

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was called to order at 5:40 PM by Chair, Mary Ann Finn.

Members Present:

Cameron Martin
Jesse Hargrave
Jim McIntosh
Cindy Neely
Mary Ann Finn
Henry Rhone, newly appointed member
Jamie Thomson, Ex officio

Members Absent:

Gail Stanford
Elizabeth Baxter
Alex Brown, Town Manager, Ex officio

Town Staff / Members of the Public Present:

None

Approval of the December 8, 2010 minutes: Motion to approve made by Jesse Hargrave, seconded by Cindy Neely and approved by the board unanimously.

Next 2 meetings set: Feb. 3, 5:30 PM at the Library, and Monday, March 7 at 5:30 PM at the Library.

Report from the chair: distributed to members:

Meeting with Alex Brown 01.10.11 with Mary Ann Finn and Jesse Hargrave

Ordinance inaccuracy: no update.

Penny Park Update:

Design has been completed. The insurance only covered replacement of the existing design, so no design input could have been provided as part of the volunteer effort. Town Council will decide if the rebuild will be done by volunteers or contracted out. The design includes updated materials looking towards non-toxicity and uses some non wood materials. Mr. Brown hopes the rebuild can get started when the weather warms up. About \$90,000 has been paid out by the insurance company and the total without volunteers is closer to \$200,000. P&R to supply update written on Penny Park for posting on the town website.

Mr. Brown is very interested in Quality of Life improvements to the town that will attract new residents.

Land Issues:

Trail issues (North) The town needs a survey of exactly where the trail goes in order to approach the land owners for easements. It has provided a map of the area concerned with property owners listed, but unless the official route is surveyed, it is too vague for them to approach landowners. The process is for the survey to be done, then employees of the engineering company approach the land owners first, if unsuccessful, then a city employee who may know the owners is involved and then Mr. Brown becomes involved. Some landowners see the value of upgrades and are easy to work with and others need to be negotiated with. Sometime land is purchases at the assessment value and sometime accommodations are made such as a fence, gate or stone wall may be placed. Town utilities can also be used to help negotiate deals by connecting certain properties to the utilities in exchange for an easement.

Bruce McKinney's land: In process. There was a last minute renegotiation as Bruce sold part of his property to a third party and there was a small part of the town property in question that was needed as a driveway for the third party yet crossed the trail and required an easement. The town attorney has written up the agreement and it should be before the town council in the next month.

Hearst Mill site (Rydeski property): The mayor is still working on this deal which is complicated but moving forward and may be delayed by the lack of survey regarding the trail.

Allen Spring is not an area that is being looked at for a trade.

Little Walnut to Caine will be developed with a Complete Streets plan to Caine - this is on the ICIP. Plan was not ready previously and though GRIP money was allocated by the state, the matching amount required from the city kept increasing until it was no longer affordable and the money was forfeited.

Railroad owned land that is part of Trailhead of the San Vincente trail. Alex reports the railroad was not interested in selling this piece though there is an unwritten agreement that the trail can pass through the land.

Ben Altamirano Ball Fields: Still in negotiations with Mr. Billings. Currently working on a deal where city utilities are provided to land close to 32 t. bypass that Mr. Billings and another owner will develop with a mixed commercial / residential plan in exchange for the ball field lands.

Once again, there is delay until the end of the legislative session to see if the gross receipts monies will come to the city or not. (GRT provides 80% of the city budget and 32% of the county budget.) The mine reopening will provide additional revenues to the city, up to \$9 million.

Pending issues:

Mr. Brown would like groups to present to P&R so that projects could be ready for work when money is available. He is interested in laddering bonds so that the town would have a steady stream of incoming money for projects while maintaining a stable re-payment plan. This could cover things like the tennis courts. Mr. Brown is holding off on asking groups to come before P&R until more is known about the budget and there is potential to fund projects.

Artificial turf and injuries - a constituent expressed concern of greater injury rates on artificial turf than on real grass. Mr. Brown reported that they will be using the same material as used at Bataan Park and there have not been significant injuries reported.

Erosion on Boston Hill - another report by a constituent. Mr. Brown stated he is willing to hire the YCC to do trail maintenance /repair. Or a volunteer effort could be mustered.

P&R presence at events: Full support would be provided: tent, tables, other. A banner could be made. Mary Ann to provide copy of logo on signs at Gough Park.

The Golf Course is interested in a proshop to encourage increased spending at the golf course - the management corp. that contracts the running of the golf course does not clear enough for replacement of equipment which is getting old. The Management Corp can do things more economically than the town, if the town runs the golf course, so Mr. Brown feels it is in the best interest of the town to maintain this contract. 40 golfers put in \$10,000 each to develop this corp. If the town builds the proshop the town will own it as they do the golf course. The town ran the golf course until 1995.

Items of interest:

The town did not know that they owned the tennis courts until about 5 years ago when approached by Mr. Poole.

Board Discussion of Report:

Penny Park update: Jamie reported that the Penny Park discussion at the Town Council meeting left it that if a volunteer group came up with a plan by the next meeting, that the town council would then be voting on whether the rebuild should happen by volunteer efforts or be contracted out. It seems unlikely that it will happen by volunteer effort as it needs to follow the exact blue print done by Engineers Inc.

Trail status: BAG WAAG - Michele Giese provided a map of the RiverWalk Trail: Hold ups to creation of the trail discussed. Alex Brown indicated that the trail had never been surveyed and that is why the town cannot approach landowners to get easements or agreements. Parts of the trail are problematic for other reasons. The area owned by the railroad cannot be worked on with grant funds unless a written agreement / easement is obtained. Perhaps P&R could work with BAG WAAG by having a rep at their meetings to help with communication and promoting onward action. Jamie indicated the sensitivity of these issues and that land owners are upset when surveyors go out and the owners are not aware of what is being planned. Jamie indicated that one owner was really upset just by seeing their land on the map for the proposed plan for the trail. Jamie indicated that the focus should be on flood plain management for the 100 year flood, because this idea is easier to sell to people and then the right of way for the flood plain management can include a trail. Perhaps an overlay of the 100 year flood plain with the trail could be done. A trail could be put anywhere. The idea is to see what is limiting forward progression. The Fowler property may be under negotiation for a property exchange. The school properties are owned by the state, there is also county owned properties involved. Jamie to talk with Dick Poole about the school / state land to see what is involved. (City GIS person is David Lawrence.) Michele of BAAG WAG would like to set up a meeting with Peter Russell to get further information on the survey issue and would like to have a P&R member there. The next BAG WAAG meeting is January 20. Jesse to connect with Michele and take on this liaison position.

Erosion on Boston Hill:

The mountain bike group is doing some repair on the areas damaged by mountain bikes after the snows. Jay from Gila Hike and Bike is part of this group.

Jim McIntosh to check into the Aldo Leopold YCC group possibly doing trail repairs on Boston Hill for reimbursement from the city.

Unfinished business:

Subcommittee report on the ICIP: Group met. The ICIP process will start in March: Cameron is preparing a presentation for the board closer to that date. To that end, Alex Brown supported the Board being present at events for obtaining public input in terms of developing a list of projects to present to the town or as part of the ICIP process. Celebration of Spring, the 3rd Saturday in April was selected - most of the board able to commit to some time at the booth at the event which we anticipate is 4 hours long. We could offer entities listed in the directory to have info available at the booth even if the directory is not ready at that time. Jamie mentioned that town's concern about the available budget and the hold up waiting to hear about the "hold harmless" monies, but also mentioned that the town is putting in photovoltaic cells that should generate funds for the town. Jamie recommended that we create a process for prioritizing requests coming to us. Jim mentioned that we need to find ways to link requests / presentations to us with the Comprehensive Plan. Jesse advised caution in asking people for their opinions as you raise expectations.

Jesse recommended bringing our priority list from last year's ICIP to the next meeting with Alex Brown for an update.

Subcommittee on new member packet: Jesse will put the finishing touches on the packet and get a copy to Henry.

Time line:

Interact with Public at Celebration of Spring.

Get material ready for the ICIP.

Start to interact with other boards and groups that may have complementary goals.

Plan for 2011:

Development of list of projects: In development. (Last year's list to be reviewed next meeting.)

Directory development - tabled to next meeting.

Development of List of Potential Partners:

List of other town boards and duties distributed to members.

Liaisons assigned:

Climate advisory: Jesse

Planning and Zoning: Henry

Recycling: Jim

BAG WAAG: Jesse and Cindy

New Business:

Pump Tracks: Method of getting kids started on bikes. Uses an area the size of a small room and consist of dirt hills. (No permanent infrastructure.) Rohan Stites is very excited about these and is willing to put them in for free if he is given the go ahead to do so. Jamie has spoken to Alex Brown about them. During group bike rides, it is a good place for the kids to be entertained while the bikes are being fixed and readied for the ride. Jamie would like to see them at the Rec Center and the schools. Jamie states the kids using it will be maintaining it and when it is no longer used it goes back to nature. The group discussed the feasibility of locations, the area within the fence at the Skate park presented issues because dirt might be introduced to the skating areas and cause accidents. More information needed for the Board to endorse or perhaps the issue can bypass the board as Alex Brown as already expressed favor with it. Jamie to check back on email from Alex for further details. Rohan could present at the next meeting. (Info available on Youtube to see what this is.)

Pinos Altos Drainage Properties: This involves the Rydeski property. See above.

Sample solution matrix for difficult trade off decisions: Presented by Jamie to help to prioritize recommendations by creating a tool to objectively order the list. Group agreed this is a good idea. All to send elements for the matrix to Jamie at present for further development of this idea.

Reports from Board Members: None.

Adjournment: 7PM.

Submitted by Mary Ann Finn, chair