

## MINUTES



City of Glenwood Springs Parks and  
Recreation Commission Meeting  
Glenwood Springs Community Center

February 10, 2016 5:30P.M.



1. Roll Call:
  - a. Commission Members: Stephanie Stocking, Ken Newton, Bill Coleman, Phyllis Zilm, & Sheldon Emery
  - b. Recreation Staff: Tom Barnes & Cristi Newton
  - c. City Council Members: Todd Leahy, Mike Gamba, Kathy Trauger, & Steve Davis
  - d. City Staff: Terri Partch – Engineering  
Gretchen Ricehill – Community Development
2. Citizen Comments: NONE
3. Introduction of New Board Members:
  - a. No new members present. Tom advised both Ken Newton and Sheldon Emery to submit their applications to be considered for re-appointment.
4. Engineering Item RE: White Water Activity Area, Two Rivers Park & Grand Ave Bridge Relocation
  - a. Whitewater Activity Area:
    - i. New West Midland Trail: There will be a new connection made from Lowes down to the Whitewater Activity Area. There will be a 10 foot wide concrete walk that runs on the edge of the RFTA property, then goes down to Wulfsohn and then back up the embankment. From there it will connect to a new pedestrian bridge crossing which will be incorporated approximately at the Midland Center and will cross over the right of way. It will connect into the existing sidewalk that crosses at the bridge and goes into exit 114. It will be on the southeast side of the bridge and south of the rail bridge. It will not cross the rail bridge. The project is on track for this fall.

ii. There were some questions about the current fence that is in place to keep kayakers from coming up the embankment and cross Midland and whether or not the new path will help with this issue. Terri indicated that this project would not help this much and that the fence is not scheduled to be removed as it was placed there out of concern for kayaker's safety. She stated that they have looked at the vehicle bridge and there may be an option to remove part of the bridge underpass in the future to make a walkway on the south side for kayakers.

b. Two River Park:

i. City Staff has been working with the Hot Springs Pool to relocate their outlet pipes in the park. The park will be disturbed during this process as well as the installation of a new City Pump station. They are trying to coordinate these two projects so that the disturbance is shorter. Once relocated pipes should not be visible. Steve Davis voiced his concerns about the pipes being visible as the council was lead to believe that they would be covered. Mike Gamba stated that the Hot Springs indicated in their proposal that there would be 2 feet of water over the pipe. Steve Davis made the comment that the city permit has not yet been issued and that it should not be unless they prove that the pipes will not be visible.

ii. The chosen location chosen helps the Hot Springs meet the permit restrictions as well as makes backup less likely.

iii. Ken asked if there was a restoration plan for the existing discharge area upstream of the pedestrian bridge. Terri indicated that she was unsure at this time but would do more research into that. Mike stated that the council had given the Hot Springs the condition that they would need to consult with City Staff to make sure the restoration is done to our satisfaction.

c. Grand Ave Pedestrian Bridge Relocation:

i. The engineering department is also currently involved with the resetting of the Grand Avenue pedestrian bridge. The bridge is going to be relocated and will be located over the Roaring Fork River. It will be close to, but not in alignment with, 14<sup>th</sup> street and will be set near the high school approximately in the location of the bleachers. It

will connect over the river from Midland Ave to the Rio Grande trail. The bridge will not go over the train tracks as the tracks are to the east of the trail. They may be unable to bring the bridge up to the elevation of the Rio Grande Trail and so the current plan is to have a section of stairs that will bring pedestrians up to the high school and 14<sup>th</sup> street.

- ii. The existing Pedestrian Bridge is scheduled to be replaced in stages beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>. There are 5 sections. Staging for this project of 4 sections will be on Coach Miller Drive the 5<sup>th</sup> will be staged on Midland Ave. Terri will plan on returning to the commission as the plans progress and she has more information about the placement of the bridge.

d. 6<sup>th</sup> Street Project

- i. Community Development is taking the lead on the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Project. The goal of the 6<sup>th</sup> Street project is to come up with a land use plan for that area. A design company has been contracted to help involve the public in the development of the plan.
- ii. A pocket Park is just one part of the plan.
- iii. They have already had two open house events. One for the stake holders in the area. Then a second public open house. A questionnaire was handed out to the attendees. The results indicated that individuals would like a year round multi use area that has natural aesthetic water features and possibly a stage. It also indicated that pedestrian and bicycle traffic was a huge concern.
- iv. There were comments about the homeless population and the need to make sure that this area does not encourage the use of this area as a place to loiter and/or sleep. Restrooms were also brought up as a concern.
- v. There is another open house planed for Feb 17<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
- vi. Todd stated that he would like this board to take the lead on the landscape on the North end of town. Todd made the point that the cost to maintain the area could end up being less than the cost to not maintain it. Gretchen said a big part of the plan is to include an ongoing maintenance plan.

vii. The DDA has been tasked with developing and beautifying the area under the bridge. At this time there is no plan for under the bridge in place. The DDA could use some help from the commission on coming up with ideas for their plan.

#### 5. Parks & Open Space Plan Status Update

- a. In the 2016 budget the Parks and Recreation Department was allocated \$60,000 for the Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Master Plan. Tom has applied for a GOCO Grant in the amount of \$40,000 to help with additional cost of this project. The council is here to discuss what the overall goals of this plan are. Question: When will we have a decision on the GOCO Grant? Answer: March 17<sup>th</sup> at the latest.
- b. Tom referred to the scope of work that was previously supplied to the council. Kathy indicated that she had a problem with the scope of work. She would like to see something more specific in the scope that addressed the funding and needs.
- c. One of the overall goals is to bridge gaps between departments and community groups in the sharing of information and working together on future projects. There has been a lack of communication on the needs and ideas for projects. He explained that he would like to have two separate groups:
  - i. A Task Force which would include Jeff Jackel from Carbondale Rec, Tom, someone from Community Development and a Parks employee to review and monitor the consultant selection and process.
  - ii. A steering committee made up of a variety of people. This committee could include someone from the school district, DDA, River Commission, Center for the Arts, P&R Commission, Tourism representative, Transportation representatives and other local organizations and special interest groups
- d. The question was asked...What are we hoping to get out of this document that we will be able to work with? Todd would like to see a focus on Sports Tourism be included. He also strongly recommended that we come up with the items that we believe are important and the direction we want the Recreation of this community to go prior to hiring an outsider to come in and make recommendations. He would like to also see an inventory of what we have and how things are utilized. We should look at what we

have and use them to their best ability. Todd also suggested that a consultant be brought in to make sure that the Community Center is being utilized to optimization.

- e. Mike suggested that the document should be a working document that is reviewed on an annual basis by the commission. Sheldon liked this idea. All ideas and opportunities should be evaluated and assessed regularly.
  - f. It was suggested that we look at how much information and feedback from a variety of individuals went into the transportation plan. This masterplan needs to have the same type of diverse feedback.
  - g. Tom asked the Council to give direction on the Performing Arts Center Project as the last direction we were given by council indicated that the Performing Arts Center needed to be part of the Community Center and was planned for the area next to the Ice Rink where the Tot Lot currently is. Mike and Steve both said that there will be no Performing Arts Center on Community Center Property. Todd stated that the PAC needed to be placed downtown.
  - h. Kathy brought up the idea that the commission needs to help the community think outside the box and that things do not need to stay the same because they have always been that way
6. Two Rivers Park Memorial Project Update:
    - a. This project is on hold due to the construction that will be going on in Two Rivers.
  7. A&I Update:
    - a. The Chamber is taking the lead on this. Parks and Recreation could be very influential in getting this tax approved by voters. Without the A&I tax it would be nearly impossible to keep the Community Center open. Tom is anticipating that the Chamber will get back to the commission with how they want us to participate.
  8. Good Of The Order
  9. Adjourn

The next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 5:30pm at the Glenwood Springs Community Center.