

Minutes of the Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission
City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
Thursday, May 10, 2012
at the Village Center

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

Absent: Jim Fairbairn, Jeff Ferrell

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Jane Soderberg called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 12, 2012 MINUTES

Ms. Katy Brown moved to approve the April 12, 2012 minutes as amended. Mr. Jeff Welborn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was no audience participation.

SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS

a. Summary Sheet

Trail Enhancement Update

Mr. Welborn reported that he has no further updates at this time, but he will coordinate a meeting with Mr. Ferrell and Mr. Fairbairn.

Special Events Update

Ms. Brown reported that the Special Events Committee met to discuss the upcoming car show scheduled for September 30, 2012. She will provide the Commission with a copy of the registration form to distribute to interested parties. Ms. Brown did speak with the Diecidue's auto manager about their participation in the car show and she feels confident that they are committed. She will draft a letter to Mr. Diecidue to confirm their participation.

The Committee will meet with Teresa Gilpatrick to determine a list of residents to send the registration form and letter to. The registration form will also be included in the Crier along with an article about the event.

Website and Signage

There was nothing to report on this subject.

Communications/Crier Article

Mr. Lucas will write an article for the upcoming car show and movie night.

General Updates

Ms. Barsch wrote an article for the Crier on the approved Charter Amendment that states all City Parks shall be maintained in perpetuity for public use except in the event of a vote of the electorate. The article was also posted in the Denver Hub.

The Commission discussed adding the City's trails to this Charter so the trails are also protected.

Mr. Welborn responded that at one time City Council said they needed the flexibility to move and trade trails should an opportunity for a trail connection arise.

Ms. Barsch stated that the High Line Canal Trail should be protected and proposed that the trail be added to the Charter Amendment.

Mr. Berninzoni pointed out that the Highline Canal is owned by Denver Water.

Councilor LaMair suggested that any section along the Highline Canal that is owned by the City should be added to the Charter. She stated that once those sections are determined she is willing to present an amendment before City Council.

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 crew enhanced the area around the Sundown sculpture by adding sod, plantings and lights.

b. City Council Report

Councilor LaMair reported that she met with Jane Soderberg and Mayor Tisdale at Dahlia Hollow Park to address the concerns of the neighbors over the proposed bollards that are being added in the Park. The City compromised by choosing to add bollards instead of a fence and it was determined that the bollards would be the least intrusive solution to delineate the trail. A letter was mailed to the homeowners informing them of this decision.

Councilor LaMair encouraged the Commission to look at the parks system as a whole and how they interface and what is common between them during their study of the parks. She likes the idea of having programs and activities in the parks and using the parks as a way to raise a sense of stewardship and community with environmental consciousness. She asked if the Commission has discussed Little Dry Creek.

Ms. Soderberg responded that the Parks Commission did budget a significant amount of money that was used for a study of Little Dry Creek that is posted on the City's website. She said a letter was sent to neighbors last year informing them of this study and provided information at their fingertips on ways to prevent erosion and ways to access other organizations that can help with erosion issues. Since it is private property the City did not expend any additional funding.

Councilor LaMair stated that she believes there are potential trail connections along Little Dry Creek that would allow a continuous trail experience. She said that Little Dry Creek is considered part of the South Platte Basin and is eligible for funding through Arapahoe County. She said an additional \$5 million dollars was recently put on the table for improvements to the South Platte Basin and the Commission should start thinking about what can be done along Little Dry Creek. She said there may be an opportunity to approach homeowners about trail easements in exchange for helping with the erosion issues.

Councilor LaMair stated that discussions on whether Denver Water will continue to operate the Highline Canal are becoming more serious. Arapahoe County Commissioners are meeting with Denver Water and Denver Water does not want to continue to operate the Highline Canal in the future because it is a money pit for them.

Mr. Welborn suggested that although Arapahoe County is very active, there are things that Cherry Hills Village should do to protect itself. He indicated that Cherry Hills Village has a huge investment in the Highline Canal in terms of the amount of land area involved. He proposed that the City acquire a Right of First Refusal on the portion of the Highline that goes through the Village so that if a deal does occur the Village will have to be contacted and will have a say. He suggested that the Right of First Refusal could be drafted to provide the Village with things they can enjoy such as a permanent easement and landscaping rights. This would also allow the City to be more proactive in protecting the trees by not having to wait for trees to be cut down and replanted.

Councilor LaMair agreed and said now is the time that each entity should have their say since these discussions are just beginning. She said the Highline Canal Working Group is very active and Cherry Hills Village is looked at as a very large player because of the large parcels of open space in the Village that are very attractive to Arapahoe County and their legacy.

Mr. Lucas asked for clarification on what the threat is to the Village.

Mr. Welborn responded that although we don't know what Denver Water's incentives and motivations are, we do know that it is costing them money and it is a huge potential liability. There is concern that they could give the rights to the landowners or some other entity that could do things that the Village would not like. He is also concerned that there are landowners that don't realize that Denver Water owns the Highline Canal. He said he would like the Village to have some legal rights so that no matter what they decide to do with the Highline Canal they have to come to Cherry Hills Village first.

Councilor LaMair informed the Commission that the Barn Tour party is scheduled for the evening of September 15th and the tour is scheduled for September 16th from 12-3 p.m. The event will begin at John Meade Park with the Village Club doing an equestrian demonstration. There will be lemonade stands at all the stops on the tour. Ms. LaMair reviewed the plans and route for the day. She encouraged volunteers to help with the event.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Welborn shared that he was instrumental in creating the Audience Participation period during Council meetings. He explained the reasons for adding this section to the agenda and suggested that the Audience Participation section could be moved to the end of the Parks Commission agenda instead of at the beginning. He also suggested if there is more than one person discussing the same topic that they designate one person to speak on behalf of the group.

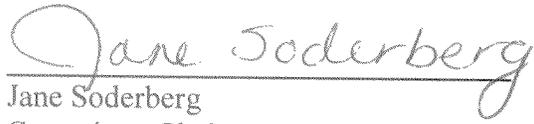
Ms. Soderberg expressed concern that in the past people are often upset and want to be heard.

Mr. Lucas suggested allowing one person to speak from each side and allowing ten minutes each.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

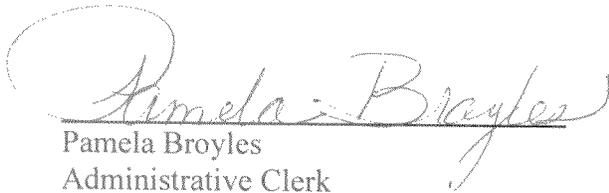
The next scheduled PTRC meeting is June 14, 2012.



Jane Soderberg
Committee Chairperson



Ryan Berninzoni
Parks, Trails and Recreation Administrator



Pamela Broyles
Administrative Clerk