

# City of Wheat Ridge Parks & Recreation Commission

Wednesday, April 19th, 2023  
6:30 PM

Wheat Ridge Recreation Center Conference Room  
OR

Join via Zoom:

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

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## MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Cambria Rollo, Andy Rasmussen, Kathy Koniz, Christine Samaniuk, Pat Cervera

Commissioners Absent: John Route, Patrick Quinn, Karen Stanley, Ralph Habben

Guests: Taylor Broyhill

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

1. **Determination of Quorum & Call to Order**
  - a. Meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM
2. **Introductions – Guests**
  - a. **Taylor Broyhill** – Logan Simpson Associate Planner
3. **Approval of Minutes**
  - a. **March Minutes** – Commissioner Rollo motioned to approve. Commissioner Samaniuk seconded. Approved.
4. **Unfinished Business**
  - a. Open Space Management Plan Draft Report (Taylor Broyhill, Logan Simpson) – look at slides)
    - i. Presenting draft plan – next step is presenting to city council. Going to give overview of the plan that has been posted publicly for a month back in March for public review.
    - ii. Overview of the purpose and process – update the city's open space management plan that was updated and adopted in 2022. 10–15-year planning horizon. May 2022 kickoff – 7 project phases over the last 12 months. Explained how the public engagement process was handled and the steps involved. 580 members of the community were collected through engagement. This was done through 3 stages – 1. What the community had as concerns and comments 2. Took input to present alternatives & prelim recommendations then presented to community to make sure understood what the community was looking for 3. Community review of the final draft plan through an open house and online feedback forum.

- iii. Presented Open Space vision determined for the management plan
- iv. Management Plan
  - 1. There are 162 recommendations in the plan. Many of the items are already in process so it will continue those practices. It also includes new things to drive the stewardship of the Open Space areas of Wheat Ridge.
  - 2. Andy question – what the letters on the left-hand side (slide 9) – those letters correspond with goals and then the locations on the map of locations. Taylor responded.
  - 3. Map – Showed riparian & habitat restoration map that should the letters that the goals align with and then the # in the 162 recommendations
  - 4. Tabor Lake – illustration showing the improvements that are envisioned for Tabor Lake such as restoration areas.
  - 5. West Lake – conservation and social trail expansion – formalize and maintain new trails as well as keep up the preexisting trail. Help close off the social trails that are not beneficial and help the restoration of the area.
  - 6. Proposed trail connections and trailheads – this includes new trail heads as well as updates to preexisting access points
  - 7. Trail Challenge w/ extra attention was the Kipling crossing – it was a main community demand. The underpass to cross Kipling is “seen” as an inconvenience since it was .5 mile south of the trail heads. Recommend a pedestrian hybrid beacon is installed on Kipling at the trailhead to help create a safer crossing. A full study would need to be completed to move forward with this plan along with input from CDOT.
  - 8. Resource management zones – help PFOS division to determine the best suitable response and action for the areas based on the areas. Added some additional areas that were not already included in the map. Worked with city employees to determine the preexisting breakdown.
  - 9. Priority Projects – 39 of the recommendations were directly related to specific projects. 8 were determined to be priorities based on feedback from PFOS staff and the commission members.
    - a. 8 priorities listed in plan. Revaluated annually as it will shift.
  - 10. Implementation
  - 11. Comments/ Questions
    - a. First 2 chapters are addressed in the presentation presented to the commission
    - b. Pat – really liked that the background of the greenbelt was provided in the plan. Mention of partnering with Prospect Park and Recreation District – what is that? They are a small district that maintains the applewood golf course area. Separate taxing district that has crossover on the trail.

Action Plan – monitoring – mentioned citizen scientists – what is that? Recommendation that is to consider an opportunity that creates opportunity to involve the public to help supplement staff capacity like county monarchs. Utilize people already on the trail. Would this fall under the new volunteer coordinator? Yes, it could. If you see typos, email page # to Taylor to correct.

- c. Christine – really liked the wide range of long term to short term projects. As well the educational and safety opportunities.
- d. Cambria – applaud team on the thoroughness of the plan.
- e. Karen O’Donnell – kudos to Brandon and Andrew as they were key members of the project time from the start. Will require formal action from the commission to take it to City Council for formal adoption.
- v. Commissioner Rasmussen moved to send plan to council. Commissioner Rollo seconded. No objections. 6 approvals.

**5. New Business**

- a. Election of Chair and Vice Chair
  - i. One person nominated for each position
    - 1. Cambria Rollo – President
    - 2. Andy Rasmussen – Vice President
  - ii. Unanimous vote
- b. Letter of Support – TAP Grant Application for Clear Creek Trail (may have been completed via email in advance of meeting)
  - i. Signed and sent to Brandon

**6. Upcoming City Council Meeting - Parks & Recreation Items**

- a. May 22<sup>nd</sup> – Resolution adopting Open Space Management Plan
- b. June 26<sup>th</sup> – Parks & Recreation Month Proclamation (July

**7. Staff Updates**

- a. No new staff updates
- b. 2 flyers provided – both were provided by the Garden Coordinator, Krysten Dennis. Food Forest Event at Happiness Gardens & a Regenerate Wheat Ridge.
- c. Email was received about naming Fruitdale Park
  - i. Family wanted to name the dog park after their late father. Due to the naming policy of the City of Wheat Ridge, they had to have above average contributions to the City. Based on the information given by the family. Going to suggest that they move forward with a memorial tree instead or possibly a bench in the dog park. Kelsey Carter provided the steps for memorial bench or tree.

**8. Future Agenda Items**

- a. Future use of the Recreation Center Barn

**9. Commissioner Comments**

- a. None

**10. Adjournment**

- a. Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM