

**STEAMBOAT SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

October 11, 2017

The regularly scheduled public meeting of the Steamboat Springs Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at approximately 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 11, 2017, in the Citizens' Meeting Room, Centennial Hall, 124 10th Street, Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Parks and Recreation Commission members in attendance were Vice-Chair Doug Tumminello, Holly Weik, Craig Keith, Sarah Floyd, Frank Alfone and Cady Watson.

Absent: Koermer

Staff members present were Director of Parks, Open Space and Recreational Services John Overstreet and Staff Assistant Ally MacDougall.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

Approval of Minutes: September 13

Commissioner Floyd moved to approve the September 13, 2017 meeting minutes.

Commissioner Watson seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously with abstentions.

Introduce Consulting Firm Logan Simpson

STAFF PRESENTATION

John Overstreet:

Introduced Jana McKenzie with Logan Simpson out of Fort Collins; the firm has been retained to do the Parks, Recreation, Open Space, Trails and Rivers Master Plan. They were selected out of eight firms. Jana took a tour today of our facilities.

Jana McKenzie, Logan Simpson:

This is my passion is to be involved with significant public projects that affect positive change. I see this as a real opportunity. I think one of the things our firm brings is its eye on the reality of implementation. When you do public policy, you have to do things that are realistic and incremental. Jeremy Cull [ph] is the project manager who will assist me. Tom Keith did the Yampa River Management Plan and the Open Space and Trails Plan here.

Matt Hickey is a programs and costing strategist, so his tasks will be to work with staff to develop a computer-based system for tracking

programs, which include maintenance, special events/tournaments, trails/usage. We're going to have to figure out how we define the segments of programs, and then come back to the community with benefits and costs associated with each. The purpose is to provide these things that private enterprise may not be able to provide. Christina Kature[ph] is a planner who can help with public engagement and facilitate some other things and assist.

The Yampa River and how it is perceived is changing; it was different 15 years ago; it's changed significantly with the rise in tourism and the other things that have happened here. There are challenges between what tourists want, how they use the river, put-in/take-outs and preserving that resource.

Overall Process: We're starting about a month late. Council last night encouraged us to be able to get it done in the same timeframe because we know Howelsen Hill is an integral part of this decision-making process. We don't want you to have meeting fatigue with the public involvement with too many things going on.

We'll start with inventory analysis; make sure our baseline data is defensible and then work with some stakeholder interviews. I feel like I interviewed most of the staff we need to today; probably need a little more of that; city leaders, department leaders, you guys. You guys are stakeholders to interview, and tonight I think can be a good forum for that. The other stakeholders will be some groups that we'll convene to make sure we know what the key issues are, because what we don't want to do is analysis paralysis; we want to get to the key issues quickly to know at the end of the day what makes this plan successful.

Then we have your Commission and City Council presentations fairly far into the process after we have developed a community survey and gotten some results back. It's really more of a work session; we would rather have a couple with you for sure. This should be your plan, and at the end of the day you need to be advocates for its implementation. So if we want to tack on something here with the focus groups or if we want to have another work session with you earlier, I'm happy to do that. If something comes up that we want to work through some issues together, that would be good. So it kind of depends how you guys want to work through the process.

The community survey is going to be really important because as you know, in any community, any processes run the risk of being overrun by a special interest. Our job is to put that into perspective with the needs of the entire community, including those who are silent. Because if you only do this through a public meeting process, you'll have the people who are either angry or passionate. Usually, the general public doesn't show up just to tell you you're doing a good job and everything's fine. So a community survey is one of our best tools to get their opinion.

At the end of the day we're going to have a 10-year plan for what you're going to invest in we hope. It's not going to be so specific that it will tie City Council's hands, but it will be a suite of options that says here's the most important things to achieve. We hope that there might be some policy direction recommendation changes that come out of that. Then we put it all together into a succinct document and perhaps have companion documents for a lot of the detail.

Overstreet said he is thrilled with the proposed process.

Overstreet: This is going to bring all the plans we've done in the past together; it will look at all the master plans we've done in the recent past (rodeo, Bear River Park, etc.) and bring them into one document. I think it's really important to look at this department as a system and just take it to the public and see what the public thinks about what the needs are. There may be a needs assessment that comes out at \$100 million, but we can only fund \$30 million, what are those priorities? This process will help us through that.

McKenzie: If you are going to be endorsing this plan, how would you define success?

Tumminello: A plan that enjoys some form of implementation at the end of the day. That's something that's out of the hands of the Commission directly; it's in the hands of City Council. The difficulty that we've had is we've had a history of plans which go unimplemented. I think you'd be well served to be cognizant of that very large looming issue.

Watson: I think the outreach and needs assessment and engaging the public is going to be huge and necessary and needs to be handled appropriately because of the lack of implementation of the last several years on several large projects that the community has been involved in and excited about, and then the money is not there to implement anything. I think that getting people to come to the table is going to be part of the challenge.

Alfone: I like the idea that this is more of a holistic look at all these different plans. How does the Howelsen Hill fit into all this? Does that fall under open space or parks and rec? How are we looking at that?

McKenzie: It's a park and recreation and it's got a trail connection through it. It's all part of that decision on priorities and what happens where in the community. So I don't know where that ends up yet.

Overstreet: I think as we work on the vision plan for Howelsen Hill, and her team has confirmed that they can work with Kyrill and his process to integrate that, and that's why the Council was looking for a sooner timeframe so that could be blended into this plan to say Howelsen needs \$10 million or whatever, and the priorities are these things based upon the

vision process that Kyrill goes through. Jana and her team will look at Howelsen as a park, but they will benefit from what Kyrill does and his process because it is focused on Howelsen Park.

Watson: We want to make sure that they're going together.

McKenzie: We'll be in communication a lot. I think the question has to do with whether the events ought to be structured so that one of the focus groups is Howelsen Hill and whether or not there's a way to integrate it into the swarm when you work on an issue and you've got a focus group that's maybe Howelsen and somebody else is dealing with senior center issues. Maybe there's a way to integrate it into that setting, or whether it's better to have that as a separate thing because it requires a certain focus that's so specific to that site. But I see the choices that come out of that are related to everything else you're doing in the community and the true suite of activities you really need to be providing that may not be offered by other things. Are there other opportunities to provide a certain experience? Is it the city that ought to be doing it? That's what everybody struggles with; what is the purpose of government. To that extent, that dialog could be held from a policy level of what it is that the city ought to be doing and who is it benefiting. So maybe some of the survey questions can be about how many people value the rodeo, use the fields – it kind of puts it in perspective.

Tumminello urged Logan Simpson to take advantage of the data that has already been collected.

Weik: I think a successful plan along with the implementation and people feeling like they got heard needs to result in – and this is really hard to quantify – community members feeling like the parks and rec system is here to enhance their quality of life and not to be a tourist amenity. I understand there's that balance we need to take because it is an economic driver, but I think at the end of the day, folks aren't going to care if they feel alienated from what they thought were their resources. If it's still a place that everybody in town feels comfortable coming to, then I think we've managed to preserve that feel or enhance it; if it's a place that nobody in town is using because they feel like it's been taken over and it's not fun to go to anymore, we can tell that we failed them in that aspect.

McKenzie: So it feels too commercial and not authentic. Okay.

Weik: There was a flap about the Mountain Coaster at the resort, and people are upset because it takes away from their slope-side experience. It's like dude, you're living in a theme park already. But people might feel differently on a larger scale if we turned parks and rec assets into sheer moneymakers. There's a separation; people expect things to be more commercialized over at the resort, and they expect them to be more

accessible to locals outside the resort. If we alter that balance, I think we failed.

McKenzie: So it's kind of geographical.

Weik: I think so. It doesn't necessarily have to be geographically driven, but do people still want to participate in it and feel like it's their place, or do they feel like they got pushed out. You're not able to measure that down the road 10 years from now on the implementation, but as you're assessing peoples' feelings about this – for example, we've been discussing Howelsen Hill's future based on the concept plan that Council got briefed on in August. My task was to reach out to the equestrian community, and by and large the feedback I'm getting from them is they feel like they've been pushed off the trails by other users. So how do we make sure they feel like they can continue to use those trails? How do we turn them back to participants in that as opposed to deciding to ride elsewhere because they don't feel safe.

McKenzie: And this is a huge dilemma. Change is hard for everybody.

Weik: I think it's helpful that one of the things you're planning to do it sounds like is figure out who's using these amenities and to what extent as a baseline before we figure out what else to do with them and what sorts of improvements they're looking for in order to enhance their use. What would make them happier?

McKenzie: Correct.

Tumminello confirmed that budgets go into the plan.

McKenzie said she likes to push budget questions forward in the process to ensure the plan is attainable.

McKenzie: Highest priority should probably be your deferred maintenance and code and safety healthy and welfare issues, right? And then the other things take care of things you don't have or that you want to change to be more sustainable financially. So there are choices you can make there, and some of them may not be popular.

Floyd wanted to make sure people who are surveyed have an idea of the expense of an item when they're asked if they would like more of it.

Watson asked when McKenzie thought the community survey would go out; McKenzie said probably three or four weeks.

McKenzie would like input from commissioners as to whether the survey is missing any key questions.

Overstreet will get the parks and rec questions that were pulled out of the recent community survey from Winnie and send them to Jana, including prior years' questions.

Overstreet asked commissioners to send him a list of stakeholders that Jana's team could interview.

McKenzie: Some input we can get at meetings, but the one-on-one interviews should be with a community leader or a person who is particularly vocal or has very strong opinions who really wants to be heard.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eric Meyer, 2775 Riverside Drive:

A couple things I've noticed over the past five years with the smaller master plans: The not-in-my-back-yard type of thing comes up and pushes out certain topics no matter what little piece it tries to go to. A good example of that would be disc golf. Yes we need it, but not here – over and over again. Looking at the big picture, we should make sure we look at what the needs are, who's going to use it (about what percentage,) and if there is a need, let's find the best place for it throughout the community. The details will be in the small plan after that, but at least identify should it be on the east side, west side. Get as much detail as you can so it can be narrowed down in the future.

The visitors versus locals thing seems to stem a lot that I've seen from how you access the park. We just spent \$3.x million at Emerald Park by the botanic garden to change the entrance from one side to the other so it doesn't go through the neighborhood. If a park isn't accessed through a neighborhood, you might have more tourist use than you would at a park that goes right through a neighborhood. Some of those things I think can solve a lot of the bigger-picture community issues. If it's a tiny little park in a neighborhood, it's not appropriate for advertising or you're just going to have a lot more rubs down the road. But if you access from somewhere else I think the community can probably agree on if it's got access right off Highway 40, I think those can solve a lot of things.

Weik: With the disc golf example, maybe we need to find a way to capture where there are amenities. There's a disc golf course on Mount Werner; it's technically not a city park, and yet it's filling that niche for the community. How do we account for those things that aren't necessarily city assets that are being used by community members as if they were a park?

Howelsen Hill Public Engagement Group Update

STAFF PRESENTATION

Kyrill Kretzschmar, Recreation and Enterprise Manager:

We wanted to design a process that is to the best industry standards. I didn't want a normal process with a bunch of focus groups. I believe this is one of our most valuable assets, and it deserves an exceptional public process. What does success look like? With this exercise, we defined it very early on:

Success is if we come up with a community vision that is actionable. The entire process was designed to gather community input, to find out what the community values, what they cherish, what is most important to them. That's in Phase I. In Phase II, find out everything that the community values. Once we can group what's most important to them – what is it that we want to bring to the next generation, which is 2040. How can we actually do this? At that phase, we're just looking for ideas. In Phase III, we're going to work with key stakeholders and any member of the public who is interested to see how we're actually going to execute those ideas. Phase IV has to be what is actually actionable. Then we have Phase V where we actually present the Howelsen vision.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION

Tumminello confirmed that this is a review of Howelsen Park as a whole.

Kretzschmar highlighted some online engagement tools that could help with Phase I-III to determine what the community believes is important.

Commissioners agreed that utilizing those tools should be helpful.

Kretzschmar: We don't have a budget, so we're going to have to piece funds together. Just to make all this happen we're going to need some specialized facilitators. Another challenge is how do we integrate our process into what Jana is doing.

Weik: Maybe we don't need a specialized facilitator when we have Jana.

McKenzie: It just depends how that fits into the larger discussions. This is such a site-specific discussion, but it's around which many of the other community priorities and values are also based. Having just started and looking at this process and timeframe, we ought to talk about if there's a way to do them at the same meetings. We do websites with comments as well; it could be a piece up there.

Tumminello: I think that's important because otherwise we're just going to end up confusing the public.

McKenzie: That's what I'm concerned about with them both going on at the same time.

Tumminello: When you request input on all that stuff at the same time, it's a lot of noise for people to manage.

Weik: If we're having multiple agencies ask the same or similar questions multiple times, I don't think...

Tumminello: It leads to frustration. I think it's vital that the efforts be linked as much as they possibly can.

Kretzschmar: We have – unplanned or not – two distinctly different processes. But yet they're going on at the same time and the subject is also somewhat similar. So how do you separate the two of them?

Weik: One is a subset of the other. I think Council is going to ask how these two processes interact.

McKenzie: They asked last night, and I said we're going to work that out. So I think we're mandated to work together in a way.

Alfone asked if Kretzschmar would have a budget and timeline for Council on the 24th.

Kretzschmar: Timeline is fairly defined in this document; budget is not.

Weik: They tapped us to head up this process; this isn't Kyrill's process; it's ours; one of us needs to be there.

Alfone agreed that these two project should be incorporated into one as much as possible.

Watson: This is so specific to Howelsen. This is just as necessary as the master. I really like these web-based tools (Bang The Table, etc.) We don't have time for coming out and spending two hours all the time. I think this is a different, unique strategy that goes hand-in-hand with what your group is doing – but it's set apart by doing some things differently. So I think it's great.

Weik: Maybe we take all the things the focus group has come up with and we implement those, but we get Jana's group's input on what else would they do to ask these questions and get community feedback and we implement that so that the Howelsen Hill-specific process ends up being compatible with the overall master planning process. In essence, we'd be running a portion of that for them.

MOTION

Commissioner Weik moved to endorse the plan and present it to Council. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Weik: I think we should be prepared to tell Council that there might be adjustments to the plan down the road based on inputs from the master planning team.

Kretzschmar: This is not rigid by any means; things will change; we may have to adjust.

The focus group is meeting on the 12th.

Weik: Walter Magill asked if any of us are going to be participating in the \$1 Howelsen lift ticket discussion on the 24th.

Watson: This hasn't been discussed with us at all by City Council.

Floyd: I'll be there that night on behalf of the Sports Club, and I'm happy to relay anything this group wants relayed.

Commissioners agreed that if asked, any commissioner at the Council meeting should refrain from answering that question on behalf of the Commission.

Tumminello: I think the answer is the Commission hasn't considered it because we weren't asked to. But the Commission is ready, willing and able to consider the issue if tasked by City Council.

Director's Update

Overstreet: We had our budget workshop on October 3 with City Council. It went well. The first reading of the budget is at the next meeting, and the second reading is after the election on November 14. I'm going to bring the budget to you guys at the next meeting on the 25th. If you recall two or three years ago I brought a more detailed budget to the Commission and went through each of the line items in detail. I think some people got a bit overwhelmed with the amount of detail that I brought, but next year I can bring this back in May or June to you and have staff talk about the challenges and opportunities that we're seeing and bounce this off of you guys before we submit our budget.

Commissioners thought that would be a good strategy.

Overstreet: With the budget, some alternative funding scenarios were presented to Council. The revenue and expense lines are starting to cross, so we went through an exercise on what potential programs or activities could be cut, could be reduced and those things. Council wants to address those in December. Then what I would like to do is bring those back to you the first meeting in November and talk about what we presented. The whole city had to go through this exercise just to see what

if the recession happens or we got no snow this winter. Just looking at those what ifs and what could be cut.

Tumminello: That's more like service cut scenario which is not dependent on their being a future recession but is the reality we'll be living under once the lines cross.

Overstreet: Last night the Council approved the Continental Cup; it is a THISS [ph] certified jump event. It's going to be in the middle of December, 14-16. The 75 meter jump was actually certified two weeks ago. The cup would welcome about 80 athletes plus coaches and other fans. Mike Lane will be working with some of the front range media markets to get them up here to actually make them aware of this. Council allocated up to \$20,000 to put on this event because it would require some additional snowmaking and some seasonal staff to help with moving around the guns and fixing the current snowmaking line before we replace it next year, hopefully. The city worked with the Winter Sports Club on bringing this together.

Floyd said the certifying body said there were some things with the jump that needed improvement but they would be able to work through it for this event.

Next Meeting: October 25

West Lincoln Park improvements discussion.

Adjournment

Commissioner Keith moved to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:34 p.m.

Commissioner Weik seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.