

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the  
Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission of the  
City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado  
Held on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

## **PARKS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

Commissioner Dahl called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Tory Leviton, Stephanie Dahl, Chelsea Scott, Laurie O'Brien, and Howard Sherr. Also present were Emily Black, Parks Project & Operations Manager, Jeff Roberts, Parks Operations Supervisor and Monica Castillo, Parks Clerk

Vice Chair Grodinsky and Commissioner Presecan were absent.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The PTRC conducted the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

None.

### **INTRODUCTION OF NEW PTRC COMMISSIONERS**

Manager Black introduced and welcomed the new Commissioners Laurie O'Brien and Howard Sherr.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- a. Approval of Minutes – May 11, 2023

The motion passed unanimously.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. Dahlia Hollow Play Rock Replacement

Manager Black recalled at the last meeting the Commission discussed replacing the play rocks at Dahlia Hollow Park. The Commission requested that staff research other rock or play equipment features. She explained that staff is looking for input from PTRC about which of the play equipment that appears in the meeting packets is more appealing, with the plan to then get feedback from the community in that area; it may be best to wait until August when school starts to reach out to the community and gather feedback.

Commissioner Dahl asked if there is a timeframe for getting this project done.

Manager Black said Metropolitan Football Stadium District will ask the City in September what the plan is for the funds in order to create a press release about how municipalities have benefited from the money, but the funds do not have to be expended within a certain period. She explained the goal would be to present a plan to City Council in September; hopefully, staff can do the outreach and make the final decisions with PTRC in August.

Commissioner Dahl said she likes the idea of the stumps, because when her kids were little, they liked to jump between things; she thought it would be great for some of the

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smaller kids. She stated she also likes the boulder climber and would like to see it kept with the natural aesthetic theme verses the fake mushrooms or fort.

Manager Black clarified that the fort was not included to take the place of the play equipment, it is just an addition in the event the Commission looks at play equipment that is less than the \$25,000 provided; the fort could be located outside the play surfacing. She noted that PTRC also has a \$10,000 line item for projects every year which could be allocated towards the play equipment in case the costs are over \$25,000.

Commissioner Scott clarified that the Commission is going to replace the rocks that already exist at Dahlia Hollow Park, so the rock-climbing boulders are coming down in that section.

Commissioner Sherr asked if the equipment is for climbing on or not.

Commissioner Dahl said she thinks the original intent when they placed the boulders was to have a natural kind of playground which they try to do with all the parks (rather than large playground equipment), but now the rocks need to be replaced.

Commissioner Sherr said the smaller boulder looks like a wonderful seat for the parent and the other rock looks very tall. He stated he would feel a little nervous depending on the age of the child going up and jumping off the rock. He asked if the Commission was trying to decide between the options in the packet.

Commissioner Dahl said the Commission was just trying to gather some ideas. She recalled that at the last meeting, the Commission discussed whether the City should replace the rocks or find something different; the Commission asked staff to look at different options that exist and not necessarily these specific items. She continued that the Commission also discussed when school starts back up in August, if the city has two or three different options, they can take it to the kids at the bus stop to see what they like and what the parents would like to see.

Commissioner Scott said another thing to think about is longevity.

Manager Black said she was able to find real rocks as many requested that are engineered and certified as playground equipment, but that as the Commission can see, they are expensive. She continued each type of play equipment has different warranties; it is a tradeoff in terms of longevity.

Commissioner Leviton said he likes the "Bison Rock" feature because he thinks it is the most attractive, priced fairly, natural, and it does not look hazardous or too high. He noted the obstacle course is affordable too and he was thinking the Commission could offer a combination of items. He understands Commissioner Scott's point about the fort, and he does not think it is attractive, but it could be useful.

Commissioner Dahl said she noticed when walking into City Hall how amazing the flowers look and was thinking there are not a lot of nice landscaping areas in her neighborhood. She continued she would not mind seeing the area around Dahlia Hollow Park landscaped with beautiful flowers.

Commissioner Sherr said that is a beautiful park, it really is charming; the only thing he noticed was the rocks did not really add anything to the area and he wondered if there were other ways to find climbing features. He said he does not think the fort looks nice.

Commissioner Scott said she agrees she was thinking of it as shelter but aesthetically it does not really match the area and would be an eyesore.

Manager Black said that is great feedback and she will take the fort out of the list of options. She explained that before getting public input, is it important to remove items the Commission does not approve of. She stated she will remove the fort and the mushrooms from the choices.

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Commissioner O'Brien said she likes the horizontal log; it seems appropriate for all ages. She also likes the step logs that Commissioner Dahl had mentioned. She said she also wondered what Commissioner Presecan had mentioned - that the park is a meeting area for people, and she wondered if they could keep the stumps as chairs.

Manager Black said yes, or the city could install benches outside of the play area.

Commissioner Dahl asked Manager Black for confirmation that staff was looking for the Commission's feedback so staff can prepare to gather community input in August. She asked if staff needed more direction.

Manager Black said this has been a good discussion; she will include the obstacle course, boulder climbers, amorphous log, kid rock, and the bison rock for future consideration; she will remove the fort, the lookout rock, the rock wall, and the mushroom steps. She continued she will make the changes and remove those play items from the options. She said the first day of school for Cherry Creek School District is August 14<sup>th</sup>, so staff can bring these back to the Commission at the August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting with some messaging and make the final plan; at that meeting, Commissioners can determine who is available for an early morning donut meet and greet at the bus stop with Parks staff. Staff will then plan to bring the ideas to City Council in September.

Commissioner Dahl said Manager Black will want to avoid the first two days of school since the district is doing a staggered start again.

Commissioner Scott said one last thought is her kids and others ride their bikes on that path and then drop their bikes when they stop at the park, so maybe a small bike rack can be installed as well.

Commissioner Sherr said yes, a multipurpose bike rack for adults and kids.

Manager Black thanked everyone for their input and suggestions.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### a. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Manager Black gave a brief explanation regarding the election of Chair and Vice Chair; the Commission elects a new Chair and Vice Chair per the bylaws at the first regular meeting following the third Tuesday in; Chair Wolfe has come off the Commission so the Chair position is open; Commissioner Grodinsky is eligible to serve as Vice Chair for another year if he would like to. She explained that Commissioners can nominate another member or can nominate themselves; another Commissioner must second and then there will be a vote; Commissioners do not need to be present to be elected but should have given their consent to be nominated.

Commissioner Dahl asked if there were any nominations for Chair.

Commissioner Scott motioned to nominate Commissioner Dahl.

Commissioner Dahl said she is willing to accept the nomination.

The motion passed unanimously.

Manager Black congratulated Chair Dahl.

Chair Dahl asked if there were any nominations for Vice Chair and asked if anyone knew Vice Chair Grodinsky's status.

Commissioner Scott said Vice Chair Grodinsky does not want the nomination.

Chair Dahl said she nominates Commissioner Scott as Vice Chair.

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Commissioner Sherr asked what the Vice Chair does.

Commissioner Leviton said they run the meeting when the Chair is not available.

Manager Black said if there was an event or Council meeting, for example that the Chair was to give a report and they could not attend then the Vice Chair would also step in.

Commissioner Leviton said he was Vice Chair for a year and all he had to do was run two meetings.

Commissioner Leviton seconded the motion to nominate Commissioner Scott as Vice Chair.

The motion passed unanimously.

Manager Black congratulated Vice Chair Scott and said she and Chair Dahl will serve through next May, and then there will be another selection of Chair and Vice Chair.

### b. Bench Donation in Memory of Kathy Scott

Manager Black explained this request is from Taylor Scott in memory of his mother, Kathy Scott; the bench donation location is Dahlia Hollow Park; Supervisor Roberts will work with the family to determine the exact location.

Supervisor Roberts noted it will be close to the Dahlia Hollow play area as discussed earlier.

Manager Black said the Scott family lived in the Charlou subdivision for over twenty years; the planned text on the bench plaque will read: "In loving memory of Kathy Scott, July 25, 1948 – May 7, 2023." She noted that a biography of Kathy Scott was included in meeting packets; once the donation is approved by PTRC, she will bring the resolution to City Council. She explained that the family asked to expedite the request because they are hoping to make an announcement at Ms. Scott's celebration of life later in June, so staff has tried to condense the timeline for them.

Commissioner O'Brien said she was a friend of Kathy Scott; her daughter went to school with Taylor. She said she would be happy to assist Manager Black if she would like someone from the Commission to go with her to meet with the family.

Commissioner O'Brien said, "I move to recommend City Council approval of the bench donation in memory of Kathy Scott."

Commissioner Leviton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## REPORTS

### a. Chair

Chair Dahl said as the newly elected Chair, she has no reports.

### b. Commissioners

Commissioner Sherr said he wanted to bring it to the attention of people who do not live near Woodie Hollow Park that the park is not being mowed, but it is gorgeous; this is the first time in all the years that he has lived there that the staff has not done that. He stated he wanted to chime in and say it is attractive and with all the rain it is a gorgeous green color; that is a very natural area and he just wanted to say it looks nice. He thinks there are some advantages in addition to making the horse owners happy.

Chair Dahl asked if horses are eating the grass, so they are acting like lawnmowers.

Supervisor Roberts said yes but he does not think they can take on that whole field.

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Chair Dahl said that is awesome. She thinks it is incredible that the city can offer that area as a feeding ground.

Chair Dahl said they buried the Xcel line at Quincy behind her house, which is good, but then they chopped off the top of the trees all the way down Quincy at the power lines, and she does not think that is good for trees. She stated it looks terrible and asked what happened.

Supervisor Roberts said yes, Xcel does clearance pruning for their lines every so often and those trees have been trimmed like that for years now; it looks drastic when they come through and do it.

Vice Chair Scott asked if they are going to grow back.

Supervisor Roberts said yes, they will sucker back and fill in, but then Xcel will come and trim them again.

Chair Dahl asked if Xcel is going to bury those lines.

Manager Black said she does not think there is a plan to do that right now. She explained Xcel only cares about the clearance between anything and the lines (rather than aesthetics or tree health), and unfortunately the City does not have a say in it.

Commissioner O'Brien said she has a question about that neighborhood: when the lines were buried, there were bollards to keep people out between Happy Canyon and Ivy. She said there are tire marks, and it looks like they are regularly going through there.

Supervisor Roberts said tire marks are appearing since it has been so wet and people pull over all the time on that road; it happened right in front of Colorado and Quincy on the corner, people pull over and now there are ruts everywhere; staff will go out there and try to smooth it out.

The Commission discussed the high volume of traffic through Quincy and the bridge across the High Line Canal along Quincy Avenue.

Manager Black said for the bridge specifically she knows that bridge is due for repair; as the city does that, they will be looking at that whole area and how to make it safer for pedestrians.

Vice Chair Scott suggested the city install major flashing lights for pedestrians; she thinks that would deter people from using it as a pass through from DTC to University or Colorado because what a hassle it would be because people could push that button at any time. Manager Black noted there were flashing pedestrian lights at the High Line Canal crossing.

Commissioner Leviton said he has been telling City Council for five years to put wildlife crossing signs all over the place and that would deter a few more people from speeding. He said has seen a turtle out on the street over there, so it is really a wildlife crossing.

Commissioner Sherr said Quincy is real thorn; he rode his bike there today and there was a police officer trying to control traffic; he stated he was shocked and has never seen so much speed; it is getting to be out of hand.

Vice Chair Scott said the flashing speed sign trailer was recently placed in her neighborhood and she is curious if someone requested it.

Manager Black said it's possible it was due to a resident request, but she did not know for sure. She explained sometimes it is placed based on a resident request and sometimes the Police Department will place it in an area they feel is needed.

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Vice Chair Scott stated it gets dangerous when people park in the blind spots coming around the curve and people are parked on both sides of the street; it is tough on that bend with the kids and cars coming remarkably close.

Commissioner Leviton thanked Commissioners O'Brien and Sherr for being here. He expressed displeasure at Council's decision to sell 90 Meade Lane and questioned how the decision was made in light of the recent ballot measure regarding the sale or transfer of open space.

Manager Black explained the language of the ballot measure that residents voted for specifically excluded 90 Meade Lane; City Council reserved the right to transfer or sell that piece of property because it is a residential parcel and is not zoned as open space.

Commissioner Leviton said lastly, he held a concert in the park; it was supposed to be held at Alan Hutto Memorial Commons, but it was too muddy, so it was held under the shelter; it was nice and there was a great view; there was a trumpet player, a cello player and four singers. He noted he is also considering holding a more publicly advertised large event in August or September.

### c. Staff

Manager Black reported that Movie Night is August 19<sup>th</sup> and staff has chosen Super Mario Brothers as the movie; she invited PTRC members to volunteer the night of Movie Night; staff would really appreciate an extra set of hands, and it is a fun activity. She explained staff hands out ice cream and popcorn to the kids for free, and it is a terrific way to meet the community.

Commissioner Leviton asked the start time; Manager Black replied 6:30 pm.

### i. Quincy Farm

Manager Black reported that the City Council has hired an outside attorney to work on some of the issues with the conservation easement; the Cherry Hills Land Preserve is again creating an Annual Plan for next year and the Farm is being managed under the existing plan for this year. She explained that CHLP will likely be presenting to City Council in July, August, and September about next year's Annual Plan; if the Commission is interested in that process stay tuned for those City Council meetings.

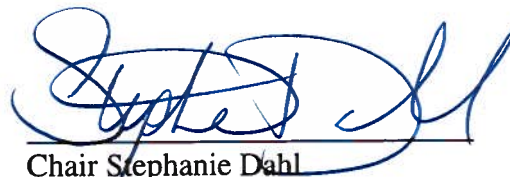
### ii. Upcoming Events in the Parks

Manager Black reported there are many events going on at Quincy Farm held by the Cherry Hills Land Preserve. Other upcoming events in parks and open space include a volunteer brush clean up on June 24<sup>th</sup> at Dahlia Hollow parking lot; at the end of June there will be a bird walk at Quincy Farm, a race in JMP on July 8<sup>th</sup>, and a company picnic coming up as well.

Chair Dahl said all the kids and families love the end of the year celebrations that are held in John Meade Park.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for July 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.



Chair Stephanie Dahl



Emily Black

Parks Project and Operations Manager