

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the
Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission of the
City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
Held on Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Vice-Chair Tory Leviton called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Vice-Chair Tory Leviton, Commissioners Robert Eber, Fred Wolfe, Chelsea Scott, and Aron Grodinsky. Also present were Emily Black, Parks and Recreation Coordinator, Jeff Roberts, Parks Operations Supervisor and Pamela Broyles, Administrative Assistant.

Commissioner Katy Murphy joined the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

Absent: Chair Stephanie Dahl

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PTRC conducted the Pledge of Allegiance.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was no audience participation.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Aron Grodinsky moved, seconded by Commissioner Chelsea Scott to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of Minutes – February 10, 2022

The motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. John Meade Park Permanent Sculpture

Coordinator Black reviewed the process for a permanent art sculpture in John Meade Park and noted that no motion is required as staff is only looking for feedback from PTRC at this time. She noted that a permanent sculpture has been planned for John Meade Park since the Master Planning process began. She said the Cherry Hills Village Art Commission (CHVAC) discussed installing a realistic sculpture for John Meade Park in 2019 but the project was postponed due to Covid. She said the Art Commission is ready to proceed with the project in 2022 and City Council has included funding for a permanent sculpture in the 2022 budget.

Ms. Black specified that the Art Commission has their own budget and Art Donation Fund and no funds related to PTRC are being used. She stated that the purpose of the

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meeting is to involve PTRC in the process as early as possible so both Commissions can work together. She noted that the Art Commission has identified three possible locations for a sculpture near the upper pond and closer to the equestrian area of the park.

Ms. Black introduced Kendall Peterson as the consultant for CHVAC and shared that Ms. Peterson provided the Art Commission with an extensive list of potential artists to consider. The Commission narrowed the list to four potential artists but emphasized that they are in the beginning stages of choosing a sculpture. She said the Art Commission made one request that the sculpture not be of a human figure. She said they are considering an animal sculpture or something realistic. She clarified that this is piece is planned to be the main sculpture for John Meade Park and they are not anticipating a series of sculptures.

Ms. Black outlined the next steps for the sculpture. She will report back to the Art Commission at their next meeting scheduled for March 28th.

Ms. Black introduced Dave Schmidt and Shenley Smith from the Art Commission who are present to answer any questions.

Commission members discussed the proposed art pieces (#1-Outside the Box – blue bird on pillar and origami birds, #2-bronze rabbit sculptures, #3-great blue heron, #4-white bird in flight silhouette) and shared the following feedback:

Commissioner Grodinsky

- Art piece needs to be sizable enough to see as it is a large park
- He appreciates realism more than abstract
- He agrees it is appropriate to have something animal related in the habitat-oriented park
- With regards to the four artists presented he prefers #3 the Great Blue Heron or #4 the white bird in flight. His concern is that piece #3 might be too small

Commissioner Eber

- He believes there is room for more than one piece of art in the park including the area around Alan Hutto Commons.
- He believes the piece needs to be a significant sculpture
- He suggested fundraising for a more significant piece
- He stated that #4- white bird in flight is his favorite because it has a wildlife theme but also a significant presence
- He liked the Great Blue Heron sculptures but is concerned that they are too small
- He does not like the origami art with the large post
- He would like to see something a little more abstract
- He would like to continue with the theme of natural open space
- He does not believe a \$14,000 budget is enough for a significant piece to meet the needs of Cherry Hills Village
- He would like to see a piece that depicts the history of Cherry Hills Village and the High Line Canal

Vice-Chair Leviton

- Commented that it is not possible to please everyone when it comes to art
- Does not think origami art is the best fit for the park
- He also likes the Great Blue Herons, but he believes they may be too small
- He also cautioned that if the art is too big it will not look natural
- He rated the art as #3 being his favorite, followed by #4, #2 and then #1.
- He urged the Art Commission to consider a rock, boulder or stone sculpture that is a replica of Long's Peak or something similar and not necessarily an animal

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- He also likes the idea of marble or granite
- He does not want to flood the City of Cherry Hills Village with art but he likes having the art

Commissioner Wolfe

- Expressed concern with having too much art in the City
- He also agrees that the size should be large and he is concerned that none of the 4 examples look large
- He believes the art should reflect Cherry Hills Village and likes the idea of an animal sculpture
- He prefers realistic rather than abstract
- He suggested the park was designed for children and he would like to see an art piece that reflects children

Commissioner Murphy and Commissioner Scott

- Both Commissioners like the idea of a human art piece
- They identified most communities in Colorado as having a statue that reflects someone significant such as the “Billy the Kid” sculpture in Steamboat Springs
- They like realistic statues and referenced several examples around the State
- They would like to keep with the theme of Colorado to have connectivity

Ms. Kendall Peterson summarized the feedback from PTRC:

- Themes that reflect the natural
- Reflection of the natural landscape that fits the area
- Art suitable for children and families
- Large scale art easily visible in the park

The Commission discussed fundraising for the art sculpture and agreed that the budget should be larger than \$14,000 for a permanent piece.

Mr. Schmidt and Ms. Smith concurred that they want to engage the public and do a fundraising project to get a significant piece, but they expressed some concern that there may be some fatigue with fundraising after purchasing the Charlo sculpture.

b. John Meade Park Reading Garden

Coordinator Black reported that parks staff has discussed adding a reading garden at the back of John Meade Park to commemorate Ralph Mason’s 40 years of employment with the City. She noted that the only amenity that is currently in the back of the park is the older shelter. She described the garden as being a quiet place to read or a place to read to children. The garden will have the following:

- Shade friendly plants
- A low hedge shaped in a half circle for privacy
- A log bench made in-house from an old oak tree that was removed from Quincy Farm
- Seating rocks around the circle for additional seating
- A plaque on the log bench to commemorate Ralph Mason’s retirement after working 40 years in the Public Works Department
- A crusher fine path will be added for connection and to allow access for strollers and wheelchairs

The Commission was not opposed to a reading garden but expressed concern that the plaque alone might be too small for people to appreciate Mr. Mason’s service to the City. The Commission discussed several ideas to pay tribute to Mr. Mason including naming the garden the “Ralph Mason Honorary Reading Garden.”

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The Commission also discussed concern that the reading garden will be hard for people to discover.

Ms. Black responded that the City will do a variety of publicity articles to get the word out about the garden and it will also be added to the trail map.

REPORTS

a. Chair Report

There was nothing to report.

b. Commissioners

Commissioner Eber reported that the Citizens Advisory Task Force (CAT) met last night, and the Open House for the Master Plan was held on Monday, March 7th. He stated that the main focus since the 2008 Master Plan involves more appreciation for parks, trails, open space, and sustainability. He encouraged Commission members to voice their suggestions on these topics. He noted that a second survey will soon be available on the City's website for residents to access.

Vice-Chair Leviton shared his desire to designate a section of Cherry Hills Village as part of the Wilderness Initiative. He identified a corridor of open space that extends from the northern edge of Glenmoor and ends around the Jackson pocket park area as a potential designated wilderness area. He stressed the importance of cooperation with private homeowners who would need to designate a portion of their property. Mr. Leviton said he would also like to see a wildlife overpass or underpass across University Boulevard.

Mr. Leviton also brought up his goal to designate Cherry Hills Village as a "Dark Sky City" and described the process the City would have to go through.

Coordinator Black commented that the commitment and requirements for being designated a "Dark Sky City" would involve the Community Development Department and she recommended that Mr. Leviton work with Paul Workman on this item.

Commissioner Murphy brought up the vacant lot at Franklin and Quincy where all the trees were removed and expressed her disappointment that another month has gone by with no signs of construction and no action from the City.

Commissioner Wolfe commented that he believes the Franklin and Quincy lot issue has been added to the City Council agenda when Community Development presents language amendments to the existing building code.

Commissioner Murphy reiterated that she would like to see pickleball courts in John Meade Park to draw more people to the Park. She shared the idea of having an Easter Egg Hunt in John Meade Park as it would be a fun thing for kids and would bring families to the Park. She stressed the importance of PTRC being proactive in getting kids out onto the trails so kids are getting more exercise.

Coordinator Black responded that staff has talked about adding a spring event. She said she likes the idea of having a spring egg hunt. She also shared that she has already received several requests to reserve John Meade Park in May.

Commissioner Wolfe brought up that the Village Trail is 5.85 miles and the City could hold an annual 10k race on the Village Trails.

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Commissioner Scott asked about input opportunities for the Master Plan. She expressed interest in being on an advisory board to focus on sustainability in the City.

Coordinator Black reported that there will be another open house in late summer and the Citizens Advisory Task Force meetings are open to the public and are posted on the City's website. Ms. Black said people can also email ideas to her and she can forward them to Paul Workman.

c. Staff Report

Coordinator Black talked about the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) transportation improvement program. She explained that through this program Cherry Hills Village, Arapahoe County and DRCOG are starting to explore connections such as sidewalks that are missing in the Village and other cities. She stated that the goal is to identify gaps that need to be filled for pedestrian safety.

i. Quincy Farm

Coordinator Black reported that the Cherry Hills Land Preserve is working on a plan for Quincy Farm for 2023 and they will submit the plan to City Council this August. She announced that the Land Preserve is putting together several nature-based activities for kids this summer at the Farm including trail walks, bee keeping classes, bird watching, flower pressing, etc.

ii. High Line Canal Stormwater Study

Coordinator Black reported that staff held a kickoff meeting with Icon Engineering to discuss possibilities for stormwater management in the High Line Canal in the City's jurisdiction. She informed the Commission that Icon Engineering will present a report to PTRC later this summer.

ADJOURNMENT


The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for April 14th at 5:30 p.m.



Vice-Chair Tory Leviton



Emily Black
Parks and Recreation Coordinator



Pamela Broyles
Administrative Assistant