

City of Wheat Ridge Parks & Recreation Commission

Wednesday, March 15th, 2023
6:30 PM

Wheat Ridge Recreation Center Conference Room
OR

Join via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82346022916>

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Cambria Rollo, Ralph Habben, Andy Rasmussen, Kathy Koniz, Christine Samaniuk, Patrick Quinn, Karen Stanley, Pat Cervera

Commissioners Absent: John Route

Guests: Steve Kirkpatrick – City Clerk

Staff Present: Karen O'Donnell – Parks & Rec Director
Benny Paiz – Parks, Forestry & Open Space Manager

1. Determination of Quorum & Call to Order

- a. Meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM

2. Introductions – New Members & Guests

a. Welcome New Members

- i. **Christine Samaniuk (District II)**

- ii. **Patrick Quinn (District III)**

b. Steve Kirkpatrick – City Clerk for the City of Wheat Ridge

- i. Swore in Christine Samaniuk, Patrick Quinn, Andy Rasmussen, and Kathy Koniz. Will reach out to Pat Cervera to swear her in later.

c. Benny Paiz – New Parks, Forestry & Open Space Manager

d. Review Board Members Contact List – no edits needed

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. **January Minutes** – Commissioner Quinn motioned to approve. Commissioner Rasmussen seconded. Approved.

- b. **February Minutes** – Commissioner Koniz motioned to approve. Commissioner Rasmussen seconded. Approved.

4. Unfinished Business

a. Parks, Forestry & Open Space Manager Position

- i. Benny Paiz began on February 27th as the new Manager of Parks, Forestry & Open Space Division. Comes from the City of Thornton. Has been in the industry since 2000 and has spent that last 23 years working up through positions with the City of Thornton Parks. Working towards his degree for Organizational Leadership.

5. New Business

a. April Elections

- i. Chair and Vice Chair positions are to be voted on
 1. Current Chair is Cambria Rollo
 2. Current Vice Chair is Pat Cervera
- ii. Email nominations to Karen O'Donnell and she will reach out to the member to make sure they are willing to take the position.

b. Letter of Support

- i. State Historic Grant for the Richards-Hart Estate
 1. Have received grants to cover planning portion
 2. This grant is to do the actual construction work towards the foundation and porch
 3. Need to add verbiage to the letter about construction work. Karen is going to double check with Brandon Altenburg about the wording
 4. Commissioner Rasmussen motioned to approve the letter once amended by Brandon. Seconded by Commissioner Quinn. Approved. Commissioner Rollo will sign the letter.

6. Upcoming City Council Meeting

a. Upcoming City Council Meeting

i. March 13th – Motion was approved to accept the JCOS Trails Partnership Grant

1. This will apply to the Tabor Lake Trail Project. It will help supplement the ARPA funds that are already budgeted for the project. \$410,000 was awarded.
2. Another grant has been applied for as well, that the feeling is hopeful towards to add additional supplemental funding to the project.
- ii. April 10th – Arbor Day Proclamation (4/28 – Arbor Day); Earth Day Month
 1. Benny will be acting as the Parks and Recreation representative.
- iii. May 22nd – Resolution for adopting the new Open Space Management Plan
- iv. June 26th – Parks & Recreation Month Proclamation for July

7. Staff Updates

i. Easter Egg Hunt

1. Will be held at Anderson Park this year Saturday, April 1st at 10:00 AM. During the pandemic, Parks & Recreation tried new things like having it at multiple locations but there were complications to that. Will be moving forward with it at one location again this year. There will be waves for age groups.

ii. Event & Volunteer Coordinator Position

1. Position is new to the city starting 2023. The position in part will be taking over events that Local Works used to host (Trunk or Treat, Holiday Event, etc.) due to Local Works changing their mission statement and focus. The position will also have a goal to assist the entire city in building up a robust volunteer program.
2. Beth June, an internal candidate from the Recreation Center, was offered the position and has accepted. She will begin in that role in April and will be reporting to Brandon Altenburg.

- iii. **Wheat Ridge Greenbelt selected as Leave No Trace Spotlight site in 2023**
 - 1. Was selected as one of 20 other locations nationwide.
 - 2. The Spotlight event will be hosted at Prospect Park from June 15th-17th. Will involve stewardship, education, and outreach. Susan Bennett is the main trainer for the City for Leave No Trace.
- iv. **Grant Update: Denver Ornithologists & Lois Webster Fund**
 - 1. Relatively small grants
 - 2. These will help fund a seasonal position that has been posted.
- v. **Update on old PFOS Building**
 - 1. Local Works will be leasing the building to use as the space for their Makers Space program. Council has approved the leasing.
- vi. **Public Art Update**
 - 1. The art piece being installed over at Clear Creak Crossing has begun. The top piece has been brought over and it's believed that the piece will go together very quickly now that Evergreen Construction has given their approval to begin.
 - 2. Wadsworth Art Project
 - a. Its agriculture themed with a sound wall and pieces in the median.
- vii. **2023 Projects – Tabor Lake Trail, Fruitdale Playground Surfacing, Panorama Tennis Courts, etc.**
 - 1. Tennis Courts
 - a. With the grant funding that we are applying for through the USTA requires that we have some of the courts lined just for tennis.
 - 2. Fruitdale Playground Surfacing
 - a. Unknown timeline for this project but it will replace the current fall surfacing around the playground to pour-in-place surfacing instead.
- viii. **What's Up Wheat Ridge Survey**
 - 1. There has been a survey posted to What's Up Wheat Ridge to collect community input about future bond issues that include a Rec Center expansion.

8. Future Agenda Items

- a. **April meeting – Open Space Management Plan Review before May City Council adoption**
- b. **Future use of the Recreation Center Barn**
- c. **How the Greenbelt shows on Maps**

9. Commissioner Comments

- a. **Commissioner Rasmussen** – Noticed that pickleball and frisbee golf has been actively being used
- b. **Commissioner Koniz** – Greenbelt Beavers doing a lot of damage. Benny explained that Forestry and Open Space employees have been working on mitigating what trees the beavers can eat vs prefer them to leave alone. Letting them go for evasive species while protecting native species. This includes tree wraps and painting trunks with a paint and

sand mix that seems to be working well.

- c. **Commissioner Samaniuk** – Asked about trail closures and how early before the closure the notice goes out. Notices are posted on the websites for the city, on social media platforms, and within the kiosks.
- d. **Commissioner Stanley** – Brought up a concern about school closures, specifically Wil-More Davis and how the open space behind the school will be maintained. Is there a possibility to collaborate with the School District? Currently, it is unknown if there are any plans to manage the maintenance on the property. Karen O'Donnell believes that there will be something put into place to at least at Kullerstrand, where we utilize the field and installed the new playground, as the grant that helped fund the playground has a requirement of maintenance for 10 years.
- e. **Commissioner Habben** – Wanted it noted that the city is doing a good job in maintaining the Clear Creek Trail.
- f. **Commissioner Rollo** – the neighborhood around 35th is excited for the redesign of that corridor.

10. Adjournment

- a. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM