

Minutes of the Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission
City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
Thursday, September 12, 2013
at the Village Center

Commission members in attendance: Bill Lucas, Jeff Ferrell, Karen Barsch, Robert Eber, Colleen Dougherty, Mike Gallagher, Councilor Katy Brown. Employees present: Ryan Berninzoni, Parks, Trails and Recreation Administrator, Matt Krebsbach, Parks Crew Chief, Pamela Broyles, Administrative Assistant.

Absent: Joshua DiCarlo

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bill Lucas called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

INTRODUCE MIKE GALLAGHER THE NEW PTRC MEMBER

Mr. Lucas welcomed new Commission member Mike Gallagher to the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission (PTRC). Mr. Gallagher shared that he grew up in the Village and returned to raise his children. He has used the trails for many years and is committed to maintaining and preserving the place he calls home.

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 11, 2013 MINUTES

Mr. Jeff Ferrell moved to approve the July 11, 2013 minutes as presented. Ms. Karen Barsch seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was no audience participation.

DISCUSSION ON TRAIL CROSSING DEVICE AT HIGH LINE CANAL AND QUINCY AVENUE – PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ALEX BROWN

Councilor Brown addressed the Commission regarding improvements on the crossing device on the High Line Canal Trail as it crosses Quincy Avenue. There is currently a crossing signal at this section with low utilization because of its location. Bicycles have to enter the street to activate the device causing conflict between cars and pedestrians. There is also a safety concern in that the lights cause confusion with drivers because when they don't see the lights flashing they feel they don't have to stop. Councilor Brown stated that Cherry Hills Village is an exercise friendly community and he believes the City should put a priority on pedestrians versus vehicles. He believes adding a censor with automatic lights is the best option. The device is not a large expense that would have a significant impact on the budget. Councilor Brown asked the Commission to consider additional options and make a recommendation to City Council if appropriate.

The Commission discussed a previous suggestion of adding stop signs at the crossing so motorists are required to stop at all times.

Mr. Berninzoni stated that there are issues with the stop signs in the MSDS code that enforces traffic safety. There is also concern that stop signs would cause significant backups on Quincy Avenue during busy traffic times.

Councilor Brown also cautioned that people expect to see a stop sign on a street, but not necessarily at a crossing. The censors can control when lights are in use and prevent a negative reaction from the community.

The Commission discussed adding a censor light at the crossing on Colorado Boulevard to be consistent. With censor lights at the Quincy Avenue crossing pedestrians may think they are safe and assume that censors will automatically warn traffic on Colorado. The Commission agreed that Colorado Boulevard is as much a safety concern as Quincy Avenue with the excessive speeds and lack of visibility.

The Commission discussed concerns that the parking lot near Colorado Boulevard may cause the censor lights to constantly be activated. Councilor Brown stated that the censors have a feature that only detects when someone is approaching not walking away. The sensitivity on the lights can also be programmed not to pick up small animals.

Ms. Barsch stated that she understands the reason behind not adding stop signs at the crossing on Quincy Avenue, but she believes stop signs should be added on Colorado Boulevard for safety purposes.

Councilor Brown stated that his objective is to resolve conflict, but not to have people stop every time even at night when there is no traffic. He is concerned that if people have to stop every time they will stop paying attention.

The Commission also discussed traffic diversions such as roundabouts or narrowing the street in that area to force people to slow down and pay more attention.

Mr. Lucas stated that the Commission will have discussion and take a vote at the October 2013 PTRC meeting.

DISCUSSION ON ART PIECE LOCATION – PRESENTED BY ANN POLUMBUS; CHAIR OF THE ARTS COMMISSION

Ms. Polumbus addressed the board regarding placement of a permanent sculpture by Jesse Horton that was donated to the City. The sculpture is of a beaver and the piece is called "Chainsaw." Ms. Polumbus described the sculpture as a whimsical piece that would be best placed in an area where children can play on it. She said the Art Commission would like input from the PTRC on where to put the piece. Some areas the Art Commission is considering are Dahlia Hollow Park near the bridge, John Meade Park and Woodie Hollow Park. The Art Commission would like to consider places other than John Meade Park because there are already a lot of art pieces being placed at or around the Village Center. Ms. Polumbus will forward the dimensions of the sculpture to the PTRC.

Ms. Polumbus shared that local Artist Duke Beardsley is gifting four horse paintings to be placed at the Joint Public Safety Facility building. The Art Commission will hold a dedication during the day that can be coordinated with the Cherry Hills Village Elementary School where Mr. Beardsley's children attend school. Mr. Beardsley's children and classmates will be invited to the dedication. The PTRC is also invited to attend the event.

Ms. Polumbus also shared that the Art Commission started a program where the Cherry Hills Village Elementary School, Kent Denver and St. Mary's Academy will have their art students paint a scene on a City snow plow. This is a great way to get the community involved in art.

Mr. Lucas shared that the art around the City is wonderful. He also believes that putting the sculpture next to water in a location that would offer high visibility and could possibly be used as a reference point is a great idea.

Mr. Eber suggested that the new Alan Hutto Memorial Commons is another great location to consider since it is kid oriented.

Ms. Polumbus pointed out that they are already considering other pieces of art for the Alan Hutto Memorial area.

The PTRC thanked Ms. Polumbus for coming and they will discuss options and make a recommendation at the October 2013 PTRC meeting.

MASTER PLAN DISCUSSION

Each Commission member reviewed a Parks section of the Master Plan and presented their ideas and recommended changes for each section.

Karen Barsch - "Open Areas and Scenic Treasures"

#1 Ms. Barsch does not believe that the PTRC has the authority to negotiate with land owners on land acquisitions. She said the Land Preserve was established for this purpose to take it out of the public forum due to sensitivity and confidentiality issues. She believes that PTRC's position on land acquisition needs to be more reactive.

Mr. Ferrell pointed out that the Commission previously discussed striking "Land Use Restrictions in this section and replacing it with "and other mechanisms."

#2 In 2010 the PTRC did an extensive inventory on open space that was presented to City Council. She noted that the PTRC also established a Land Acquisition Statement. She said the one thing the Commission has not done is to look at policies to protect scenic treasures. She suggested the PTRC could look into different policies such as planting trees, tree heights, lights and other things that take away the scenic view. The other item that the PTRC has not studied is an inventory of historic properties.

#3 Ms. Barsch suggested that the Commission should consider scratching the process of handling contributions from landowners. She does not believe the PTRC should undertake this process as the Commission cannot really establish a process for working with landowners when every transaction is different and the next land acquisition won't follow the same policy.

The Commission agreed to change the wording to "Establish the necessary collaboration between the relevant parties and stakeholders to facilitate the acquisition of open space.

#4 Ms. Barsch stated that the City has done a good job of implementing this strategy by adding the benches and signs we have put in our parks.

#5 Ms. Barsch believes the strategy of developing a relationship with Denver Water is more of a relationship between City staff and the Denver Water Board.

Jeff Ferrell - "Preserving the Trail System"

Mr. Ferrell reported that several items in this section have already been accomplished. Following are some recommendations:

#1 Mr. Ferrell believes this strategy is largely a staff function.

#2 Mr. Ferrell suggested that the wording "Fill in the gaps and increase connectivity" is the key in this strategy. He suggested acknowledging that there are few opportunities for the PTRC at this point. He noted that a subcommittee has been formed to address this strategy.

#3 Mr. Ferrell recommended removing the statement “Complete the trail system around the Village perimeter” or place it in the no action category. He recalled that there was some effort to connect the trails of the village along Hampden that was not successful. He also believes the statement “explore opportunities for additional regional trail connections” has already been done and this statement could be modified.

#4 Commission agreed to keep the strategy as is as the PTRC should still have some oversight and input on signage changes.

#5 Mr. Farrell stated the PTRC is already doing this. Mr. Berninzoni gives a report every month to keep the Commission informed.

#6 No Changes

#7 Consider making changes to the language.

#8 Staff tasks

#9 Staff tasks

Robert Eber – “Communications and Funding”

Mr. Eber reviewed the first goal to “Effectively communicate with Village residents as being the PTRC’s goal, whereas the second goal is how the PTRC can support staff in doing their job. Mr. Eber made some minor word changes to the goals.

#1 Mr. Eber suggested creating low budget non-fiscal impact ideas to better appreciate the hard work and efforts of staff in maintaining the parks system. One idea is a standing PTRC report in the Village Crier linking to a place on the webpage to view the maintenance schedule, potential project list, new developments and general information. The idea is to provide touches that develop pride of ownership in the community. By using electronic outreach there is not a large fiscal constraint on what we are doing.

Mr. Eber reviewed the strategies of the second goal:

#1 Mr. Eber made some minor word changes in the first strategy.

He suggested adding a second strategy to garner support of public sentiment in order to receive equal importance as some of the other activities that go on that require budget expenses. Encourage people to have ownership and get emotional support to assist with getting the work done in the parks that needs to be funded.

Mr. Eber discussed potential difficulty as the Village becomes more privatized via fences. This could be an indicator that residents have less interest in community aspects and less interest in open space, which could hurt the Commission’s ability to implement a plan.

Councilor Katy Brown stated that she believes getting people into the parks and activating the parks is an important role of the City and PTRC. She said it is listed in the goal, but there are no strategies to address it. She suggested looking at the entire goal to make sure that those bases are covered.

The strategy only references financial sustainability and does not address facilitating public use. Councilor Brown stated that the Community has very diverse interests in what they want to get out of open space and the City has enough open space to accommodate and address the needs of a broad people. She would like to see the PTRC

address the broadest desires of the Community through a holistic approach to the parks and trails system.

Bill Lucas – Parks and Recreation “Improve John Meade Park.”

Mr. Lucas reviewed the goal to “Improve John Meade Park to become an active community recreational park and meeting place.”

Mr. Lucas provided Commission members with a redlined copy of his suggested changes and comments. He added language from City Council resolution with respect to the Alan Hutto Memorial gift and the amphitheater that needs to be installed.

Mr. Lucas suggested the Commission should consider approaching City Council to bring the consultant who previously designed a plan for John Meade Park back to help with the amphitheater that needs to be completed within two years. All of the issues need to be looked at such as the location of the Public Works facility and the City Center.

Mr. Lucas addressed the next section “Continue to meet field sport and active recreation needs.” Mr. Lucas recommends putting this goal in the no action category.

The Commission agreed to keep the goal unchanged at this time and also discussed the concept of conducting a community survey to get a better idea of what the Community wants in their parks system.

Commission members will make the suggested changes to the master plan document and forward to Pamela Broyles to create an updated document that can be reviewed at the October 2013 PTRC meeting.

Presentation on Historical Registry – Presented by Robert Eber

Mr. Eber provided Commission members with information on historical properties in the vicinity and information on registering a historic property. His purpose is to clarify the requirements and conditions of placing a property on the historical registry and eliminate the myths about property value, etc. The National Historic Preservation Act is a law that puts mechanisms in place to recognize the idea that historical places are worthy of preservation. Mr. Eber reviewed some historical properties in Cherry Hills Village. He stated that one way to recognize these properties is to get a handle on some of the history. Currently there is not a comprehensive list of historical properties in the City. Mr. Eber reviewed the process for registering a property. He addressed the myth that if someone lists their property on the historical registry they are restricted in what they can do with it. He clarified that registering a property does not place any obligations or restrictions on private property owners. A property will not be listed if the owner objects, or for districts if the majority of property owners object. Mr. Eber also discussed the benefits such as grants, federal tax credits, money for fire code improvements, etc. He pointed out that when you accept public money to implement a project, with that money comes some concessions.

Mr. Lucas suggested that because they are the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission they need to focus on things like Little Dry Creek and some of the trails as a funding opportunity.

The Commission thanked Mr. Eber for his research and information.

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

There was nothing to report on this subject.

Special Events Update

Ms. Dougherty reported that approximately 40 cars have registered for the car show and Merrill Lynch has agreed to sponsor the show. Resident Jay Paul Santangelo with Merrill Lynch is also providing gift bags to the Best of Show winner.

Communications/Crier Article

Ms. Barsch wrote an article for the Village Crier on Quincy Farm.

General Updates

Ms. Barsch reported that the Barn Tour is scheduled for October 6th. They are in need of additional vendors to participate in the Farmer's Market/craft show. The Barn party is scheduled for Saturday, October 5th at the Rady Barn. PTRC members will receive an invitation to the event.

b. Parks, Trails and Recreation Enhancement**Zack Frisch Bench Donation at Three Pond Park**

Mr. Berninzoni reported that he received a request from Zack Frisch for a bench donation at Three Pond Park in memory of his late father. The requirements for donating a bench include being a current or past resident of the Village and a donation of \$1,500 to the City to cover the cost of the bench, installation materials and maintenance. These requirements have been met and City staff recommends approval of the bench donation.

Ms. Barsch asked if Mr. Frisch would consider donating a picnic table instead of a bench since there are several benches that don't seem to be used. The location of the proposed bench is the perfect place for a picnic table.

Mr. Berninzoni will ask Mr. Frisch to consider donating a picnic table.

MS. BARSCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE \$1,500.00 BENCH DONATION FROM MR. ZACK FRISCH WITH THE AGREEMENT THAT MR. BERNINZONI WILL ASK MR. FRISCH TO CONSIDER A PICNIC TABLE IN PLACE OF THE BENCH IN THREE POND PARK. MR. ROBERT EBER SECONDED THE MOTION AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

QUINCY FARM VISIONING COMMITTEE (QFVC) UPDATE

Councilor Katy Brown reported that the Quincy Farm Visioning Committee (QFVC) is progressing well and the Committee recently presented an update to City Council. For the most part the Committee has a natural consensus on a vision for Quincy Farm. There is talk that a sustained group is necessary to continue to work on the management plan after the visioning document is presented. Many of the ideas for Quincy Farm are educational and historic with a focus on an area for kids to learn about agriculture and what it was like to live in Cherry Hills Village.

PTRC REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL – CHAIR BILL LUCAS

Mr. Lucas suggested that the PTRC needs to request funding from City Council for John Meade Park and a consultant. Mr. Berninzoni informed the Commission of a possible matching grant through the Arapahoe County Open Space.

REPORTSa. 2014 PTRC Projects and Priorities

Mr. Berninzoni gave a PowerPoint presentation to review the goals of the PTRC.

Mr. Berninzoni explained that it is important for the Commission to inform staff of maintenance priorities and where their efforts need to be focused. He stated that most of the funding for maintenance comes from Fund 30 in the budget.

Mr. Berninzoni requested that Commission members create a list of projects proposed for next year. He encouraged members to list whatever project is important to them and the Commission can discuss and create a priority list from there.

Mr. Berninzoni reviewed the Parks budget and the purpose of each fund. He pointed out that Fund 30 includes general line items used mainly for in-house purposes to allow staff to do daily operations.

The PTRC will hold a study session at the October 10th meeting starting at 5:30 p.m. to review the projects and priorities of each Commission member. The Commission will then hold discussion to come to a consensus. The list will be finalized at the November PTRC meeting.

b. City Council Report

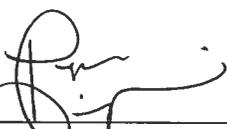
Ms. Katy Brown reported that Councilor Alex Brown is pursuing a working group that will be proactive in coordinating their efforts to open space acquisition within Cherry Hills Village.

ADJOURNMENT

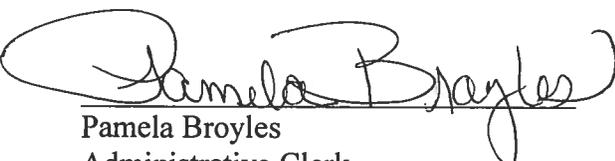
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.
The next scheduled PTRC meeting is October 10, 2013.



Bill Lucas
Committee Chair



Ryan Berninzoni
Parks, Trails and Recreation Administrator



Pamela Broyles
Administrative Clerk