



MINUTES

City of Glenwood Springs Parks and Recreation Commission

July 6, 2022 at 6:00 pm

1. Roll Call at 6:01pm
 - a. Commission: Kris Smulczenski, Amanda Madden, Laura Speck, Katy Knapp, James Fosnaught, Matt Armentrout, Tyler Benton
 - b. Staff: Dan Roper, Brian Smith, Karstin Moser
 - c. City Council Representative: Shelley Kaup
 - d. Guests: Erin with Aspen Valley Land Trust
2. Citizen Comments
3. Approval of June Minutes
 - a. Motion to approve June minutes with the deletion of Christina as present by Matt, second by Laura. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.
4. Sopris Views (Hillside Acres LLC properties behind Walmart)
 - a. Laura provided a handout to the Commissions with a brief history of the topic and her suggestion for moving forward.
 - b. Pros to moving forward with Sopris Views: More public access to open space and trails, closer access for South Eastern Glenwood residents, the "Glenwood Springs Ditch Trail" already existing and being used (one way, ~.75 mi of ditch grade double track), legitimizing existing trail and trail access points will allow for maintenance and a better user experience, protects land from future development, allows COGS to perform Fire Mitigation work, allows COGS to regulate this area for homeless encampment/clean ups, future connectivity to existing/conceptual trail systems on both of the Linwood Cemetery and Lookout Mountain recreation areas through BLM or private landowner easements.
 - c. Cons to moving forward with Sopris Views: Need for additional staff, enforcement needs (camping, fires, etc.), budgeting (trash, trail maintenance, etc.), liability (storm water runoff, surrounded by BLM ACEC "Area of Critical Environmental Concern" due to hazardous debris flow runoffs), encampment cleanup/displacement issues, access points through private land owners (Roaring Fork Marketplace LLLP, Bell Rippy Glenwood LLC), fire mitigation concerns, extremely difficult terrain to try and connect to existing/conceptual trail systems, neighborhood concerns for future use.
 - d. Cost Estimates
 - i. To Develop Trail System: cultural/botany surveys \$10k, professional trail planner \$20k, professional trail builder \$30k per mile
 - ii. Annual Maintenance: \$22k, COGS staff time not included in that
 - iii. Encampment Clean Up: Summer/Fall of 2021 \$87,250.40 funded by GarCo, estimated \$25k-\$35k from site visit with ECOS on 6/1/22 at current conditions
 - iv. Volunteer Time: Approximately 300 hours
 - e. Council would like Parks and Recreation Commission recommendations for the area. FAB will also be consulted if the commission wants to move forward.
 - f. Laura and Erin with Aspen Valley Land Trust
 - i. Hillside Acres LLC would like to donate the deed to AVL to create a conservation easement to active the area, but the offer is only good for this year.
 - ii. A local foundation – Catena Foundation has offer to fund about \$300k of the trail if the City takes ownership of the land. Walmart willing to donate some parking spots for trail head but only if it's a publicly owned property.

- g. Shelley – Neither City nor County is interested in owning the property. County has committed some of their conservation trust funds for trails. City is not considering annexation of the property. Thinks southside of town needs more trails and wants the area activated.
- h. James – Will the increase in activity create more conflict with users and those who are camping there? If this area was taken on, would the City need a Ranger position funded?
 - i. Yes, we would need staff.
 - i. **Motion by James to direct Parks and Recreation Director to seek funding for a Park Ranger position and trails in the Sopris View Area. Seconded by Laura. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.**
 - j. Laura offered to lead a site visit of the area for new commissioners.
 - k. Staff will organize a public input session for this item during the next Commission meeting.
- 5. Street Trees Code Discussion
 - a. Staff is working on updating an Urban Forestry Manual and our tree inventory.
 - b. Plan to ask for a tree grant program for next year where the City would provide residents a 50/50 match up to \$1,500 for tree removal/replacement and maintenance of right of way trees, which are the responsibility of the adjoining property owner.
 - i. Aim is to help property owners care for the trees and ease the financial costs while improving our urban canopy's health.
 - c. Review of public facing resources: property owner responsibilities, list of approved species, proper care and planting, grant program for ROW trees, pest, diseases, nuisance trees, noxious weeds, FAQs, permits, construction requirements, how to remove trees, revegetation standards.
 - d. Ips beetle is in the valley. Notice is going out to property owners on what to do.
- 6. Dog Issues
 - a. Concerns from residents about off leash dogs and dog waste.
 - b. James suggests more trash receptacles.
 - i. All units will be replaced next year with biodegradable bag.
 - c. Soft campaign with public outreach, "Doo the right thing", encouraging dog owners to remove dog waste.
 - d. Council would like recommendation on dog park behind the lofts on Wulfsohn and dog friendly trail.
- 7. Directors Report
 - a. Items for tomorrow's work session with Council; what to discuss and any specific asks (8:30am tomorrow, July 7th in Council Chambers).
 - i. Who will be there: Laura, James, Amanda, Katy, Matt
 - ii. Talking points: Need for additional positions (Ranger, Outreach Coordinator, Parks Maintenance), climate change as it effects our policies, use fees, trails funding, inclusivity, market
 - iii. Brian will provide commission a list of what the commission and department has been working on this past year
 - b. Upcoming Events
 - i. RiverFEST
 - ii. Fire Mitigation Clean Up on Wulfsohn October 2nd
 - iii. Latino Conservation Week July 23rd at Two Rivers Park
 - iv. Sayre Basketball Courts will be painted July 20th, posts are in for hoops
 - v. New bike racks downtown
 - c. Downtown Market Incident resulted in their permit being revoked. An appeal has been filed. A new permit has been presented with more stringent conditions.
- 8. August Agenda Items
 - a. Sopris Views – Suggestions for direction on the area from Commissioners and Public
 - b. Impacts on Parks due to the Environmental Changes (City's plan) - Invite Heather Listermann
 - c. Feedback on Strawberry Days (not next month but September)
 - d. Subcommittees
 - e. Trash/Recycling/Compost Suggestions for Large Events and funding exploration – Invite Liz Mauro
- 9. Motion to Adjourn at 8:24pm.