

Minutes of the Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission
City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
Thursday, July 10, 2014
at the Village Center

Commission members in attendance: Bill Lucas, Mike Gallagher, Robert Eber, Nina Itin and Rob Ganger. Employees present: Ryan Berninzoni, Parks, Trails and Recreation Administrator, Pamela Broyles, Administrative Assistant.

Absent: Colleen Dougherty, Joshua DiCarlo, Councilor Katy Brown

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bill Lucas called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 12, 2014 MINUTES

Mr. Robert Eber moved to approve the June 12, 2014 minutes as presented. Mr. Mike Gallagher seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Mayor Doug Tisdale
4662 South Elizabeth Court

Mayor Tisdale welcomed the two new Commission members and thanked the PTRC for their service. He also thanked Chair Lucas for attending City Council meetings. Mayor Tisdale stated that the Commission is a partnership with City Council and has City Council's full support, adding that it is important to have a free flow of ideas and concepts.

HIGHLINE CANAL – ARAPAHOE COUNTY NON-PROFIT UPDATE

Harriet LaMair
16 Cherry Lane Drive

Ms. Harriet LaMair reported on the Highline Canal Working Group and their mission to discuss ways to improve the Highline Canal. The City of Cherry Hills Village is represented by Harriet LaMair, Jay Goldie and Klasina VanderWerf. Originally the Highline Canal Working Group was not allowed to talk about water issues in the canal so the group focused their attention on land acquisitions. Ms. LaMair stated that Arapahoe County is partnering with the group to acquire open space.

The Highline Canal Working Group is also working to improve crossings and signage on the canal. In order to get additional funding the group needs to address the crossing issue. The funding will require more resources than Arapahoe County can provide.

Ms. LaMair reported that Cherry Hills Village is doing a pilot tree irrigation project on the canal just north of Belleview. There is a huge concern over the lack of water in the canal causing trees to die. The High Line Canal Working Group has limitations because of the restrictions on discussing water.

Arapahoe County Commissioners organized a memorandum of understanding between Arapahoe County, Douglas County, the City and County of Denver and Denver Water to discuss the future management of the Highline Canal. This has made a crack in the barriers about discussing water. The group arranged a study by Urban Drainage to determine the feasibility of the Highline Canal being used for stormwater and it appears to be a viable option. They are looking at who would take over the responsibility if Denver Water no longer managed the canal. There is a push to create a nonprofit entity to organize a master planning process to be better prepared. This group would be multi-jurisdictional and would include individuals all along the canal including Denver Water.

Ms. LaMair stated that Cherry Hills Village has a huge stake in the Highline Canal. It is important to get private interest and funding opportunities through private citizens. It is also important to address the crossing issue so that programming can start along the canal.

The Commission questioned whether this project would involve the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG).

Mayor Tisdale responded that DRCOG is charged with creating transportation solutions. The Highline Canal is a very utilitarian bikeway and it does resolve transportation issues, the problem is that the City's 3.5 miles along the canal does not have enough impact to qualify for funding. If the City could get the collaboration of adjacent communities and form a joint proposal or a new conservancy there could be DRCOG dollars available.

Ms. LaMair summarized the work currently being done to improve the Highline Canal:

- The Highline Canal Working Group is working on crossings
- Urban Drainage stormwater Study.
- Tree irrigation pilot project
- Land acquisitions
- Memorandum of understanding between Arapahoe County, Douglas County, City and County of Denver and Denver Water for the future management of the Highline Canal.
- Discussion on nonprofit group to establish a master plan of the entire canal with the collaboration of every jurisdiction.

DISCUSSION ON RESOLUTION OF CHV CITY COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGARDING OPEN SPACE.

Mr. Lucas reported that Councilman Alex Brown put together a resolution to establish an advisory committee for open space and asked for input from the PTRC. One of the concerns is determining the appropriate way to approach open space when it becomes available. The Commission can identify open space areas, but there is a delicate balance when negotiations start and the issue of confidentiality.

Ms. LaMair reported that a non-profit entity can be more discreet when discussing potential land purchases whereas a public entity is required to hold public meetings. She said the Land Preserve was started because PTRC's hands were tied when they tried to communicate with property owners. She stated that the partnership between the PTRC and the Land Preserve needs to be stronger. The Land Preserve can initiate confidential discussions and they have a group of people with extensive expertise that can communicate with landowners. They only work with willing landowners. The concern that the Land Preserve has voiced is that if a group is publicly formed through a resolution they have to hold public meetings.

Mr. Lucas reviewed the proposed formation of the open space group and said the objective tonight is to look at how to form a partnership. After reviewing the code and the white paper he suggested that the PTRC could be better advocates and be more proactive in approaching PTRC issues. There is concern about creating another committee. This is an opportunity for the PTRC to be more proactive, but the issue of how to communicate needs to be addressed.

Mr. Eber stated that open space is within the charter of what this group does, but he is concerned about open meeting issues and discussions that are public in nature.

Mr. Eber and Mr. Lucas will address these concerns with Councilman Alex Brown.

The Commission also discussed the possibility of having a PTRC member join the Land Preserve.

Mr. Lucas requested that the Commission review the resolution and make suggestions and comments at the next meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS

a. Summary Sheet

Trail Enhancement Update

Mr. Gallagher reported that the Committee has made several attempts to communicate with Mr. Bill Ferguson regarding an easement for a trail at the Radcliff low water crossing off of High Street. A letter was drafted and mailed to Mr. Ferguson and the Committee will follow up on the status.

The Commission discussed the small acreage that the City owns near Covington and whether there is a possible connection to the Highline Canal. There was also discussion on whether there is any advantage to selling the property. The Commission agreed to remove the item from the agenda and leave the property as it is for now.

Special Events Update

Mr. Lucas reported that there has been a date change for the car show that is now scheduled for Sunday, September 21st.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that a "Save the Date" postcard will be mailed to residents in the next week.

Communications/Crier Article

There was nothing to report on this issue.

b. Parks, Trails and Recreation Enhancement

There was nothing to report on this subject.

QUINCY FARM VISIONING COMMITTEE (QFVC) UPDATE

Mr. Lucas reported that the QFVC is a subcommittee of the PTRC and they will report their findings at the August or September PTRC meeting.

PTRC REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL – CHAIR BILL LUCAS

Mr. Lucas reported that he attended the City Council meeting and reported on Quincy Farm and John Meade Park.

REPORTS

a. PTRC Retreat

The retreat is tentatively scheduled for October 3rd and 4th. Mr. Lucas said he will reach out to the Commission to help organize the event.

b. Upcoming PTRC Projects – John Meade Park

The City drafted an RFP for a consultant to create a master plan for John Meade Park and anyone is welcome to review the document. Mr. Lucas also reviewed the schedule for the study. The meetings with the consultant will probably be included as part of the PTRC meeting.

c. Parks Division Maintenance Log

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the bridge in Woodie Hollow Park will be closed for maintenance from July 22nd through July 25th. Closure signs will be posted onsite and on the website.

Mr. Gallagher reported that the warning signs that were added in the roadway at the Quincy Avenue Highline crossing seem to have an impact on slowing traffic down.

Mr. Berninzoni reported that the City is still looking into sensor lights, but the solution of adding power is expensive.

d. City Council Report

There was nothing to report on this subject.

DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON PTRC CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR POSITIONS

Mr. Lucas entertained a motion for Chair of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission.

Mr. Robert Eber motioned to nominate Mr. Bill Lucas to continue as Chair of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission. Mr. Mike Gallagher seconded the motion.

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

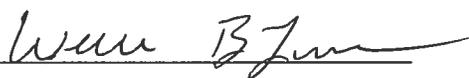
Mr. Mike Gallagher motioned to nominate Mr. Robert Eber for the position of Vice-Chair of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission. Mr. Bill Lucas seconded the motion.

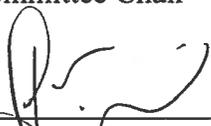
The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Robert Eber accepted the nomination to serve as Vice Chair of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission.

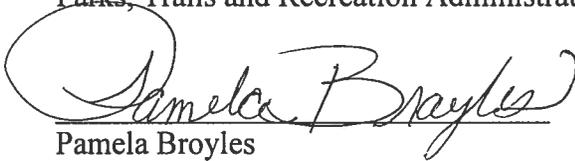
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

The next scheduled PTRC meeting is August 14, 2014.


 Bill Lucas
 Committee Chair


 Ryan Berninzoni
 Parks, Trails and Recreation Administrator


 Pamela Broyles
 Administrative Clerk