



## MINUTES

### City of Glenwood Springs Parks and Recreation Commission

May 4, 2022 at 6:00 pm

1. Roll Call at 6:00pm
  - a. Commission: Christina Pearson, Laura Speck, Matt Armentrout, James Fosnaught, Jasmin Ramirez, Tyler Benton
  - b. Staff: Brian Smith, Dan Roper, Chad Smith, Heather Listermann, Bryana Starbuck, Danielle Campbell, Steve Frederick
  - c. City Council Representative: Ingrid Wussow
2. Citizen Comments:
3. Approval of April Minutes
  - a. James moved to approve the April minutes as written, Matt second. All in favor, none opposed.
4. Downtown and Public Spaces Supervisor – Heather Listermann
  - a. Looking forward to replacing the floral pot plantings downtown.
  - b. Close to completing her Arborist certification.
  - c. Working on City’s recommended tree list; will be published soon.
5. Trails and Open Space Supervisor – Chad Smith
  - a. Long time trail advocate.
  - b. Working with RFOV and RFMBA on area trails.
6. Request to Name Volleyball Courts at Sayre Park after Sandy Decrow
  - a. There is a proclamation on the Council agenda tomorrow honoring Sandra Decrow.
  - b. Cassandra Irving has proposed to name the volleyball Courts at Sayre Park after Sandra Decrow.
  - c. Review of current Memorial Policy. No policy is in place for naming parks or features.
  - d. City recently had a request to rename a street in honor of someone and the request was denied; street names will be established at the time of construction.
  - e. Staff would like Commission’s input on a policy for naming of facilities and amenities.
    - i. Commission would like to see other places policies for comparison.
    - ii. Staff will research other municipalities policies.
  - f. Commission would like time to review other agencies policies and assist staff in developing a policy
  - g. James moves to table the request and that commission formalizes a formal guideline, policy, criteria, and process which might include staff level review followed by the Parks and Recreation Commission and maybe even direct it to City Council. We should undertake that process before we grant naming rights to anyone. Jasmin second. All in favor, motion passes.**
7. Botanical Gardens Idea – Laura Speck and Chrissy Manes
  - a. Laura and Chrissy are proposing to establish a small riverside water smart botanical garden in the confluence area similar to the John Denver Sanctuary in Aspen and the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens in Vail.
  - b. Area could house activities.
  - c. Botanical garden would exist until the confluence area is redeveloped and possibly be incorporated into the redevelopment.
  - d. Laura has conducted some of her own public outreach and met with some staff.
  - e. Costs have not been determined both for implementation and upkeep.

- f. If the confluence area is used as a public space, it would have to go to a public vote to be used for another purpose.
  - g. **Jasmine moves that the Commission should recommend Council to further investigate if this is a project we can undertake with the added recommendation that additional funding be allocated to the Parks budget for maintenance. James second. All in favor, motion passes.**
8. Discussion on Closure Dates for South Canyon Upper Coal Camp Trail
- a. Commission was provided minutes from May 2020 when trails dates were established along with the studies and letters that supported that decision.
  - b. Current dates for trail opening are May 1 for Lower Coal Camp Loop and May 16<sup>th</sup> for Upper Coal Camp Loop unless elk in area of trail or poor trail conditions exist.
  - c. No new information has been provided on the area.
  - d. CPW has no concerns with the established dates and has no new information.
  - e. **Motion by James to table the discussion since there is no new information available. No second. Motion fails.**
  - f. Staff walked the trail day before opening and there were no bike tracks, gate closures are working.
  - g. Kirk Oldham – CPW Area 7 Wildlife Manager
    - i. Was involved in the discussion in 2020.
    - ii. No new data is available. Only new data was status of big game herds statistics included Avalanche Creek and Grand Mesa elk herds.
    - iii. No new calving, production, or summer data for elk herds has been collected since 2020 but winter range information has been collected since then.
    - iv. Recognizes finding data on calving areas is important.
    - v. Working on research concerning recreation impacts on big game herds.
      - 1. CPW will provide progress report when available.
    - vi. It would be difficult to provide site specific data.
  - h. Public Comment
    - i. Cheryl Bower – Rides the area and on RFMBA board. She has seen one deer and many bear. In the absence of scientific data to suggest later reopening date, current dates should remain in place.
    - ii. Jerold Olp – Question directed to CPW representative regarding a bear and cub death. CPW will discuss the specific incident with Mr. Olp after the meeting as it's not related to the trail closure dates topic.
    - iii. Craig Amichuix – Upper trail area is important to wildlife. Supports Tye Richardson's proposal to change closure date to June 1.
    - iv. Tye Richardson – States elk calving season is May 15<sup>th</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup> and the area meets some of the criteria to be a residential elk habitat and a production area.
      - 1. Has game cameras in the area.
      - 2. Studies were done in 2019, trails built in 2018, no data from 2017 before trails.
      - 3. Zone influence of various activities around elk discussed.
      - 4. Elk must be within ¼ to ½ mile of water during calving and lactation season.
      - 5. James has asked Tye to send his data/trail cam footage to city staff to be shared with commission.
        - a. Images were shared but not accurately time stamped.
    - v. Mike Pritchard (RFMBA) – Not asking for trails beyond what's already been approved and will work with whatever decision the City makes on trail dates and to promote respect for the dates.
    - vi. Joe Hood – resident of south canyon, not part of coalition. Stresses importance of balance between wildlife and recreation.
  - i. **Laura motions to move Upper Coal Camp Loop trail opening date to June 1. Jasmin second. Two for, four against. Motion fails.**
  - j. **James moves that Commission works with Parks and Recreation department to ask Council for funding to study elk calving and wildlife in area by next year. Second by Matt. All in favor, motion passes.**

9. South Canyon RFQ Feedback and Work Session Planning

- a. Work session with Council on the South Canyon RFQ is tomorrow, May 5<sup>th</sup> from 4:30pm – 5:15pm.
  - b. Christina would like the references to trails in the document be listed as “multi-use trails”.
  - c. **James moves that the 2022 Lone Pine Funding be reallocated to the South Canyon RFQ. Matt seconds. All in favor, motion passes.**
  - d. Christina will present. Christina will present and will also mention the request for funding for study on elk calving and wildlife in South Canyon and the recommendation to move the funding from Lone Pine Planning to the South Canyon RFQ.
  - e. Commission will email any comments or revisions to the RFQ to Karstin to share with staff.
10. Director’s Report
- a. City did not get the \$250k GOCO grant for Sayre.
  - b. Red Mountain trail head will be closed in the near future for construction on the Red Mountain Pipeline Project. Chad is working on connecting the Midland bike path to where Olsen trail meets Wulfsohn Trail behind the Community Center.
  - c. Recreation division has officially moved into the Art Center.
11. June Agenda Items
- a. Technical Assistance Report and Open Space Strategy for the Confluence Presentation
  - b. 30x30 and Protegete – Beatriz Soto
  - c. RFOV 2022 Season Presentation – Jacob Baker
  - d. Street Trees Code Discussion
  - e. Department Overview and RERC Action Items
  - f. Update on Hanging Lake and if the shuttle service will resume
12. Motion to Adjourn at 8:36pm by James, second by Matt. All in favor, motion carried.