

Minutes of the Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission  
City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado  
Thursday, September 13, 2012  
at the Village Center

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

STUDY SESSION - 6:00 P.M.

The Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission met for a study session at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the PTRC Parks Improvement Inventory project.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 9, 2012 MINUTES

Ms. Karen Barsch moved to table approval of the August 9, 2012 minutes and requested that staff summarize the minutes and present them at the next meeting. 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 met with Dr. Katz regarding the Stanford Avenue Trail. He said that Dr. Katz is committed to leaving the trail open as long as he owns the property, but at this time he will not sell or give the City an easement.

Councilor LaMair suggested that the PTRC provide a report to City Council on their findings.

Mr. Welborn agreed to write a report and forward it to the PTRC for review before it is presented to City Council.

Special Events Update

Ms. Brown reported that the Movie Night was successful with a record attendance.

Ms. Barsch commented that families were having a great time. She noted that several people rode their bikes to the event and there were no bike racks. She recommended that bike racks be added to the inventory list.

Ms. Broyles commented that she was approached by several new residents to Cherry Hills Village who thanked the City for hosting the event and providing their families the opportunity to meet other families in the community.

Ms. Brown reported that the next event is the car show scheduled for September 30<sup>th</sup>. The events committee will schedule a meeting in the near future to plan upcoming events.

Communications/Crier Article

Mr. Lucas will write an article on the movie night event for the upcoming Crier.

General Updates

Ms. Barsch reported that the Barn Tour and Barn Party are scheduled for September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Brown will create a flyer with information on the upcoming car show to be distributed at the Barn Tour. Trail maps will also be distributed.

Mr. Welborn suggested that the PTRC could create something down the road similar to the trail map that identifies information and some history on each park.

**b. Parks, Trails and Recreation Enhancement**PTRC Projects and Priorities for 2012

Mr. Berninzoni requested that the PTRC start thinking about ideas and goals for the 2013 Projects and Priorities report that will be submitted to City Council.

Mr. Berninzoni provided a brief outline of the projects and priorities of the Parks Department for 2013. He reported that the largest project for 2013 will encompass the Highline Canal tree planting. He informed the Commission that the City received a Planning Grant through Arapahoe County to create a plan to plant trees and add irrigation along the Highline Canal. Mr. Berninzoni is currently working with the City Engineer and Davey Tree Company to determine where to plant trees, how many trees to plant and what kind of irrigation to install. He said they are looking at planting approximately 300 trees. The project will expand the entire length of the Highline Canal in Cherry Hills Village and Phase I will be implemented next year. The City will apply for an Arapahoe County Maintenance Grant to allow for proper funding to purchase the trees and irrigation.

Ms. Barsch asked if the irrigation will focus on trees only along the Highline Canal.

Mr. Berninzoni responded that the City will need to add two taps to run the irrigation along the entire Canal. One of the taps will be located at Three Pond Park and the current plan is to also irrigate the trees at Three Pond Park. The new irrigation will provide water to all newly planted trees along the Canal and trees that were planted within the past five years.

Mr. Welborn asked Mr. Berninzoni who is providing advice on the types of trees and watering for the project. He is concerned that the area is a semi arid environment and it is important to plant trees that can survive without being continually watered.

Mr. Berninzoni responded that the trees will be heavily watered for the first three years and will be weaned the following two years. He said the trees will still need to be watered and the water will come from Denver Water.

Mr. Berninzoni explained that the Highline Canal Working Group is working on numerous projects along the Highline Canal. The Parks Department is focusing on the 3.7 miles of Canal in Cherry Hills Village to improve the trail, the aesthetics of the Canal and the recreational amenities. His goal is to create a plan to plant trees and incorporate the study that was done by the Highline Canal Working Group.

Councilor LaMair informed the Commission that there was an engineering study done by Arapahoe County that inventoried every tree along the Highline Canal and studied how the trees receive water and what kind of trees can survive. The study listed acceptable trees to plant and unacceptable trees. The goal is to plant trees that will survive long term. She said the Highline Canal is an amenity just like the parks and without watering the new trees that are planted there may not be a canopy over the Highline Canal in the future. The City is looking at grant money to fund the project and there seems to be a lot of support for maintaining the canopy along the Highline Canal.

Mr. Welborn asked if plans include some way for the Highline Canal to be used year-round versus the summer months.

Mr. Berninzoni responded that current plans are geared towards the tree canopy only.

Mr. Welborn voiced concern that the tree canopy causes ice from November through April making it treacherous to use in winter months.

Mr. Berninzoni stated that the City is currently working in conjunction with Denver Water to find ways to preserve the tree canopy.

Mr. Lucas reported that Denver Water is concerned because water is not going to run through the Canal and the Cottonwood Trees are going to die. Denver Water is being proactive in the long term and they identified ten different tree types that are not water hogs to plant along the Canal. He said the Canal will become a year-round recreational facility. Denver Water talked about the need for irrigation in Cherry Hills Village and other community's along the Highline Canal.

Ms. Brown asked how much of the funding will be provided through grant money.

Mr. Berninzoni responded that he does not have those figures yet, but a substantial amount will come from grant money.

Councilor VanderWerf noted that portions of the Highline Canal Trail in communities that are at the tail end of not being watered have few or no trees and it looks horrible. She stated that by saving what we can and what we have now and planting new trees to replace dying trees makes this a great amenity to the community.

Mr. Berninzoni went on to report that the Park's staff maintenance goal for 2013 is to complete 3.5 miles of additional fence repairs along City Trails.

Ms. Brown asked the Commission to share what they would like the Commission to focus on over the next 12 months.

Mr. Welborn reported that he feels strongly about John Meade Park since is it the only park that is discussed in the Master Plan. He would like the Commission to determine the park boundaries and the status of 90 Meade Lane and then present a plan to City Council. Mr. Welborn would also like to adopt a clear definition of Orphan Trails and proceed with a plan to clarify ownership and budget funds for Orphan Trail objectives. His third choice is the Highline Canal and confirming the role in maintenance that Cherry Hills Village has. He would also like to include a plan for year-round public use of the Highline Canal Trail and budget funds necessary to achieve these objectives.

Mr. Lucas reported that he agrees that activation of John Meade Park is a priority. His second priority would be the Highline Canal as it has tremendous focus with the Highline Canal Working Group. His third choice is enhancing Woodie Hollow Park by adding parking and making connections to activate the park.

Mr. Ferrell reported that he also agrees that John Meade Park provides a good opportunity for the Commission to plant ground work for the future. He agrees that there may be some opportunities for the Commission to make some recommendations for improvements and enhancements at Woodie Hollow Park such as an additional crusher fine trail.

Ms. Barsch reported that her first priority is the tree planting on the Highline Canal to continue to provide shade. Her second priority is that the Commission needs to educate themselves on the Cat Anderson property. With regard to John Meade Park she believes the Commission needs to push Council regarding the property that was purchased with open space money and has now been taken out of open space. She would like clarification regarding the funds that were used and whether they are going to add the Fire Station property to open space. She would also like clarification on the plans for 90 Meade Lane.

Ms. Brown agreed that John Meade Park is a priority. Her vision of an outcome would be a formal proposal to City Council that addresses 90 Meade Lane, open space, the amenities in the park and then move forward with pursuing grants. Her vision is a vote by City Council to approve a specific plan. Her second priority is the Highline Canal. She also listed "Park Definitions" and forming some kind of agreement and framework that is consistent within the PTRC. She said she also agrees that the Commission should educate themselves on the Cat Anderson property.

Ms. Brown reported that the consensus of the PTRC is that John Meade Park is the priority followed by the Highline Canal.

The Commission discussed a third priority and agreed to set a deadline to complete the inventory recommendations. The Commission agreed that completion of the inventory is necessary to move forward.

Ms. Brown summarized the PTRC priorities as:

1. Complete the inventory project including definitions
2. Create a plan for John Meade Park
3. Highline Canal

Councilor LaMair suggested that the Parks Commission should assign a liaison to the Highline Canal Working Group to keep the PTRC informed of the details.

Ms. Brown asked if there was anything else the PTRC should be doing for the Highline Canal Working Group besides becoming more informed.

Councilor VanderWerf responded that some of the recommendations of the Highline Canal study are projects that the PTRC has been working on such as, trail connections, safety and open space acquisitions.

Ms. Brown suggested that the PTRC review the report of the Highline Canal Working Group and review and educate themselves on the specific recommendations. The Commission can then form their own recommendations related to the Highline Canal.

Mr. Welborn agreed that the Commission should increase their level of knowledge and understanding of the Highline Canal and define the Commission's role. He suggested adding the Cat Anderson property to the inventory project and obtain more facts about the property.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the City received a Planning Grant in 2011 for the Cat Anderson property to identify current amenities and to plan for the future of the property. He said all of the contractors that were involved with the study will address the PTRC to review their findings.

### REPORTS

a. Parks Division Maintenance Log

There was nothing to report on this subject.

b. City Council Report

Councilor LaMair addressed the Commission and announced that she has resigned from City Council. She stated that she has a resolution before City Council to form a task force that will include one or two people from the PTRC to study the Cat Anderson property. She said City staff has taken the responsibility of the physical needs, but there is a need to plan the management and what can and cannot be done to the property. She said there is a need for more people in the community with a strong knowledge base about the property to discuss where we want to go and make recommendations about how to best use the property for the community.

Councilor LaMair shared her suggestions with the Commission on how to preserve Cherry Hills Village:

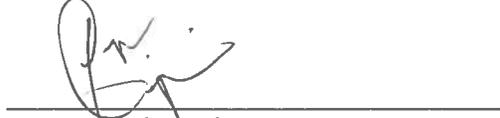
1. Make a financial commitment to preserve open space.
2. Encourage City Council to balance capital to insure equal commitment to protecting and enhancing our national lands, trails and parks. She said the Commission needs to be strong advocates for getting money into the Cat Anderson Fund.
3. Increase City Council's commitment to use capital funds for open space.
4. Capitalize on our unique system of parks and trails in ways we have not yet explored such as getting young people out to play in the parks. She suggested having teachers and educational opportunities for young and old.
5. When discussing a new City Center look at ways to build space that serves multiple purposes such as composting and recycling for residents. Keep the design rural to fit in with the community.
6. Leave a legacy for future generations.

**ADJOURNMENT**

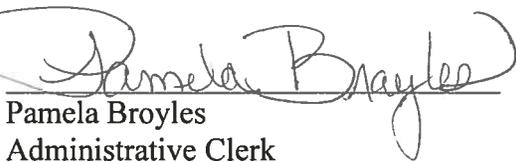
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.  
The next scheduled PTRC meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2012.



Katy Brown  
Committee Chairperson



Ryan Berninzoni  
Parks, Trails and Recreation Administrator



Pamela Broyles  
Administrative Clerk