

Cottonwood Heights City
MINUTES OF THE PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
March 23, 2022
Virtual ZOOM Meeting / Recorded

Present*: Jennifer Shah; Greg Reid; Erin Davis; Melissa Fields; Bruce Jorgensen; Matt Dominesey; Michael Menssen; Paula McFarland; Ben Hill; Sarah Ricketts; Chris Owens; Ronna Cohen and Larry Alserda

Management & Staff*: Andy Hulka (for Mike Johnson) and Councilmember Doug Peterson

**Unless otherwise noted here, the attendees appeared via ZOOM – Virtual meeting.*

Summary and Key Actions

- Greg Reid will make further edits to the committee goals and resubmit with the April meeting agenda.
 - Committee members are to send Paula McFarland their specific questions for Mayor Weichers prior to the April committee meeting. Ms. McFarland will compile and post on the shared Google drive.
 - Ms. Shaw will (1) create a shared document on the shared committee Google drive to add ideas for future city newsletter articles and (2) research the monthly deadlines for submitting newsletter articles.
 - Committee members should send their stewardship ideas to Ms. Cohen and Ms. Shaw. Mr. Hulka will create an email alias for the program.
 - Committee member Jennifer Shaw will send last year’s committee priorities to Mr. Reid for discussion at the April committee meeting.
 - The committee will consider inviting other city council members to PTOS committee meetings.
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Welcome

Mr. Michael Menssen, committee vice chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed Committee members, management, and staff. Mr. Menssen read to the committee a virtual public meeting statement from the Governor’s Executive Order.

City staff / Council / Service Area Update

Andy Hulka, CH Senior City Planner, on behalf of Michael Johnson, reported on the following:

- Hammock posts for Golden Hills Park have been ordered and delivery is expected within 3 weeks.
- Mountain View Park Pollinator Garden – VODA is working on a preliminary design. They will complete a couple of designs to be finalized before July when the application for state funding will be submitted. CH will solicit committee feedback prior to finalizing the design. There is a possibility of receiving funds from the Utah Dept. of Agriculture and Food.

- Dover Church Hill Property – The contractor dug three trenches and found 16 earthquake faults in the main trench. They may need to change the plans around for building safety. The planning commission will consider the updated plan in April. The city will pursue increased park space.

CHSA Update – Ben Hill, SA Executive Director

- Antczak Park – the bid documents are almost done. The SA may also receive more ARPA (American Recovery Plan Act) funding to add lighting at the MJP pickleball courts in Butler Park to alleviate traffic concerns at Antczak.
- The BHS (Brighton High School) tennis courts are open for public use when not being used by the school district or for SA programs. The gate was locked due to miscommunication, but they are now open to the public. The SA unlocks the gates in the morning and BHS locks them up again at 10:00 p.m. The bathrooms aren't open yet. Public hours should be available from the SA or posted on the gate.

City Council Update – Doug Peterson, CH City Council Member

Council Member Doug Peterson had several questions regarding Antczak Park renovations. Mr. Hill clarified that demo is expected to begin at the end of the summer. Mr. Hill will double check with the architects on the timing. They will take out four tennis courts and replace with two new tennis courts, three pickleball courts and a walking path.

Mr. Peterson raised questions about funding for the Crestwood Pool and the Mountain View Pollinator Garden. There may be ZAP tax available to help with Crestwood. ? We may be allowed to apply for funding for the pollinator garden in July. Planting schedule will be based on weather conditions.

Ferguson Park is underway, and the donation program was noted in the city newsletter. Mr. Hulka is not sure of the timing but would like to see significant progress by the end of the year. Mr. Hill reported that all donations on the list are gone except for three waste stations and two picnic tables. Donations of \$250 are still accepted to get your name on a plaque.

Mr. Peterson will invite Mayor Weichers to the May PTOS meeting and recommended that the committee submit specific questions for him prior to the meeting. Committee members are to send any specific questions to Committee Secretary Paula McFarland for compilation prior to the April PTOS meeting.

Committee Chair Greg Reid asked if there were any reporting requirements other than the annual PTOS report at the end of the year. Mr. Peterson will confirm.

Mr. Peterson raised a concern about the amount of dog waste and unleashed dogs in Ferguson and Crestwood parks. He asked for committee assistance to help mitigate the issues.

Committee Chair Update

Greg Reid, PTOS Committee Chair, asked Messrs. Hulka and Hill about how we measure park usage. They currently do not keep metrics but have considered doing so. They do measure by the amount of garbage. Has a study been done about the impact of going off daylight savings time on park usage? Most studies have been around school schedules, but it would impact the parks as most do not have lights for evening activities.

In an email to Mr. Reid, committee member Melissa Fields suggested that PTOS committee members from each district take turns volunteering to draft monthly articles and she will review them. There may be some city resources available to help. Committee member Ronna Cohen suggested that articles be submitted when there is a specific event or topic, rather than force an article each month. Other than the donation program, upcoming events would be Butlerville Days and historical walks. Committee member Mike Menssen suggested highlighting a city park or trail. The committee agreed to make the PTOS articles a monthly committee agenda item. Ms. Shaw will start a shared document on our Google drive so that committee members can add their ideas to a

common document rather than send to the committee secretary. Ms. Shaw will also research the monthly deadlines for submitting articles.

Mr. Reid reviewed the revised PTOS goals with the committee and will make further edits to trim the ten goals down to seven. Committee member Bruce Jorgensen raised a concern that the committee needs bigger goals, such as improving the visual look around the UDOT maintenance facility on 30th East; connecting the Cottonwood Canyon trail to the Jordan River Parkway along I-215; paving around the BCC pond and planting trees to mask the maintenance facilities; and having the city take over rights of way so they can be planted and improved. Mr. Jorgensen followed up with an email that has been attached to these meeting minutes.

The committee discussed its \$3,000 budget and confirmed that it needs to be used by June 30, 2022, or the funds will be lost. Recommended uses are to supplement current PTOS priority projects, expand/create new walking routes project pamphlets, or other small community-oriented projects. Ms. Shaw will email last year's committee priorities to Mr. Reid. Funds could also be used to help get a new park stewardship program running such as garbage bags, tee shirts, yard signs. Use of funds will be discussed in the April PTOS committee meeting.

Committee members Ronna Cohen and Jennifer Shaw have volunteered to start a park stewardship program. Ms. Shaw suggested that the committee prepare and document guidelines on how to be a park steward and set up an email address for people to volunteer or ask questions. The program would encourage community involvement and help with SA staffing shortages. Anyone – families, schools, kids, church groups, scouts, etc. could be involved. The committee was in favor of pursuing this program. Mr. Hulka will set up a PTOS email alias for the program. Mr. Hill suggested that the guidelines be coordinated with the SA and starting with pilot programs at Mountain View and Ferguson trailhead.

There may be a role for the committee to provide input into the Hillside Plaza development plan. No formal plan has yet been submitted.

By unanimous vote, the April PTOS committee meeting will be held in person on April 27, 2022.

Public Comment

There was no public attendance or comment at today's committee meeting. Committee action items were reviewed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Reid adjourned the meeting.

Michael Johnson

Date

Greg Reid

Date


ATTACHMENT

Message to Mayor Weichers

 kaye.jorgensen@comcast.net
To: PMCFARLAND82@msn.com

 Reply  Reply All  Forward 

Tue 3/29/2022 9:10 AM

 You replied to this message on 3/30/2022 1:46 PM.
We removed extra line breaks from this message.

Paula this is Bruce Jorgensen on the PTOS Committee.

These are a few of the ideas about Cottonwood Heights improvements we talked about in the meeting.

1. Address the UDOT Facility on 30th East. This is an industrial type facility sitting in the middle of a high end residential, commercial and retail zone without being visually screened and appears to have a open area north of the facility for storage or expansion I feel that based on what UDOT spent on I-15 reconstruction landscaping, I-215 landscaping and Legacy Highway plus the restrictions placed on the gravel pit development that we should pursue the mitigation of this community eyesore.
2. There is not an aesthetically pleasing street in the city. The streetscape is hap-hazard at best. I would propose the city take control of all the park strips which we own and create a streetscape plan for the city as well as investigating planted islands such as St George Blvd in St George, Utah, or 700 East at Liberty Park or Wasatch Blvd Bonneville Golf Course.
3. I use the walking path along Big Cottonwood Creek quite often and I am amazed at how the Old Mill is visually treated. I think the building should be treated with some historic respect relative to how it presented from the road. The large paved area to the north of the building is under-utilized and is potential green space and trail head parking.

These are some a few of the observations of a retired Landscape Architect who has lived hear for 37 years.

I would be happy to discuss any item further if requested.

Thanks Paula

Bruce Jorgensen