

Cottonwood Heights City
MINUTES OF THE PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
September 27, 2023
2277 E Bengal Blvd., Room 124, Cottonwood Heights, UT

Present: Michael Menssen; Chris Owens; Ronna Cohen; Zachary Geiger; Chelsey Voss; Jennifer Shah; Bruce Jorgensen; Melissa Fields, and Jennifer Cottam.

Management & Staff: Michael Johnson, Cottonwood Heights (CH) City Community & Economic Development Director; Ben Hill, CHPRSA Executive Director; Matt Holton, Cottonwood Heights Council Member, District 1.

Public: None

Summary and Key Actions

- Ben Hill provided updates for ongoing projects at several parks
- Mike Johnson detailed remaining items for Ferguson Park’s completion
- An updated report from the new Active Transportation Subcommittee was provided

Welcome

Due to a commitment by a PTOS Committee member, and the need to vote on any/all items before losing a quorum, the minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved. The motion for approval was raised by committee member Ronna Cohen, with Bruce Jorgensen providing “the second” for the motion. One committee member abstained, since she was not present during the previous meeting.

City staff / CHPRSA Update / Council

CHPRSA Update – Ben Hill, CHPRSA Executive Director

The installation of the new playground equipment for Antczak, and Mill Hollow Parks has been completed. Quotes for additional items at Antczak and Bywater Parks were recently approved, the majority of items being concrete work at both sites. An example of the items approved are new concrete cornhole targets, which will replace the current horseshoe pits at Bywater Park.

Work on the “masterplan” for Bywater Park continues, with the design now considering the extension of the existing sidewalks to the new playground, and swing set. In addition, the masterplan will attempt to reconfigure the baseball field fencing to be more compliant with “home run distances” for different leagues. A “turn around area” is being considered for the lower parking lot at Bywater Park, in addition to other parking renovation options. The masterplan also includes refinishing the tennis courts, and painting pickleball lines so the courts can be dual-use.

Funding for improvements at the Richard L. Guthrie skate park has been approved, with the replacement of the fence, as well as some concrete patching being scheduled for completion before the end of 2023.

Damage to the grass at Butler Park will be repaired following the end of the football season. There are growing concerns within the CHPRSA that the yearly compaction of the grass (as a result of the Butlerville Days activities) is making restoration difficult. Mr. Hill entertained ideas from the PTOS Committee on how to minimize the damage, which included suggestions to move the carnival to paved areas within the park, as well as parking lots nearby (such as Brighton High School).

Lastly, Mr. Hill offered feedback from City residents who attended the recent ribbon-cutting ceremony at Ferguson Park. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with only a few suggestions on improvements to signage, and the placement of garbage cans within the parking lot. The Committee also discussed progress on unfinished areas within the park, as well as if The City has reviewed the sidewalk widths on Prospector Street which lead to the park. The current 4' wide sidewalk has no "buffer area" between the street and sidewalk, and could prove hazardous. Questions were raised concerning The City's liability with the current configuration.

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

Mike Johnson expressed his appreciation to the PTOS Committee for their role in bringing the new Ferguson Park to fruition. He stated that the project's momentum was aided by the committee's continued efforts. Mr. Johnson stated that the park's new pavilion has been shipped, and its installation is scheduled for early October. In addition, The City received two "monument signs" for the park, one of which is already installed at the park's entrance. Mr. Johnson asked the committee for their input on where the 2nd monument could be located. Suggestions to place the sign inside the park's SW corner were discussed, which would allow it to be visible from Wasatch Blvd, and hopefully aid in recognition of the new park's location. Methods to discourage patrons from parking on the side of Wasatch Blvd. were discussed, and suggestions to add "no parking" signs (along with directional signs) were well-received. In addition, the existing parking spaces at the Ferguson Canyon trailhead will soon be "blocked-off", with only the ADA-compliant parking spots to remain. The potential to convert the blocked-off spaces into a "drop off zone" was also suggested.

An investigation by CHPRSA staff of the irrigation lines at the Mountview Park Pollinator Garden revealed that although the water lines weren't in pristine condition, they were sufficient for continued use, and would enable The City to move forward with the garden's design. Removing the need to replace all of the irrigation lines will prove beneficial in stretching the park's budget.

Bids for providing trees for the planned "Community Tree Planting Program" have been received, and plans to hold a public event for selling the trees to local residents (at a discounted price) are being formulated. The City Council has created a yearly fund for continuation of the program.

Several project ideas were recently presented to the Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) for grant consideration. Two projects were identified by The City Council as top choices for submittal, those being the Danish Road area improvements, and the creation of a separate shared-use path in the Union Park area. This proposed new shared-use path would lead from Park Center Drive to 1300 East. This area's improvements also coincide with the Mid-Valley Active Transportation Plan, serving several cities within the metropolitan area. These two projects were presented to the WFRC via letters of intent.

Minor changes to the SLEDS ordinance document kept the proposal from being accepted in the last City Council meeting. The revised document is scheduled for adoption during the next meeting.

Committee Business

Committee member Zack Geiger provided an update on the new Active Transportation Subcommittee’s meetings. The subcommittee circulated a Safe Streets and Roads For All (SS4A) document that highlights the funding resources available from the U.S. Department of Transportation. The program focuses on methods to ensure drivers are aware of areas where increased non-motorized traffic is present, and on methods to separate that traffic with the use of dedicated pathways, curbs, and additional street markings. The Subcommittee’s initial focus will be on improving pathways near schools. Mr. Geiger asked the PTOS Committee to review the SS4A document, and offer their feedback. Following such, the document will be forwarded to the City Council for review. In addition, a separate \$220M federal grant that was funded in 2023 will be available for petition in January. The Subcommittee will present project RFP’s at that time in hopes of adoption. Some of these projects will be presented in cooperation with the Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC). The PTOS Committee asked how they could help to identify areas of need, with Mike Johnson responding that area maps with GIS markers for schools/sidewalks and other sensitive locations could be distributed. These maps would allow committee members to research their own neighborhoods, and respond with suggestions on how each area could be improved.

PTOS Committee member Chris Owens reminded the group that a video link was recently circulated that highlighted a new pollinator garden project created by UDOT and Utah State University. The new garden is located at the I-15 rest stop near Perry, UT and was created as a “pilot program” with the intention of duplicating this work in the future at other locations. Mr. Owens suggested that the creation of a similar garden at the undeveloped portion of Wasatch Blvd. and 3500 East intersections be proposed for use while UDOT is making improvements to Hwy 210. Since the property is owned by Salt Lake County, Mike Johnson offered to provide information for SL County contacts who may be able to assist.

Adjournment

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

Michael Johnson

Date

Paula McFarland

Date