

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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Minutes of the  
Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission of the  
City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado  
Held on Thursday, August 12, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Chair Stephanie Dahl called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Chair Stephanie Dahl, Co-Chair Tory Leviton, Commissioners Kate Murphy, Robert Eber and Aron Grodinsky. Also present were Emily Black, Parks and Recreation Coordinator, Jeff Roberts, Parks Operations Supervisor and Pamela Broyles, Administrative Assistant.

Commissioner Aron Grodinsky joined the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Absent: Commissioner Chelsea Scott

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Co-Chair Tory Leviton moved, seconded by Commissioner Robert Eber to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes – June 10, 2021

The motion passed unanimously.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The PTRC conducted the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. Additional Trail Signs

Coordinator Black updated the Commission that signage has been added on the High Line Canal Trail at the Hampden underpass and the Belleview underpass for “No E-Bikes” and posted speed limits. She said the City was hoping the High Line Canal Wayfinding signs would be installed along the High Line Canal Trail prior to the City signs being installed, but there has been a delay and those signs won’t be installed until fall. She said the City plans to move forward with additional signage along the Canal.

Coordinator Black shared an example of the signs that will be attached to existing bollards. She said the signs are for “No E-Bikes” and the 15mph speed limit. Ms. Black asked the Commission for feedback on the signs.

Commissioner Wolfe suggested that the signs should be posted at every bridge with access to the High Line Canal.

Commissioner Eber stated that the signs should not be limited to the High Line Canal.

Coordinator Black responded that signs will also be added to existing bollards along City bridle trails. She said the Commission can share suggestions on where signs should be added.

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The Commission approved the design of the signs so staff can order and install the signs.

The Commission discussed the pros and cons of the Police Department's use of an E-Bike for patrolling on City trails.

### Trail Renaming Update

Commissioner Wolfe reported that he will provide a progress report at the September meeting.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### a. PTRC Projects & Priorities – 2022

Coordinator Black reviewed the preliminary Projects and Priorities for 2022, including:

- \$10,000 for improvement/recreational programming in City Parks and Trails
- Special Events
- Trail Signing Project
- City Master Plan
- High Line Canal Stormwater Study
- High Line Canal Irrigation Project

Commissioner Eber requested that Quincy Farm be added as a priority for PTRC as it is an important open space item.

The Commission agreed to add Quincy Farm as a discussion item under the "Reports" section of PTRC's agenda.

Commissioner Eber brought up the funds from South Suburban and how they should be used. He believes the Commission should be guardians of the funds.

Commissioner Wolfe asked for an update on moving the cell tower to a new location.

Coordinator Black responded that the application to move the tower from John Meade Park to City Park on the corner of Quincy and University has expired. She said City Council met with Zayo group about improving cell service in the City and she will forward the Commission information about that meeting.

Commissioner Murphy asked if there is a way to track the usage at John Meade Park. She suggested promoting the Park for special events since now she believed alcohol is allowed.

Coordinator Black stated that she took the Commission's discussion on allowing alcohol in the Park to City Council and Council is only in favor of allowing alcohol at City held events. She said Council is not in favor of issuing event liquor permits for private parties or non-profits in John Meade Park. She explained that their concern is for safety and monitoring people to make sure the rules for the special event liquor license are being followed. She said they were also concerned with people leaving events after drinking.

Commissioner Murphy presented the idea of adding Pickle Ball Courts in John Meade Park as it is a family friendly event for all ages, and it would bring more people to the Park.

The Commission discussed the benefits of adding Pickle Ball Courts to John Meade Park.

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Commissioner Eber pointed out that park usage is something the Master Plan will look at closely. He said the idea in the past was that the Community did not want ball fields in parks as they wanted them to remain natural.

Commissioner Eber requested that a generic line item be added to the Projects and Priorities so the Commission can have discussion on topics that are not specifically on the list.

Chair Dahl suggested adding a vague line item for the Commission to have discussion on other uses for the parks and whether the parks are being properly used for what the residents want.

Coordinator Black clarified that the Projects and Priorities is a list of what the Commission wants to get done next year but it is not a comprehensive list of everything that PTRC can do. She said it is a way to make sure that staff has accounted for everything in the budget that PTRC wants to prioritize next year.

The Commission agreed to add a line item to the Projects and Priorities titled "Visioning" with the specific goal being "To be determined." This would serve as a placeholder for the Commission to discuss additional items.

b. Donation of Tree and Plaque in Memory of Alan and Jo Middaugh

Coordinator Black reported that the City received a request from the family of Alan and Jo Middaugh to donate a tree in their honor. She stated that Ms. Middaugh was part of the garden club and walked in the open space at Quincy and Holly on a regular basis. Ms. Black clarified that this space is a Denver Water owned property that the City maintains as a park open space area. She acknowledged that the City is running out of spaces for bench donations and forming a Tree Donation Program would be a good step for future donations. She said staff is asking PTRC to approve the tree donation and plaque for the Quincy and Holly location so the item can move forward to City Council.

Commissioner Kate Murphy moved, seconded by Aron Grodinsky to recommend City Council approve the tree donation in memory of the Middaughs at Holly and Quincy.

The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Grodinsky asked if it is easier to maintain a plaque in the ground versus a plaque around the tree that will need to expand as the tree grows.

Parks Supervisor Roberts responded that the plaque around the tree would be easier to maintain or replace.

A draft of the Tree Donation Program was provided to the Commission for their consideration.

Commissioner Eber requested that the trees being donated should be good quality trees with a minimum caliper. He also suggested that the Tree Donation Program be specifically to honor a loved one.

Parks Supervisor Roberts said the tree donation language could include a minimum 2" caliper tree. He said a 2" to 2.5" caliper is generally what the City plants.

The Commission voiced their disappointment with the code language on tree removal in relation to the trees that were cut down on a private lot on the corner of Quincy and Franklin.

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Coordinator Black deferred questions to the Community Development Department.

### REPORTS

a. PTRC Chair Report

Chair Dahl reminded the Commission that the Annual Outdoor Movie Night is scheduled for Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup>.

b. Commission Members Report

Co-Chair Leviton shared that he is a proponent of wilderness and open space. He said he will continue to advocate for wildlife in the Village. He also brought up the idea of Cherry Hills Village having “sister cities” and finding like minded communities in other parts of the world with similar values.

Commissioner Grodinsky commented on an email Ms. Black received expressing disappointment with the Commission’s decision to prohibit the use of E-Bikes in the Village. Mr. Grodinsky expressed his disappointment with the City’s policy to ban E-Bikes and he believes the Commission should develop a policy and consider allowing E-Bikes.

Commissioner Eber commented on an email Ms. Black received from a resident who is concerned with E-Bikes and speeding issues on trails. Mr. Eber stressed the importance of developing a campaign about being courteous on the trails. He said it is the Commission’s duty to promote safe usage for all people on the trail.

Coordinator Black responded that the High Line Canal Conservancy is currently promoting its “Share the Canal” campaign through signage on the High Line Canal that addresses being courteous and safe on the trails. She said the City has also posted messages on social media and in the Village Crier on trail etiquette. Ms. Black noted that the September issue of the Village Crier will specifically focus on the message “Alert when Passing” per the request of City Council.

Commissioner Eber shared that he attended the kick-off meeting for the Citizens Advisory Taskforce (CAT) to begin the master planning process. He noted that the first open house will be on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Eber discussed a draft survey questionnaire that the Taskforce plans to circulate to gather input and he would like the Commission to get involved with circulating the survey. He explained that CAT’s focus is to gather input and serve as an advisory group to the Planning and Zoning Commission who will draft the Master Plan. Commissioner Eber also expressed the importance of including environmental and energy efficiency goals in the master plan.

Commissioner Eber noted that Quincy Farm is the largest piece of open space in the City. He stressed the importance of the Commission being involved with the future of Quincy Farm.

c. Staff Report

i. Movie Night – August 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm

Coordinator Black reported that Movie Night will feature the movie “Inside Out” and there will be games and popcorn at the event.

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### ii. 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event – August 28<sup>th</sup> 3pm-7pm

Coordinator Black reported that the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration is August 28<sup>th</sup> in John Meade Park. She shared that the event will include a time capsule dedication, pizza from Pino's, hotdogs, beer and wine and entertainment. She encouraged the Commission to attend the event.

Ms. Black announced that the City will host the annual Car Show event this year on Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### Quincy Farm

Coordinator Black reported that City Council put out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the management and activation of Quincy Farm and they received the following two proposals:

- The Cherry Hills Land Preserve
- Natalie Anderson, the granddaughter of Catherine Anderson

Ms. Black noted that Council has decided to hear presentations from both parties and also requested that City staff prepare two options that include a higher cost option and a lower cost maintenance option for the City to manage the Farm. She said staff will present its report to Council on September 21<sup>st</sup> along with Natalie Anderson and the Cherry Hills Village Land Preserve.

Ms. Black stated that both proposals are on the City's website along with the RFP if the Commission would like to review them. Staff presentations will also be posted once they are complete.

Ms. Black explained that Council will have the opportunity to have a Q&A with the presenters and the meeting will then be open for public comment. She stressed that Council will not be making a decision that evening as the meeting is for informational purposes and to hear from the public. She said the meeting will be live-streamed so people can watch from home, and it will also be recorded and on the City's Website.

Ms. Black reported that Council will do a site tour of the Farm with Natalie Anderson on October 6<sup>th</sup> and a site tour with the Cherry Hills Land Preserve on October 13<sup>th</sup>. She confirmed that both of these meetings will be open to the public. Ms. Black expressed that there will be an aggressive outreach to the community to get as much feedback as possible.

Commissioner Eber stressed that PTRC has a huge role in Quincy Farm, and he feels that the Commission was excluded from the decision-making process. He believes the Commission can provide valuable perspective as an advisory group.

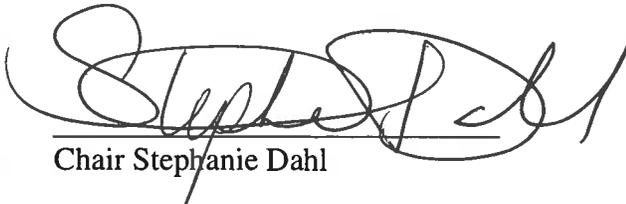
Ms. Black noted that Council is asking for public input at the September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting and Council has put a lot of emphasis on hearing from the public.

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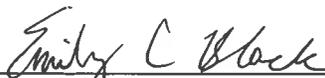
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**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m. The next PTRC meeting is scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.



Chair Stephanie Dahl



Emily Black  
Parks and Recreation Coordinator



Pamela Broyles  
Administrative Assistant