

Minutes of the Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission  
City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado  
Thursday, August 9, 2012  
at the Village Center

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

Absent: Jim Fairbairn, Councilor Harriet LaMair

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Katy Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 14, 2012 MINUTES**

Mr. Bill Lucas moved to approve the June 14, 2012 minutes as presented. Ms. Karen Barsch seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was no audience participation.

**DISCUSSION AND VOTE FOR NEW CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF THE PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

Mr. Berninzoni asked for nominations for a new Chair since Jane Soderberg resigned from serving on the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission (PTRC).

Ms. Karen Barsch motioned to nominate Ms. Katy Brown as the Chair of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission. Mr. Bill Lucas seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Katy Brown accepted the nomination and agreed to serve as Chair of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission.

Ms. Katy Brown motioned to nominate Mr. Bill Lucas for the position of Vice-Chair of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission. Mr. Jeff Welborn seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Bill Lucas accepted the nomination to serve as Vice Chair of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission.

**SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS**

**a. Summary Sheet**

**Trail Enhancement Update**

Mr. Ferrell suggested that the Parks Chair or staff should send a letter to Dr. Katz regarding the Stanford Avenue Trail to try and open a door for future discussions.

Mr. Berninzoni responded that Mr. Welborn has taken the lead on this issue and will make contact with Dr. Katz.

**Special Events Update**

Ms. Brown reported that the Movie Night event is coming up on August 25<sup>th</sup> and she encouraged the Commission to attend the event.

Ms. Brown also reported that plans for the car show scheduled for September 30, 2012 are moving forward.

Website and Signage

Ms. Brown had nothing to report and suggested that this line item be removed from the agenda since City staff now manages the website and signage.

Communications/Crier Article

Mr. Lucas reported that articles were written for the upcoming movie night and car show events.

General Updates

Ms. Barsch announced that the Cherry Hills Land Preserve Barn Tour is scheduled for September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

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

**(i) Discussion on Parks Inventory and Planning project centered around City Master Plan**

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the Commission has been working on the Parks Planning and Inventory project for the past six months and he would like the Commission to determine where they want to go from here. After meeting with Mayor Tisdale in July Mr. Berninzoni feels that the Mayor would like the Commission to address this project with a focus on the master plan.

Mr. Welborn stated that he believes the master plan is vague on the Parks section and what defines a Park. He said the master plan provided some indication of how the community felt on a variety of issues, but he doesn't know if it reflects the community's sentiment now. He would like to see the Parks section of the master plan better interpreted by City Council.

Mr. Berninzoni said he believes the goal as a Commission as well as staff is to go through the master plan and use it as a guide. He said the Commission is already pursuing objectives in the master plan such as the goal to "Identify opportunities to establish new parks through land dedication, donation and acquisition."

Mr. Welborn suggested that more direction is needed so the City doesn't end up with nontaxable private enclaves with no public benefit that reduce revenue to the City and increase costs to the City through maintenance obligations.

Ms. Brown stated that based on the meeting with Mayor Tisdale she believes the Mayor was clear that the master plan is the direction the Commission needs to take. She reviewed the master plan and believes that after completing the Parks Inventory Project there are several goals in that study that the master plan supports.

Ms. Barsch suggested that the Commission should summarize their inventory list and analyze if there is anything in the master plan that precludes the concepts or ideas and determine if there are strategies that specifically support the master plan.

Ms. Brown suggested that the Commission review the inventory study through the filter of the master plan and narrow it down to three things the Commission can make progress on this year. The Commission could then present the plan to City Council.

Mr. Ferrell pointed out that part of the issue with suggesting changes to John Meade Park is to consider the future development of the Village Center. He believes there has been a lot of community input and involvement through the master plan with no consensus that any material changes are desired. He believes the Commission should focus on projects that provide a public good where everyone benefits.

Mr. Ferrell suggested that before the Commission makes any requests to City Council they need to develop a document that accurately describes each park along with a history. He would like the document to be an inventory and not a wish list. The document should include a definition of the types of parks in the City. The document should also include a listing of the actual features of the park such as, natural features, size, landscaping, existing infrastructure, uses and recreational amenities. The Commission should use the inventory process as a basis to make sure things that need to get done are done first and then things can be added later that are consistent with the master plan.

Mr. Lucas agreed with Mr. Ferrell, but he also said the focus needs to be on what the Commission has spent their time on. He believes the document should be objective and it should be easy to collect the data that the Commission has already put together. He said in looking at the big picture he would like to see the parks activated and continue with activities that bring the community together. He said in his view John Meade Park should be the center of this City.

The Commission discussed 90 Meade Lane and the need to get clarification on the purpose and goal for this property.

Ms. Brown noted that during the meeting with Mayor Tisdale he mentioned that the City of Greenwood Village just went through a process of differentiating parks from open space. She specifically asked the Mayor if this was something he would like the PTRC to undertake and he said City Council would entertain it.

Ms. Brown agreed that it is important for the Commission to have the results of their work formalized in a document that can be reproduced. Ms. Brown suggested that in order to move forward she would like each Commission member to choose three priorities to present at the next meeting. The Commission can then work to build a consensus on what they are going to focus on over the next 12 months.

Mr. Berninzoni responded that he will summarize the inventory and create a document based on the information received from the Commission. He will email a draft of the document before the next meeting.

The Commission discussed whether to include the High Line Canal in their study and the consensus was that the Canal should be included as an important amenity to the Parks system,

Mr. Welborn noted that the Village has a tremendous amount invested in the Canal and its future and it is very significant to the people in this Village. He said it is important for the Commission to know what is there, how we are using it, what the costs are to the City and what is and isn't being done.

Ms. Brown suggested that definitions of the parks might be an example of one of the priorities the Commission could bring to the next meeting. She explained that when she asks for three priorities it doesn't necessarily mean building something in a park or renovating a park, but something the Commission is going to work on over the next year.

The Commission agreed to hold a study session before the next meeting to work on the document.

(ii) Discussion on Parks “Rules and Regulation” Signs

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the Parks Department is in the process of replacing park signage including the “Rules and Regulations” sign that is located at every park and along the High Line Canal. He asked the Commission for recommended changes to the signs.

The Commission discussed making the signs more generic and removing the “Prohibited” items to make it more positive. The consensus was to contact the City’s insurance company before making any changes to make sure the City is in compliance with the recommended changes.

(iii) Update: PTRC Projects and Priorities Planning for 2013

Mr. Berninzoni reported that it is time for the Parks Commission to begin planning for the projects and priorities for 2013. The PTRC will finalize the document at the October meeting and it will be presented to City Council in November for approval.

## REPORTS

a. Parks Division Maintenance Log

There was nothing to report on this subject.

b. City Council Report

Councilor VanderWerf shared with the Commission some details from a program she attended that featured the study that was done on the High Line Canal. She said it would be beneficial to have one or two of the PTRC members as regular attendees of the High Line Canal Working Group.

Councilor VanderWerf reported that there are three parts to the study:

1. A map of the corridor.
2. Conditions along the trail relative to the tree canopy and the experience one has when using the trail.
3. Recommendations for improvements.

Councilor VanderWerf shared a few of the recommendations that were mentioned for the section of the High Line Canal in Cherry Hills Village. She said one thing the group is learning from serving on the High Line Canal Working Group is that at some point there won’t be any water coming down the High Line Canal. A big concern for the group is if there is no water what will happen to the trees along the Canal.

She mentioned two questions the Commission should ask Council as they move forward with plans for John Meade Park:

1. What are the City’s plans for 90 Meade Lane.
2. What are the City’s plans for the South Metro Fire Building.

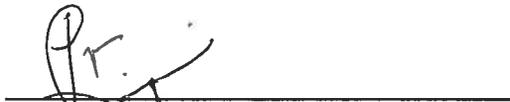
**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

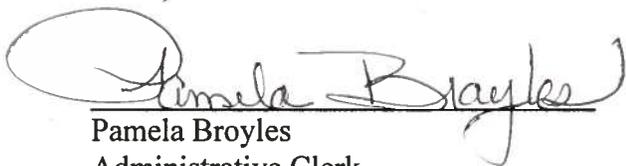
The next scheduled PTRC meeting is September 13, 2012.



Katy Brown  
Committee Chairperson



Ryan Berninzoni  
Parks, Trails and Recreation Administrator



Pamela Broyles  
Administrative Clerk