearance. He will look into getting a copy of that survey.

Secondly, Councilor Brown stated that we all know that open space acquisition is a top priority in the community and there has clearly been a concerted effort towards this. He has requested a study to see if more could be done by City Administration to further support the efforts to develop trails and open space. This request will involve interaction from the Parks Commission.

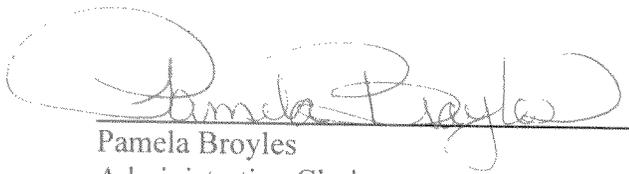
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

The next scheduled PTRC meeting is May 10, 2012.

  
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Jane Soderberg  
Committee Chairperson

  
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Ryan Berninzi  
Parks, Trails and Recreation Administrator

  
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Pamela Broyles  
Administrative Clerk