

**STEAMBOAT SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
PUBLIC WORK SESSION MINUTES**

January 25, 2017

The regularly scheduled public work session of the Steamboat Springs Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at approximately 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 25, 2017, in the Citizens' Meeting Room, Centennial Hall, 124 10th Street, Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Parks and Recreation Commission members in attendance were Chair Alan Koermer, Co-Chair Doug Tumminello, Sarah Floyd and Holly Weik. Absent: Dave Kleiber, Katie Watson, Frank Alfone
Staff members present were Director of Parks, Open Space and Recreational Services John Overstreet, Front Desk, Marketing and Event Specialist Tara Cusack and Staff Assistant Ally Press.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

Introducing Tara

Ally Press:

We were able to get a full-time front desk and events staff helper this year in the budget, so we hired Tara. She will also be my backup at these meetings.

Tara Cusack:

I've been in Steamboat for about three years working for the school district and Rocky Mountain Youth Corps. Before that I was in New Mexico. I grew up in southern Utah, and for the last 12 years I've been making my rounds back to Colorado. So I'm back here and really excited!

2017 Parks and Recreation Commission Goals

John Overstreet:

This coming year we're going to be doing a Parks and Recreation, Open Space, Trails and River Master Plan if we get that GOCO grant in May. Your role will be very important facilitating meetings, focus groups and things like that. Also, Council wants to kick off a Howelsen Hill Site Master Plan in the coming weeks to look at the operations, maintenance, capital needs and overall vision for the hill. We've set up an aggressive timeline of five months, so it would coincide with the completion of the soil study. Then hopefully we'll have some kind of idea of what people want. We will be having stakeholder meetings, meetings in this chamber and meetings with Council to help come up with a final site design plan with the hill.

Weik wanted to confirm that Council was pulling this back into their purview rather than letting the Commission take the lead as had been discussed in the past.

Overstreet: In the past month, there have been some discussions on Council about getting this going because there's been a gap in the discussions on the JUA. They'd like to get something going regarding the hill so there's some idea of what the people desire. Hopefully, we can complete something around June-July that specifies winter and summer uses.

Tumminello: How does that dovetail with the RFP process?

Overstreet: The RFP for the operator: Questions were due at the end of yesterday. I think RFP's are due March 7 or something like that.

Weik said she thought the 2016 goals are still relevant; the commission didn't get them done; so it needs to continue to strive to achieve those.

Transparency:
Nothing published.

Made significant progress on alternative funding, 2A, CIP issues.

Commissioners agreed to continue pursuing the current goals.

Input from Commissioner Alfone:

Goal #1: Keep as written. Remove the last two bullet points because they're essentially complete.

Goal #2, (Assist The Department in Prioritizing Facilities and Amenities):
Add Rita Valentine Park.

Hear periodic updates on these projects.

Goals #3 and #4, (Alternative Funding, Distributing Excess 2A Funds):
Could be deleted.

Commissioners serving on these committees should provide periodic updates (quarterly at a minimum.)

Goal 5, (Assist The Department in Prioritizing CIP Lists):

Make this an annual goal with commission working closely with staff to understand what our priorities are.

2016 Goals Review:

Goal #1: Improve communications with the public and Council by creating a communication network which consists of:

Newspaper articles, quarterly updates from each division, attending one Council meeting per month.

Koermer: We haven't done our best on this. It would be good to put a framework behind this and say when we're going to have articles, get a schedule of who's going to attend Council meetings.

Weik: Need to make assignments with names attached.

Reminders would be good.

Overstreet said staff can do that.

One commissioner will attend Council meetings each month; the list will go alphabetically by last name.

Koermer said he's been working on the article with the user groups.

Floyd confirmed that the articles would be informational on items that might go under the radar.

Weik: Articles could give notice of a meeting on a certain topic with ideas generated by the commission and user groups; invite anyone interested to attend.

Tumminello: Article on the Parks and Rec budget.

Starter article for the first quarter will still list the user groups and the commissioner they can come to with comments, suggestions or concerns.

Koermer asked about the Parks and Rec Department Facebook page.

Press: Emily maintains it with announcements about events, leagues, etc. There's a separate page for Howelsen Hill. Posts get some likes, and people send a lot of messages asking questions.

Weik suggested posting about decisions that are coming up that could affect user groups.

Quarterly division updates have been going well; commissioners encouraged John to keep going.

Update the vision statement on the website.

Commissioners were happy with the language of Goal #1.

Goal #2: Assist the department in prioritizing facilities and amenities:
Add Rita Valentine Park.

Yampa River Management Plan:

Look at the possibility of changing the ordinance for where the commercial users can go; address the lodging companies that drop off people at the river.

Weik: I think we still need to address that.

Overstreet: If we do the master plan for the department, this will be a key component.

Eliminate the bit about the June 22 meeting.

Create a schedule for discussing river usage issues.
Facilitate a discussion that results in a recommendation to City Council which results in action.

Howelsen Hill:

Commissioners reiterated their need to be involved with the decision-making process regarding one of the biggest issues facing the city.

Overstreet: I've done a draft approach and a scope of work. One of the first meetings is with this commission. It's going to be facilitated through this room and through you guys. Council is going to be the ultimate overseer of it, but you guys are going to be a huge part of this master plan.

Weik suggested that Koermer engage with Council and confirm that they want the commission to spearhead this process.

Tumminello: There's a lot of voices speaking to the issue but no one actually coordinating the conversation as far as I can tell. It would be nice for there to be a coordinated conversation on the issue.

Koermer asked who he should reach out to; Overstreet said Councilwomen Crossan and Sloop have been working with the Winter Sports Club on the issue.

Floyd: Without the results of that soil test, I think it's very difficult to plan beyond what could or couldn't happen there. There has been a lot of communication between WSC and city staff for quite some time. When the soils test project got going and we know the results won't come out till summer, everything is on hold until we know that. It would be really great to know what the city's vision for Howelsen Hill is. What do people really want to see over there?

Commissioners thought they could be helpful in facilitating the determination of that.

Overstreet: There's going to be a lot of public input. We have a list of like 29 stakeholder groups, and we're going to go through that whole thing.

Weik: I think we just need to figure out the public process.

Tumminello: And that there's an output which results in an action.

Overstreet: Alan, I would recommend me and you get with Gary and talk about it.

Tumminello confirmed with Floyd that there are meaningful areas that can be discussed before the study comes back, such as increasing usage, marketing, etc.

Floyd: We've seen a lot of improvement. The free days have been more popular. I think having Mike Lane on staff has helped. Howelsen Hill has been on Channel 9; between Emily and Mike, it's the first time in my years that there's actually effort going outward versus just trying to keep a lid on what we're spending. It feels very promising and encouraging, but I think it's a costly venture; there are a lot of unknowns. We've got to figure out what's going to happen with the earth over there. But also I think we really need to get that community input. What do people want, and what would people be willing to sacrifice or to come forward with (money) to keep it going? There's a certain passion and love for it, but that only gets you so far. Since I've been on the commission (6-8 months) we haven't talked about Howelsen Hill at all; it's almost like it's a taboo. I think we need to be more constructive as a community. We need to really find out what people are willing to do to keep it or what would happen if it went away and what that would look like for downtown and the community.

Tumminello thought the community dialog could start now.

Floyd and Weik agreed.

Floyd: Just because it is what it is doesn't mean that's what it always has to be; it could continue on in a different fashion that would serve current users but also serve many more. I don't know whether we've looked into that in a serious fashion.

Weik: We've never thought about alternatives; it's always been frantically stabilizing what we've got. Maybe we should look at this in a completely different light: Change the location of the lift lines?

Overstreet said that's why the Council wants to start the process now.

Weik recommended that Koermer go directly to Council to clarify the Commission's role.

Bear River Park:

Remove that and add Rita Valentine. There is now a master plan for Bear River Park.

Goal 3: Make a recommendation to city council about excess 2A funds by the end of 2016.

Done.

A committee has been formed; their first meeting was last week.

This item is no longer in the Commission's purview, but the Commission can monitor the progress of the discussion.

New Language: Participate in the process for allocating excess 2A funds.

Goal #4: Recommend alternative funding suggestions to Council.

Initial recommendation was made, but it's still ongoing.

Goal 5: Assist the department in prioritizing the CIP list.

Ongoing.

The goals will be on the agenda to endorse on February 8.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eric Meyer, 2775 Riverside Drive:

On Goal 1, maybe if there was a summary of the agenda in the Steamboat Briefs. Just to get what's coming up in the paper with a lot less work than doing a full article. That could probably be staff touching base with Mike Lane the PR guy. Right now, the agendas aren't really out there unless you dig through the website. If you had a quick summary, you're probably going to see more attendance.

Overstreet will check with the clerk's office and work with Mike Lane to see if that's possible.

Review of User Groups and Assignments

Groups:

Team Sports: Dave Kleiber

Individual/Dual Sports: Alan Koermer

Howelsen Hill: Sarah Floyd

Subcommittees and Groups: Doug Tumminello

Equestrian: Holly Weik

Nonprofits: Katie Watson

Trails: Frank Alfone

Add Dogs to the Trails group.

Finish the outreach article with names and contacts on the city website.

Attendance

Koermer asked if commissioners wanted to take action regarding those who aren't regularly attending meetings.

Weik suggested asking people who have attended less than half the meetings whether they want to continue on the commission.

Press said that most commissioners attended 75% or more of the meetings with the minimum being 57%.

Koermer will get percentages from Ally.

Koermer asked about terms expiring; Overstreet will check with the clerk. Weik said that her and Commissioner Watson should be up for renewal.

Commissioners said they were okay with their email addresses being listed on the city page to facilitate communication.

Future Meetings/Agendas

Stream Management Plan with Kelly Romero, Dog Parks, ebikes discussion with staff attorney.

Community Survey Update

Weik: We have a teleconference tomorrow with the company doing the survey. We'll be letting them know the types of questions we want to ask and seeing whether the company thinks they're viable questions that will give useful answers.

Weik showed the current list and asked if commissioners or staff had any additions.

Ranking entities to receive additional funding through taxes: Howelsen Hill Maintenance/Enhancement, Parks and Rec District, Fire District.
If not taxes, are people willing to pay more for use?

Show the percentage of the Parks and Rec budget consumed by Howelsen Hill; ask if it should stay the same, grow or shrink.

Would people use a given park more or less often if there was a dog off-leash area at that park?

How often do people use each park? What do they think of the quality? Suggest the top three that need the most improvements.

Break out usage of Howelsen Hill, particularly for winter usage. Make sure the fact that the public can't use the jumps doesn't skew the results. Weik will ask if a survey question is the best way to get this usage info.

Weik will add Rotary, Workman, Lyons and Heritage parks.

Tumminello suggested asking whether people want more trails where dogs can go off leash or off-leash parks/areas.

Weik: We're asking about a higher registration fee for dog licensing in order to pay for dog-related improvements to the parks.

Meyer encouraged an ask about how many people watch the activity at the jumps.

Ski Free Day

Floyd said there were 566 people at the last one; great diverse group.

Next: February 26: Hot Dogger Day!

The library acquired over 1,000 copies of a children's book called Hot Dogger in which the kid goes skiing at Howelsen Hill. The author will be here. All kids who come get a free copy. There will be hot dogs!

The last day is in March; it will be a demo day where there will be free demo equipment for people to try.

Next Meeting

February 8

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Tumminello moved to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:47 p.m.

Commissioner Weik seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.