

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the
Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission of the
City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
Held on Thursday, May 14, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.
The meeting was held electronically

PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Coordinator Black announced that Chair Dahl and Vice Chair Wolfe are both absent, so Commissioner Eber will serve as Acting Chair for this meeting unless there are any objections.

Hearing no objections, Acting Chair Eber called the meeting to order at 5:52 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Rob Eber, Tory Leviton, Kate Murphy and Chelsea Scott. Also present were Emily Black, Parks and Recreation Coordinator, Jeff Roberts, Parks Operations Supervisor and Pamela Broyles, Administrative Assistant.

Absent: Chair Stephanie Dahl, Vice-Chair Fred Wolfe, Commissioner Aron Grodinsky

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Tory Leviton moved, seconded by Commissioner Kate Murphy to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes as amended – April 8, 2021

The motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Trail Etiquette, Rules, and Speeding

Coordinator Black reported that this discussion is a follow up to wrap up loose ends that started with the E-bike discussion. She noted that City Council reviewed PTRC's recommendation to keep the Municipal Code the same with no motorized vehicles allowed on City trails. She said City Council agreed with PTRC's recommendation but acknowledged that speeding and trail etiquette are ongoing issues that need to be addressed. Council is asking PTRC to look at specific issues related to this and determine actions that the City can take. Council also discussed the idea of identifying an alternative E-bike route through the City for commuters as a clear alternative to using other trails.

Coordinator Black noted that the signs being installed on the High Line Canal will address some of these issues. She confirmed that the signs are expected to be installed within a few months. She described the larger High Line Canal signs as having the yield triangle, the speed limit, and a reminder for people to announce when they are passing. The High Line Canal Conservancy is also working on its "Share the Canal" education campaign that should be launched this summer.

Coordinator Black also reported that Chief Tovrea announced the Police Department is in the process of outfitting an E-bike for use on the trails.

Coordinator Black identified four possible actions that the City can take on its bridle trails:

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1. Signage for bridle trails at popular access points. This would include adding small medallion signs to existing bollards. Specific signs could be targeted to a location's main issues.
2. Additional signs for the High Line Canal. Specifically at the entry points at Belleview and Hampden that would reiterate no E-bikes, the speed limit and a Welcome to Cherry Hills Village sign.
3. Public awareness campaign about trail etiquette in addition to what the High Line Canal Conservancy is doing. This would include staff or PTRC writing articles for the Village Crier and blurbs for social media.
4. Speed data. Staff placed speed sensors on the High Line Canal to collect data on user speed. Staff is not sure if the sensors will pick up bike speeds and will provide an update to PTRC as data is collected.

Coordinator Black explained that she is looking for direction on the different options rather than a specific recommendation from PTRC.

Commissioner Leviton asked when the Hampden underpass would be completed.

Coordinator Black responded that there will be a celebration with the City of Denver for the opening of the Hampden underpass on June 3rd at 4:00 p.m.

Commissioner Leviton voiced that the welcoming signs are a great addition. He believes the yield traffic signs and speed limit signs are necessary for liability reasons. He said E-bike signs will also need to be considered.

Commissioner Scott commented that the small brown medallion signs would be easy for people to miss as they blend into the surroundings. She shared an example of a sign with a color scheme that would make the sign stand out more and be more effective.

Acting Chair Eber referred to the signs "Dogs must remain on a leash at all times" and questioned if dogs should be replaced with pets to be more inclusive. He said he has heard that there have been discussions on lowering the speed limit on City trails and he does not want to put signs up if they will need to be replaced in the near future. He offered to write some articles for the Village Crier, but he mentioned a lot of people already know the rules and he believes the City should plan for next steps. He agrees with having a recommended E-bike pathway as an alternative to the High Line Canal. He sees the alternative route to the High Line Canal being Quincy and Holly and asserted that the alternate route will require a lot of education. He also agrees with having a welcoming sign as you enter the Village that is friendly but stated it also needs to be directive. He brought up that the Commission heard a lot of feedback about disrespect and speeding on the High Line Canal Trail and members of the community are looking for results.

Acting Chair Eber asked if QR codes would be included on any of the signs or if their phones could send out an alert as people entered the city welcoming people to Cherry Hills Village that also links them to different spots along the trail. He believes the system could be used to send positive messages along with the restrictions on City trails.

Coordinator Black noted that users would have to download an app to receive notifications that way. She said she understands the goal to send messaging about how to be respectful and welcoming people at the same time. She mentioned that adding a QR code to signs that would link to up-to-date messaging from the City's website might be an option.

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Commissioner Murphy commented that she believes positive signage is more effective. She referred to the slogan example used on roadways "Drive like your kids live here." She said this type of messaging catches people's attention.

The Commission discussed examples of slogans that could be placed periodically along the trails.

Coordinator Black summarized that the Commission seems mostly focused on addressing issues on the High Line Canal, so staff will start with those signs first to include welcome signs and how to be a courteous trail user. She said the next phase will include bridle trail signs that can be strategically placed throughout the Village. She said staff will also look at making the signs brighter and more visible.

Acting Chair Eber suggested adding Colorado Boulevard and Quincy Avenue where the High Line Canal crosses as additional locations to add signage.

Coordinator Black agreed to include the entrance at Belleview and Hampden and Quincy Avenue and Colorado Boulevard where the Canal crosses.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Alcohol in Parks Related to Permitted Events

City Clerk Laura Gillespie joined the meeting for this agenda item.

Coordinator Black clarified that this discussion is not about permitting alcohol in parks at all times. The question is specific to permitting alcohol in parks as it relates to an event that the City has issued a permit for.

Coordinator Black stated that the question of alcohol in parks came up at a recent City Council meeting and during a 75th Anniversary Committee meeting. She confirmed that the existing municipal code language prohibits alcohol in parks and trails without exception. She said the discussions related to changing this piece of the Code have been related to John Meade Park. Ms. Black said she spoke with Frank Hutto, who is one of the donors of the Alan Hutto Memorial Commons, and he expressed to staff that he would prefer that alcohol be an option in Alan Hutto Memorial Commons. She stated that the question before PTRC is whether to amend the Code to allow alcohol for permitted events, and if the answer is yes should it be in all parks or just John Meade Park and Alan Hutton Memorial Commons. In addition, Council asked if the City should be the only entity permitted to hold events with alcohol or should nonprofit and private events be permitted to have alcohol as well.

Coordinator Black stated that staff's suggestion is to limit this discussion to John Meade Park and Alan Hutto Memorial Commons. She said other City parks are passive parks with no facilities or adequate parking to support larger events. Ms. Black said she will take PTRC's comments to the City Council study session on June 1st and if Council provides direction to change the Code, she will bring specific Municipal Code language to PTRC for discussion.

City Clerk Laura Gillespie noted that if alcohol is allowed for permitted events the thought is that it would be for both private events and public events.

Acting Chair Eber asked if the Commission is able to make a distinction on types of alcohol.

City Clerk Gillespie replied that the thought is that it would be a general alcohol allowance as there was no discussion about (for example) just allowing beer.

Acting Chair Eber asked if the fee to reserve the park is \$25.

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Coordinator Black responded that there is no fee right now to use Alan Hutto Memorial Commons other than the \$25 application fee that everyone pays. She said staff is currently developing a reservation or rental fee in addition to the application fee for the park shelter at John Meade Park.

City Clerk Gillespie noted that if the event being permitted for alcohol is public (where attendees would need to buy a ticket), then the state statute kicks in and a special event liquor permit is required in addition to the City permit. This would include additional fees.

Commissioner Scott asked what the City envisions happening at these events because she believes the City will attract different event types depending on whether or not alcohol can be served. She said it would be important to write some regulations around the decision and the deposit should be more due to the level of damage being greater with alcohol involved. She said there are noise restrictions and other Code restrictions in place that are ancillary to this issue and how will that impact the type of events.

Coordinator Black provided some examples of events with alcohol in the park that have been proposed, including the 75th Anniversary Celebration and Art Commission events with music and wine at Alan Hutto Memorial Commons.

Commissioner Scott brought up the idea of capping the number of events each year to reduce the maintenance costs and the City's liability.

Commissioner Leviton commented that he does not like the idea that no alcoholic beverages can be consumed regardless of the event. He suggested adding a few words to the Code to control excessive drinking in the park, such as "It is unlawful to consume any alcoholic beverage within any park or trail within the City without City Council approval." He suggested City staff could manage the permitting and fees.

Acting Chair Eber replied that City Council is looking to PTRC for direction and the wording answers the question that alcohol should be allowed, but it does not solve the problem under what conditions would alcohol be permitted.

Coordinator Black pointed out that permitting is generally kept at an administrative level. She said there needs to be a process established that is fair and that meets certain criteria, so it is not an arbitrary decision.

Commissioner Scott said she loves the idea of making the park robust and fun and to utilize the park to its fullest would likely include alcohol, but she thinks it is a slippery slope. She suggested that there needs to be more discussion before making a recommendation to establish what the criteria is. She is leaning towards allowing alcohol in order to open the venue up as it is a beautiful setting.

Coordinator Black specified that staff is looking for direction in order to write new Code language and reminded the Commission that they are not making a recommendation at this time; they are only providing feedback.

Commissioner Murphy commented that it is a beautiful venue with a lot of potential for events such as a concert in the park. She believes alcohol needs to be allowed on a case-by-case basis, but she does not want to exclude alcohol as it will limit the functions.

Commissioner Leviton asked if there are any signs about liquor at any City parks.

Coordinator Black responded that there is signage at John Meade Park specifying no alcohol is allowed in the park.

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The Commission discussed having alcohol at City's events but limiting it to beer and wine. The Commission agreed that alcohol should not be served at family events such as the Outdoor Movie Night and Car Show.

Acting Chair Eber reiterated that he is nervous about the park becoming a destination event space. He believes that alcohol could drive the types of events that the City may not want in its parks. He said his understanding was that Alan Hutto Commons was geared towards children and youth events, but he is now hearing it will have a double function. He does not want to turn the park into a cocktail party that encourages evening events. For these reasons he said his preference is to not allow alcohol and if alcohol is allowed, he would like to restrict it to beer and wine only at City events and not allow alcohol at nonprofit/private events. He said he also believes that if the City is going to allow alcohol at John Meade Park and Alan Hutto Commons then it should be allowed in all City parks.

Commissioner Scott stated that she agrees with limiting alcohol to beer and wine, but she would approve of alcohol at nonprofit and private events provided there is language in the Code that specifies certain criteria for the event.

Acting Chair Eber asked if alcohol can be served inside City Hall and at the Joint Public Safety Facility.

City Clerk Gillespie confirmed that alcohol can be served at City Hall but not at the Joint Public Safety Facility. She explained that the City Manager has to approve the event and a special event liquor permit is required through the state.

Acting Chair Eber said it seems strange to him that you can serve liquor at an event inside City Hall, but if you step outside and into the park it is a different standard. He thinks there needs to be uniformity.

Commissioner Murphy stated that she likes the idea of allowing beer and wine only. She said she understands that allowing alcohol at events gets complicated, but she thinks the right type of community event brings people from the Village together and the whole intention of the park was to bring community together.

Coordinator Black asked Commissioner Murphy to clarify if she believes alcohol should be limited to City events only.

Commissioner Murphy responded that she would look to the guidance of legal counsel, but she is leaning towards allowing alcohol for the sake of the enjoyment of the community. She pointed out that the opportunity for people to enjoy the park is a short season. She asked if the City could isolate alcohol to just John Meade Park and Alan Hutto Memorial Commons.

Coordinator Black responded that the City does have the option to only allow alcohol in John Meade Park and Alan Hutto Memorial Commons. She said staff's recommendation is to only allow alcohol in these areas since it has the infrastructure to support that type of event, whereas other parks lack parking, restrooms, etc.

Acting Chair Eber asked if other cities such as Denver allow alcohol in their parks.

Commissioner Scott pulled up an article published in the Denver Post in April 2020 stating that Denver Parks and Rec is temporarily prohibiting the possession and consumption of alcohol including beer, wine, and champagne in city parks. She said the purpose was a temporary directive to encourage staying at home and social distancing during Covid, but the article does imply that you could have alcohol in parks prior to Covid. She said the Commission might want to consider allowing champagne along with beer and wine.

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Commissioner Leviton brought up the idea of limiting cocktails to 15% alcohol. He said he does not believe hard liquor belongs in the parks, but he does not agree with denying an event from having alcohol. He said he also agrees it should be limited to John Meade Park and Alan Hutto Memorial Commons.

Commissioner Murphy brought up the concern of vaping and marijuana and asked how the City will limit its use.

Coordinator Black confirmed that these items are already prohibited under a separate section of the City Code.

Acting Chair Eber summarized the Commission's thoughts that if alcohol is going to be allowed at John Meade Park and Alan Hutto Commons that it needs to be a respectful social use and come with heavy stringency to make sure it does not result in drunken fests.

Commissioner Murphy also brought up that there should be no glass allowed as it would be dangerous to have broken glass in a park where children are playing.

The Commission agreed that glass should not be allowed. They discussed the option of boxed wine and aluminum cans to eliminate the potential for any broken glass.

Coordinator Black stated that staff has also discussed the concern with having glass in the park and agreed that it should be prohibited.

The Commission discussed allowing hard seltzer in addition to beer, wine, and champagne since they are lower in alcohol content and they are in aluminum cans. They also discussed capping the alcohol content to 15%.

Commissioner Leviton asked if law enforcement will be required to be present if alcohol is served.

Coordinator Black replied that staff has not discussed any requirement to have law enforcement present. She said it is something that would have to be discussed with the Police Department due to limitations with staffing. She said she is only hearing interest in permitting alcohol at John Meade Park and Alan Hutto Memorial Commons and the benefit of that is the Police Department is across the street.

Acting Chair Eber asked if Quincy Farm allows alcohol as he does not want to drive more events there for that reason.

Coordinator Black replied that there is nothing prohibiting alcohol at Quincy Farm, but the City has not received any requests to have an event with alcohol nor do they typically receive requests to have events in the evening.

Coordinator Black summarized the following feedback:

- The Commission is in favor of allowing alcohol in John Meade Park and Alan Hutto Commons only
- The Commission is in favor of allowing alcohol at nonprofit and public events in addition to City events with appropriate guidelines in place
- The Commission agreed that parameters need to be set so events are held responsibly
- The Commission agreed to limit alcohol to beer, wine, champagne, and possibly hard seltzer

Coordinator Black confirmed that the City has no plan to change the existing City events with regard to alcohol.

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REPORTS

a. PTRC Chair Report

Acting Chair Eber stated that he spoke with Chair Dahl and she had nothing to report.

b. Commission Members Report

Commissioner Murphy asked if there has been any discussion about a church providing parking and a place for tents for the homeless on the northeast corner of Hampden and Colorado Boulevard right near the new underpass.

Coordinator Black replied that the church across Hampden has applied to the City of Denver to allow 24-hour parking on their site for people who are living in their vehicles. She said the site would be staffed and the church would provide water and sanitation services. She said the application process is through the City of Denver, so it is not a process that the City is involved in.

Acting Chair Eber commented that if there are potential impacts to health and safety within the Village they should be noted as concerns of adjacent neighbors. He said just because it is not in the City does not mean that the City does not have a voice.

Acting Chair Eber noted that since City Hall is reopening, he hopes that the Master Plan process will begin soon. He emphasized that PTRC has a significant impact on the Master Plan, and they need to be an active participant. He would like the Commission to seek input on where the community stands on open space, trails, and environmental issues.

Acting Chair Eber followed up on the Cantitoe Trail issue and said he had additional discussion with neighbors to the east of Holly Street. He said it is recognized that this part of the Village does not have any formal trails and there is a need. He echoed that the same is true in the area north of Quincy and West of Franklin where there are some on-street trails but very few formalized trails. He encouraged PTRC to think about how they can more formally adopt linkages and trails in these areas. He announced that the Cantitoe Trail issue will go before the Planning and Zoning Commission at their next meeting, and he encouraged Commission members to attend the meeting to stress the importance of this issue. He said the Commission should also be involved in the City Council public meetings.

Coordinator Black confirmed that the Cantitoe vacation application will go before the Planning and Zoning Commission on Tuesday, June 8th. The meeting will be in-person at City Hall at 6:30 p.m.

c. Staff Report

i. City Hall Reopening/In-person Meetings

Coordinator Black reported that City Hall will be open to the public starting Monday, May 17th. She asked for the Commissioners' preferences on continuing with virtual meetings or returning to in-person meetings.

Commission members agreed to hold the June 10th PTRC meeting virtually via Zoom.

ii. Special Events

1. John Meade Park Grand Opening

Coordinator Black reported that the Cherry Hills Village Elementary School will hold their 5th Grade Continuation at Alan Hutto Memorial Commons on May 27th.

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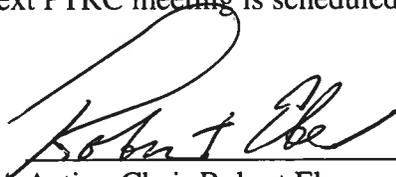
Ms. Black also announced that the City is planning to have the John Meade Park and Alan Hutto Memorial Commons grand opening celebration on Saturday, June 26th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Staff is still working on the details for entertainment, but there will be a scavenger hunt in the Park for kids.

2. Hampden Underpass

Ms. Black reported that the Hampden Underpass celebration will be on June 3rd at 4:00 p.m. and she will send Commission members additional information.

ADJOURNMENT

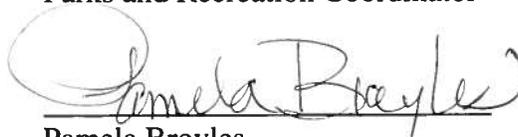
The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m. The next PTRC meeting is scheduled for June 10th at 5:30 p.m.



Acting Chair Robert Eber



Emily Black
Parks and Recreation Coordinator



Pamela Broyles
Administrative Assistant