

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the
Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission of the
City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
Held on Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Chair Wolfe called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Chair Fred Wolfe, Commissioners Tory Leviton, Kate Murphy, and Mary Presecan. Also present were Emily Black, Parks Project & Operations Manager, Monica Castillo, Parks Clerk, and Jeff Roberts, Parks Operations Supervisor.

Vice Chair Aron Grodinsky, Commissioners Chelsea Scott and Stephanie Dahl were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PTRC conducted the Pledge of Allegiance.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

No audience participation, but resident Laura Moodley sent in a letter to suggest an off leash dog park in CHV.

Manager Black mentioned there has not been any interest from the community in a dog park. She noted some concerns for the Commission to think about: off-leash dog parks are not generally pleasant to live next to; if the Commission was to pursue this it would have to be somewhere that is not adjacent to residential homes; dog parks are loud and can be a real mess to clean up.

Commissioner Presecan stated that if the city were to consider a dog park, they should also consider addressing the staff time it will take for maintenance and clean up; the costs are not just the land but the upkeep, the parking, the security, the surveillance, and the liability issues. She suggested that staff can send out an open-ended survey to see if the community and the citizens want to see something else in the city, and what that might be.

Commissioner Murphy mentioned she is a dog lover, but she is not a fan of open parks because at times there are aggressive dogs; there are liabilities as well with some dogs not being vaccinated. She stated she agrees with Commissioner Presecan that staff are already busy with maintaining trails and maintaining the parks, and on top of that it would be a huge endeavor for our Village and staff; there are other dog parks people can go to in the area, as there is a big dog park near Chenango.

Chair Wolfe asked Manager Black if Laura Moodley would like to come to a meeting to plead her case; the commission would be glad to listen, and it would give the commission additional time to think about it.

Manager Black said Ms. Moodley reached out to her a few weeks ago and Manager Black let her know the PTRC days and times the meetings took place. She will reach out to Ms. Moodley to let her know she can come speak to the Commission.

Chair Wolfe mentioned this past Monday, he had had it with people walking their dog on the trails without a leash. He mentioned he was going to speak with the Chief of Police because he is tired of asking people to put their dogs on a leash when he sees them on the trail; some of the dogs are big and can be aggressive.

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Manager Black said the City Council discussed this at their last meeting; the Chief advised council members and the public who were watching if they come across an unleashed dog, to call the Code Enforcement hotline; it helps them to log the complaints and is part of how they dedicate their resources.

Chair Wolfe said he was going to suggest to the Chief if he could have one of his officers on a Saturday or a Sunday during the warmer months to be visible on the High Line Canal around the Dahlia parking lot. He stated that if that happened one time, the word would get around that the police are paying attention to dogs off leash.

Commissioner Leviton added they could address the speeders too.

Chair Wolfe agreed. He stated that someone had suggested putting a barricade on the High Line Canal Trail with sawhorses, so bikes would have to slow down and then go around them.

Manager Black stated she would explain what staff is planning for the High Line Canal Trail; the Police department has reconfigured their schedules and will have more officers on duty at any given time, which is going to dedicate more resources to be out on the trails more often, especially as it warms up. She continued that the city just purchased a flashing speeding sign that is specific for bicycles, and staff will put it up on the High Line; staff is installing poles at various locations on the High Line to be able to move the sign around; staff is wiring the device so it can be used with a solar panel, but once that process is complete, the sign will be out in various places throughout the summer.

Manager Black said in past Master Plan surveys she does not recall anyone mentioning a dog park, but she will look back at the surveys to check.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Presecan moved, seconded by Commissioner Leviton to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of Minutes – March 9, 2023

The motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Interview Questions for Future Commissioners

Chair Wolfe said he thought the questions were good. He stated he did send comments to Manager Black and hopefully the commission did as well, but he believed the commission is going in the right direction now.

Manager Black explained Exhibit A is the list of potential interview questions that PTRC is putting together for council members when they interview applicants; it is not relevant now as the two openings the Commission will have when Chair Wolfe and Commissioner Murphy's terms end this spring have already been filled; these questions will be for the future use by Council. She asked for any comments, suggestions, additions, or subtractions.

Commissioner Leviton said he liked all the questions submitted.

Manager Black said she has one suggestion to combine questions 1 & 2 and 4 & 11. She noted the suggested questions were gathered from various Commissioners, so this is a "great minds think alike" situation. There was no objection from the Commission; Manager Black stated she will combine those two sets of questions and she thinks City Council will be happy with these questions.

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NEW BUSINESS

a. Special Events Review

Manager Black recalled that staff and the Commission were originally planning a spring event, but decided at the last discussion to scale it down. She reported that following that meeting, staff had a conversation with the Public Works Director and City Manager about the possible spring event; the decision was to wait and spend more time planning with the Commission to put on a nice event in 2024. She stated that based on the last meeting's conversation, the Commission should look at all city events for 2024 to see if PTRC wanted to evaluate changing any of those events too.

Manager Black explained that this year, staff is still planning Movie Night and Winter Celebration, but the Commission can consider changing Movie Night for 2024. She noted she would not recommend changing the Winter Celebration because it is always a successful event; attendees thank staff during the event and also send complimentary emails afterward, so the community really loves this event as is.

Chair Wolfe asked how many people attended the Winter Celebration last year.

Manager Black said there were about 150 people, which is a little lower than it typically would have been pre-covid; it is taking a little bit of time to bounce back.

Chair Wolfe clarified that Movie Night will be held this year, and the Commission should still talk about the first two events in terms of when and if they are continued.

Manager Black stated Movie Night is normally on the third Saturday in August, after kids go back to school; Winter Celebration is always on the second Friday in December, but staff will check this date this year because it may during Hanukkah; staff will be talking to City Council to see if they want to alter the date.

Chair Wolfe asked if the Cherry Hills Village Police Foundation will manage the car show, and if the date had been chosen yet.

Manager Black answered yes, the Police Foundation will manage the show, but she did not know a date at this time; it is usually in September or October.

Commissioner Presecan said in terms of the Commission taking action to evaluate the activities they should try to align with what the community is interested in; now is the time to plan for 2024.

The Commission discussed the idea of a survey or using the Village Crier to do an open solicitation like "PTRC is accepting ideas and is interested in knowing what the community would like to see for events".

Commissioner Presecan suggested this could get a pulse of the community but there could also be something in the past Master Plan survey; she would encourage staff to do a community survey to get input; she offered she would be happy to help put together the survey, if needed.

Commissioner Leviton said that is a clever idea. He stated he still liked the idea of bringing in the Art Commission for a spring event; to date, there has only been one performing arts event and he stated he is trying to change that. He continued that since PTRC is not doing the spring event, as a private citizen, he has decided to have a spring recital at Alan Hutto Memorial Commons because he thinks music at the park is a great idea.

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Commissioner Murphy mentioned the Commission could have a talent show in the park and have the kids play musical instruments; she thought there would be a huge turnout for something like that.

Commissioner Leviton said that is a wonderful use of Alan Hutto Memorial Commons and that just has not happened yet, so he is going to start privately.

Manager Black mentioned the 75th Anniversary Committee originally intended to do a talent show, but they became overwhelmed with the planning (and then the Committee paused during covid), but there has been interest in the past in holding a talent show.

Commissioner Leviton said plays are not his forte, but it is part of the performing arts.

Commissioner Murphy said Kent Denver does a Coffee House every spring; auditions are required for it, but they get a variety of performances.

Manager Black asked what information would be helpful to bring to the Commission at the next meeting because staff expects this to be an ongoing conversation.

Commissioner Leviton said he still likes the idea of a scavenger hunt but that could be a separate event from the talent show event.

Commissioner Murphy mentioned the scavenger hunt could be as simple as an easter egg hunt on the trail just around John Meade Park; there are plenty of village trails and it can be simple.

Commissioner Presecan asked if there was any information in the Master Plan?

Manager Black answered there might be and said she will go through the Master Plan survey results and pull out what is relevant; this might provide a starting point.

REPORTS

a. Chair

Chair Wolfe mentioned he would like to bring to the Commission's attention that a group of residents in Cherrymoor contacted him and they were upset; apparently, there is a golf event at Cherry Hills County Club this August and the people/volunteers who are attending will park their cars in St. Mary's parking lot and then walk on the trail that goes from St. Mary's to Quincy Ave.; the neighbors claim in the past there has been a huge trash issue by people attending the golf event and some of these homes have had break-ins. Chair Wolfe stated when he went over to the trail to familiarize himself, he ran into a group of concerned neighbors again who also told him what they thought.

Manager Black explained that the Country Club had a major event permit because of the number of people attending; this application is handled through the Community Development Department; Parks staff reviewed the application, but Community Development is the primary department who approves it. She explained that the parking lot at St. Mary's is only for volunteers and not for spectators attending the event.

Chair Wolfe said he had a 30 ft. tape measure with him and measured the width of the trail, and it is 22 ft. wide. He stated the neighbors would like people to walk out to University Blvd. and go down the sidewalk; the sidewalk is 8 ft. wide and next to a whole lot of traffic; he told the neighbors they're going to lose this one. He said the trails are public trails, and anybody can walk on the trails anytime they want. He stated he had a suggestion and passed it on to Councilor Earl Hoellen and Mayor Katy Brown that construction fences should be put up against the properties that back to the trail that will be taken down once the event is over, and there could be more trashcans, one at the beginning, one in the middle and one at the end of the trail.

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Manager Black mentioned that there are conditions on this permit; she and Public Works Director Jay Goldie had reviewed the application before it went to Council, and it has been conditionally approved by Council already. She noted it had been months since she reviewed the application because it came to staff so far in advance, but she believed there is a screening fence required to be put up, the Club must check for trash, and if the trail has enough foot traffic that it is degraded or worn down, they must restore it.

Chair Wolfe suggested having a police officer visible in that area just to let people know that they can't mess around because the neighbors were very upset.

Manager Black said that topic came up at the City Council meeting because that question was asked of Chief Lyons, and he said patrol is increased during events like this.

b. Commissioners

Commissioner Leviton said he was upset about the sale of 90 Meade Lane; he thought the Master Plan specifically states acquiring land and maintaining land as a city priority, not selling it just to cushion the budget; he did not see why those two acres are just getting cast away; he is going to the City Council meeting on Tuesday to voice his views.

Chair Wolfe said he thought the city originally acquired that lot to establish a tree nursery.

Manager Black stated her understanding is it was an investment property at that time.

Chair Wolfe said that ground is worth plus or minus 2.5 million dollars right now which is coming right into the City.

Commissioner Leviton asked if the city needs it.

Chair Wolfe answered yes, the city needs it.

Commissioner Leviton asked what part of the budget is that expected to go.

Chair Wolfe said he hopes some of it will go to Quincy Farm.

Commissioner Leviton said the City is adamantly holding on to Quincy Farm and parks but even the two acres is not worth giving up; it is more valuable as is as open space.

Chair Wolfe disagreed and said he does not see it as valuable open space. He said a beautiful home belongs in that lot because open space in that area doesn't mean anything.

Commissioner Leviton said it is more wildlife friendly, which is the actual reason he wants to go to the City Council meeting on Tuesday. He stated he was thrilled about the Master Plan's inclusion of the importance of wildlife corridors; the High Line Canal is obviously the end-to-end corridor, but there are a lot of other opportunities; his house gets a lot of passers-through just being two properties over from the canal; he wants to see wildlife crossing signs to slow some of the cars down.

Commissioner Leviton repeated that the Arts concert in the park is on June 4th at 5 pm right before dinner so it's not too hot; it will not be publicly advertised, but he will try to advertise it somehow.

c. Staff

Manager Black reported the Commission should have received in the mail an invitation to a silent auction and art tour from the Art Commission; the event is on April 26th; she encouraged the commissioners to RSVP if they are able to attend.

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Manager Black provided an update for Quincy Farm; the Cherry Hills Land Preserve creates an annual plan for the farm every year; City Council approved the 2023 plan last year and the City is operating under that plan; CHLP is in the process of working on the 2024 plan; they will be appearing before City Council on May 2nd at a study session to present their initial concept for the 2024 plan.

Chair Wolfe asked if after CHLP gives their presentation to City Council, can staff invite them to make the presentation before PTRC.

Manager Black said certainly; the next PTRC meeting is May 11th; she can find out if they are available to make the presentation at the May meeting; she clarified that PTRC does not have approval authority and it would be informational only.

Chair Wolfe said commissioners could be asked about Quincy Farm and it is good to be knowledgeable about what is going on because there has been a lot of work poured into it.

Manager Black said special event permits are starting to pour in for John Meade Park and various areas around the city; the Cherry Hills Land Preserve has many spring events coming up at Quincy Farm. She listed upcoming events and noted they could also be found on the Quincy Farm website.

Manager Black continued that at John Meade Park, there is an upcoming birthday party reservation as well as the third grade, fourth grade and fifth grade classes from the elementary school that have days reserved in a row for one week in May; there are also family picnics coming up as well and a Master's Running Association 5k that is hosted on the trails every year.

Chair Wolfe said he hoped the other commissioners have received the letter regarding zoning legislation. He explained he had been asked twice about it by some of the residents; it is an unbelievable issue that anybody could propose that, and everyone is up in arms and going to meetings; unfortunately, the governor is pushing the issue. Chair Wolfe stated people must push back as hard as they can.

Commissioner Presecan said this is really going to affect the Dahlia neighborhood; the zoning is going to allow someone to knock down a house and put up a fourplex or apartments in the neighborhood.

Chair Wolfe said if passed, someone could buy the lot at Quincy and Franklin and put up a fourplex or a six-plex; it is important to be informed because it is going to take local governing rule and throw it out the window.

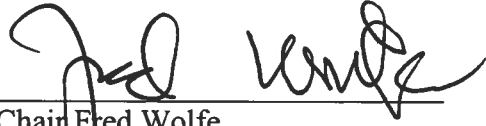
Commissioner Presecan asked Manager Black in addition to individuals and City Council making comments is there a department in the city that is taking the lead on the issue.

Manager Black replied yes, the Community Development Department; Paul Workman is the director of that department and is the primary contact. She noted Director Workman's contact information is on the website and explained where to find it.

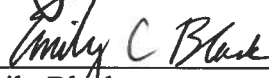
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ADJOURNMENT

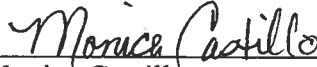
The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for May 11th at 5:30 p.m.



Chair Fred Wolfe



Emily Black
Parks Project & Operations Manager



Monica Castillo
Public Works/Parks Clerk

