

Cottonwood Heights City
MINUTES OF THE PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
February 22, 2023
Online ZOOM Meeting

Present: Michael Menssen; Sarah Ricketts; Zachary Geiger; Paula McFarland; Melissa Fields; Erin Davis; Lyse Durrant, Asst. Director, Cottonwood Heights Parks and Recreation Service Area (CHPRSA); Chris Owens; Ronna Cohen; Matt Dominesey; Aline Longstaff; and Jennifer Shah.

Management & Staff: Michael Johnson, Cottonwood Heights (CH) City Community & Economic Development Director
CH City Council Member Doug Peterson

Public: None present

Summary and Key Actions

- Council Member Ellen Birrell addressed the committee to offer information concerning Active Transportation routes throughout Cottonwood Heights.
 - Michael Johnson provided an update on the Wayfinding Project for the Big Cottonwood Canyon Trail, and stated that the city is currently seeking a design contract for the build-out of the 26 acres of land recently acquired at the foot of Little Cottonwood Canyon.
 - Council Member Doug Peterson provided an update on the Bonneville Shoreline Trail (BST) and the new Sensitive Lands Evaluations and Development Standards (SLEDS) ordinance.
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Welcome

Paula McFarland, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed committee members, management and staff. Before moving to the agenda items, City Council Member Ellen Birrell addressed the group, and requested the PTOS committee’s assistance in improving Active Transportation pathways throughout the city. Specifically, Ms. Birrell pointed out areas where road markings, street crossings, and overall safety conditions on the city’s arterial streets are particularly dangerous. Ms. Birrell asked that the PTOS Committee prioritize, and promote the creation of new pathways, signage, and street markings to encourage the use of smaller, ancillary streets as the designated routes for walkers, bikers, and other wheeled recreational equipment. Questions concerning the type of signage and street markings were asked, with Council Member Birrell offering that bidirectional “sharrows” could be painted on the side of the newly designated pathways, in an attempt to buffer the active transportation lane from street traffic. Committee member Jennifer Shah asked if the city’s current Bicycle Master Plan could be utilized to identify active transportation corridors, with Ms. Birrell responding that was already being considered, and that the Salt Lake County active transportation initiative could also be a resource for guidelines, as well as help funding the project. Two suggestions were raised by the committee, namely that a sub-committee be created to identify and prioritize those areas which need to be addressed first. Second, that consideration

be given to users that are less mobile, and that pathways should be created that minimize steep slopes and other impediments.

City staff / CHPRSA Update / Council

Staff Update - Lyse Durrant, Asst. Director, Cottonwood Heights Parks and Recreation Service Area

In Ben Hill's absence, Lyse Durrant offered an update on the Big T Recreation playgrounds that were reviewed in our last meeting. Changes have been made per the committee's request, and the (3) playground sets have been ordered. The upgrades will begin with Antczak Park, followed by Mill Hollow, then Bywater Park. The playground sets have been ordered but are subject to a 16-20 week leadtime.

The Richard L. Guthrie skatepark's master plan is being reviewed, which also include fencing upgrades.

The park donation program will soon be extended to Antczak park, with website upgrades expected in the near future to promote the program. In addition, the city's "Problem at the Park" website program will be expanded to soon include QR codes at each park. This will enable park patrons to immediately notify the city of issues/problems at their local park.

Staff Update - Michael Johnson, CH City Community & Economic Development Director

Mr. Johnson offered feedback from the recent Cottonwood Heights town hall meeting, where the Sensitive Lands Evaluation and Development Standards (SLEDS), as well as the Riparian Protection Area (RPA) codes were discussed. The current RPA code does not include verbiage concerning water supply, flood control, stormwater mitigation, invasive species control, and wildlife conservation, and the adoption of chapter 19.72.50 from the previous RPA was suggested to mitigate these concerns. The suggested modifications to the document included items for both residential as well as commercial properties. Committee member Jennifer Shah suggested that the verbiage should also include the recommendation to maintain and revegetate areas in the future where borders/banks have become eroded. Mr. Johnson illustrated that additional items such as animal enclosures, and industrial storage limitations are also being included in the revised code.

Updates to the Big Cottonwood Canyon Trail's wayfinding project were shared by Mr. Johnson. The city's Request For Proposal (RFP) received only one response, and the work for updated signage on the trail was awarded. The design work will begin this spring, and will include (2) new large signs with maps, as well as smaller wayfinding signs throughout the trail. Consideration for new historical signs (such as at the Old Mill location) will be granted if/when funding is available.

Conversations continue concerning the expansion of the East Jordan Canal. SLC Public Utilities owns the canal, and a feasibility study is being conducted on methods for connectivity with surrounding cities. The Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) has offered extra grant funding to complete a canal trail study.

Lastly Mr. Johnson shared that the 26-acre parcel of land at the foot of Little Cottonwood Canyon (acquired via Utah Open Lands) is seeking a design contract for the area. The site has secondary access to the Bonneville Shoreline Trail, and considerations will be needed when examining trail access and parking.

City Council Update – Doug Peterson, CH City Council Member

Council Member Doug Peterson reiterated that the attendance and feedback received from the nearly 150 people who attended the recent Town Hall Meeting was impressive, and extremely valuable. Mr.

Peterson confirmed that the parking lot for the new Ferguson Canyon Park would be completed this spring, and that all of the park's amenities have been installed. Questions concerning access to the park from Wasatch Blvd. resulted in Mr. Peterson's confirmation that signage is needed to direct park patrons to the new entrance/parking lot off of Prospector Drive.

Committee Business

The draft minutes from the January 25, 2023 meeting were discussed. Committee Member Ronna Cohen moved to approve the revised minutes. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Melissa Fields, and unanimously carried by the committee.

Committee member Ronna Cohen offered an update on the park volunteer program, and suggested that Council Member Peterson speak of the new program in his next address via the city newsletter. A volunteer for assisting in keeping Ferguson Park clean has already come forward. The committee discussed several names for the park volunteers program, with "Volunteers In Parks" (VIP's) being unanimously accepted.

Committee member Ronna Cohen also shared that the popularity of the Cottonwood Heights walking tours has led to the request that more tours be added, both historic as well as scenic.

Committee member Jennifer Shah asked that her draft of the recommended changes to the Riparian Protection Area plan be considered and accepted. The vote to approve carried unanimously, and the letter will be forwarded to the city council for their review and approval.

Committee Chair Paula McFarland offered to create a spreadsheet listing/prioritizing the committee's recommendations for City Council priorities in 2023. Committee members will vote on the list during the next meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Committee Member Erin Davis moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Committee Member Jennifer Shah and unanimously carried by the committee. The meeting was adjourned.

Michael Johnson

Date

Paula McFarland

Date