

Cottonwood Heights City
MINUTES OF THE PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
June 28, 2023
2277 E Bengal Blvd., Room 124, Cottonwood Heights, UT

Present: Michael Menssen; Paula McFarland; Chris Owens; Ronna Cohen; Zachary Geiger; Chelsey Voss; Jennifer Shah; Matt Dominesey; Aline Longstaff; Bruce Jorgensen; and Jennifer Cottam.

Management & Staff: Michael Johnson, Cottonwood Heights (CH) City Community & Economic Development Director; Ben Hill, CHPRSA Executive Director

Public: None

Summary and Key Actions

- Representatives from Salt Lake County offered an update on the Crestwood Park public survey
- City and PTOS Committee project updates were offered by City staff
- An initial report from the new Active Transportation Subcommittee was provided

Welcome

The Committee welcomed the return of Dan Sonntag, from Salt Lake County, and Troy Sanders, from Link Architecture to discuss the result of the survey conducted for Crestwood Park. The survey, which was held from 3/22/23 to 5/1/23 received 885 responses. As predicted, the highest number of respondents resided near the park, but respondents from several other areas also offered their feedback. Overall, there was strong interest in (3) categories; 1) To keep the park largely “natural”; 2) To keep the pool in operation; and 3) To add a few new amenities to the park. One category (disc golf) received a large amount of favoritism, but that input was seen as biased since the responses were promoted by local disc golf groups that used social media to rally support. When asked about new park programs, the majority of the respondents asked for “nature-based” programs such as nature hikes, outdoor fitness programs, and swimming lessons. The County is currently discussing design alternatives, which will be presented to the public as concept plans. After posting those concept plans for public review, the results will be refined into a “preferred plan” which will then be presented to the public via an open house meeting.

City staff / CHPRSA Update / Council

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

Mike Johnson shared that The City applied for TRCC funding for the Highland Drive shared-use path that was favored by the PTOS Committee. Mr. Johnson stated that the process for review and acceptance of TRCC proposals is a relatively short process, and expects that The City will be asked to formally present their proposal as early as late summer of 2023.

The formal closing of the Dover Hill Park acquisition will take place before the end of June. Questions were asked concerning the addition of “accessible amenities” in the park, and Mr. Johnson stated that those additions can be reviewed, but would need to fit within the park’s current budget. If that budget does not allow for these new amenities, it was suggested that the park donation program could be utilized to raise the required funds.

Mr. Johnson reiterated that The City has agreed to fund the (3) sustainability projects that were presented earlier this year. Those projects include... 1) The Mountview Pollinator Garden; 2) The City’s purchase of bulk trees for a “community tree planting/sale”; and 3) The addition of ordinance updates that require bicycle parking, and EV charging infrastructure in new commercial, and multi-family developments.

An update on the new Ferguson Park was offered, stating that the parking lot is currently being constructed, and following that work (as well as the construction of the new bathrooms) the park is scheduled to open late this summer. A grand opening is also being planned for this fall.

The City is currently interviewing consultants to lead the redevelopment design of Hillside Plaza. Final interviews will be held over the next few weeks.

A “kickoff meeting” was recently held with Holladay City to discuss the I-215 shared-use path study. The study currently is limited to exploring a path from Knudsen Park to Highland Drive.

Lastly, Mr. Johnson showed the new tee shirts The City has purchased for participants with the Volunteers In Parks (VIP) program, and offered a shirt for each member of the PTOS Committee.

CHPRSA Update – Ben Hill, CHPRSA Executive Director

The new playground equipment for Antczak Park will arrive in the next few days. Following that installation, playground equipment for Mill Hollow and Bywater Park will be scheduled for installation.

The website has been completed for the donation program at Antczak Park. That website will “go live” after signage to advertise the program has been finalized.

The survey results for the Richard L. Guthrie skate park have been tallied, with nearly 300 residents offering their feedback. The majority of those responding stated they aren’t in favor of replacing the skate park, but merely improving it. If a new skate park is needed in the future, The City now has feedback from those surveys on which to base a design.

Mr. Hill stated he’s still attempting to schedule a meeting with Salt Lake City Public Utilities to discuss the possibility of adding a bicycle “pump track” to McIntyre Park.

Six lighting poles have been installed at the CHRC pickleball courts, with (2) more lighting poles to be installed soon. Power lines will be pulled to the poles in the next couple of weeks.

The RFP has been completed for the masterplan renovations at Bywater Park. The cost of the submitted proposals unfortunately was much higher than anticipated, so considerations are being made as to whether the proposed new masterplan is necessary, or if The City can move forward based on their own ideas of what improvements are needed.

The spraying and thinning of trees in Golden Hills Park have been completed. The Parks Department and the Public Works Departments worked with their established tree service company for spraying the infected

trees, while the PTOS Committee’s funds were used for tree/branch/weed removal. All who’ve seen the completed work were very pleased with the results.

Committee Business

The draft minutes from the May 24, 2023 meeting were discussed. Committee Chair Paula McFarland moved to approve the amended minutes, which was seconded by committee member Bruce Jorgensen. The approval was unanimously carried by the committee.

New City Council Member Matt Holton addressed the PTOS Committee for the first time. Mr. Holton expressed his gratitude for Salt Lake County’s report on the survey feedback for Crestwood Park. He reiterated that the overall response appears to align with the “keep it natural” intentions that were shared previously. Mr. Holton also spoke of the City Council’s support for the SLEDS initiative, as well as the importance of “getting it right the first time” when moving into the design phase for the Hillside Plaza redevelopment.

Committee member Zack Geiger provided a report on the new Active Transportation Subcommittee’s initial meeting. Mr. Geiger shared that the subcommittee discussed how to identify short-term, and long-term goals of the group. One of the first intentions is to closely review the current Transportation Masterplan, with the goal of recognizing which pathways have already been identified, and to clarify/strengthen those pathways as the masterplan solidifies in the future. The subcommittee is also planning a group bike ride on July 7th to document and photograph proposed pathways, as well as where signage and painted road markings could be readily added. This list of proposed pathways and markings would then be presented to the PTOS Committee for review. It was suggested that the subcommittee examine the possibility of adding a “bike bus” to their exploration list, with further discussion leading to the conclusion that finding/securing a few willing parents to start the program would be the best direction. Mr. Geiger concluded that the success of the PTOS Committee’s historic walking tours and their corresponding printed brochures would be a good thing to mimic with the Active Transportation routes, once they are established.

Mike Johnson informed The Committee that additional walking tour brochures have been ordered, and that the brochures have become very popular. Future walking tours are being discussed/designed (in cooperation with the Historical Committee), to feature details concerning “natural history” elements, in addition to cultural history.

An update on the Volunteers In Parks (VIP) program was offered by Ronna Cohen. Only two parks (Golden Hills and Butler Parks) need “captains”. It was suggested that park VIP captains would be ideal for manning the shared information booth at the upcoming Butlerville Days celebration.

Adjournment

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

Michael Johnson

Date

Paula McFarland

Date