

Cottonwood Heights City
Draft MINUTES OF THE PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
January 24, 2024
2277 E Bengal Blvd., Room 124, Cottonwood Heights, UT

Present: Michael Menssen, Sarah Ricketts, Chris Owens, Aline Longstaff, Zachary Geiger, Ronna Cohen, Chelsey Voss, Jennifer Follstad Shah, and Melissa Fields

Management & Staff: Mike Johnson (Cottonwood Heights City Community and Economic Development Director); Samantha DeSeelhorst (Cottonwood Heights City Senior Planner); and Ben Hill (Cottonwood Heights Parks and Recreation Service Area Executive Director)

Public: Barbara Morrell

Summary and Key Actions

- Cottonwood Heights Parks and Recreation Service Area (“**CHPRSA**”) provided updates about its new website and changes to the park infrastructure donation process as well as updates about Crestwood Park, McIntyre Park, and Antczak Park.
- The City provided updates about Mountain View Park pollinator garden, an upcoming community tree sale event, Town Center Project, and the Bonneville Shoreline Trail (“**BST**”) parking area concepts.
- The Active Transportation Subcommittee as well as the BST Subcommittee provided updates about work those committees are undertaking.
- The Committee heard an update on the Volunteers In the Park (“**VIP**”) Program and discussed the Committee’s interest in writing articles for City publications.

Welcome

Mr. Menssen welcomed Cottonwood Heights City Senior Planner Samantha DeSeelhorst who was filling in for Cottonwood Heights City Community and Economic Development Director Mike Johnson as he was not able to attend the beginning of the meeting due to a conflict.

City Update / CHPRSA Update

CHPRSA Update – Ben Hill, CHPRSA Executive Director

Ben Hill, CHPRSA Executive Director, provided an update on behalf of CHPRSA. Recently the Parks and Recreation Service Area updated their website which should allow for a simpler way to process donation requests. With regard to future donations to park infrastructure, CHPRSA has decided to designate a specific price for a donation that would cover part of the costs associated with that item and then to seek further funding from the Foundation to covering the remaining expenses.

With regard to Antczak Park, CHPRSA has agreed to completely sponsor a park plaque as well as a bench located on the west side facing the hill.

With regard to McIntyre Park, CHPRSA has communicated to Salt Lake City Public Utilities that it is no longer interested in an interlocal partnership agreement at this time until certain maintenance standards are met. While CHPRSA is hopeful that a future partnership may materialize, it recommends that the Committee consider keeping that area as open space moving forward. Negotiations on what to develop in terms of open space are ongoing at this time.

Nominations for the Utah Parks and Recreation Association awards are forthcoming and CHPRSA suggested nominating VIP Program for those awards.

In terms of Crestwood Park, CHPRSA announced that a public open house organized by Salt Lake County was scheduled from 4-6 p.m. on February 1, 2024 at the Whitmore Library. CHPRSA noted that it is not anticipated that the master plan for Crestwood Park will include a public pool and that this open house would be an opportunity for the public and Salt Lake County to discuss that issue. The Committee discussed the maintenance of the Crestwood Park and the City's involvement with that, if any.

Staff Update – Samantha DeSeelhorst, Cottonwood Heights City Senior Planner

On behalf of the City, Ms. DeSeelhorst provided a variety of updates on City projects relevant to the Committee.

The City provided an update on the Mountain View Park pollinator garden. The City has issued requests for proposals (“RFP”) seeking bids for a contractor to perform procurement and installation of plants. The scope of the RFP includes grading, weeding, and mulching. The RFP will close on Friday, January 26, 2024 with the expectation that the work will begin in the summer of 2024. In terms of the funding allocated for the pollinator garden, the City confirmed that the entire allocation was available to support the work outlined in the RFP.

The City reported that it is planning a community tree sale event scheduled for April 20, 2024 at the City Hall. This is an event that allows the City to sell trees to residents at a discount priced since the City is able to place a bulk order at a cheaper price than would otherwise be available to individual residents. The City has ordered 200 trees (2-3 different species) for this event and will need volunteers at the event to help facilitate in its success. Ms. Cohen and the City discussed sending the event information out to the VIP Program volunteers. Mr. Menssen and the City discussed the efforts the City was undertaking to advertise the event. Ms. Fields, Ms. Cohen, and the City discussed inviting an arborist to attend the event to answer questions, and Ms. Cohen volunteered to send a name of an arborist to the City for consideration.

The City provided an update on the Town Center Project noting that there had been two recorded public input meetings. The site concept preparation is scheduled to commence in February 2024. Ms. Fields and the City discussed whether the Town Center Project was considering narrowing Fort Union Boulevard.

The City provided an update on the parking area located in Little Cottonwood Canyon to support access to the BST once it is developed. The City provided some background about the BST project noting that while implementation of the BST is not yet anticipated, the City has decided to develop a concept design to utilize at a later date when funding for the development of BST is in place. The City explained that the Council had reviewed the Committee's previous notes about the parking area and requested additional feedback from the Committee regarding its preference for the design of smaller parking area versus the larger parking area. The Committee overall expressed general support for a smaller option that was less

intrusive which was consistent with the original purpose of the property upon which the parking area was to be constructed. However, there also was discussion on potential future needs to the site and some interest in exploring a mid-range parking area size option in order to not discourage use of the BST.

Committee Business

A motion to approve the November 29, 2023 Minutes with no edits was offered by Ms. Follstad Shah and was seconded by Mr. Geiger. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Active Transportation Subcommittee provided an update to the Committee offered by Zachary Geiger. He reported that the Subcommittee was looking for additional funding opportunities as well as still trying to identify opportunities to best coordinate the priorities of the Subcommittee with those of the City's. Mr. Geiger also reported that the neighborhood byways project was expected to start in the Spring 2024 and that he would provide additional details in the coming months. Mr. Geiger reported on his meeting with Council Member Susan Hyland where he introduced the work the Subcommittee was focused on and noted that Ms. Hyland was supportive of those ideas. Mr. Geiger notified the Committee that there had been another pedestrian accident on Fort Union Boulevard in January 2024 which to him highlights the importance and necessity of the Subcommittee's work as it relates to safe transportation in the City. The Committee discussed the underlying circumstances of that accident as well as how the walkability and bikeability of the City's roads might impact these types of incidents in the future. Mr. Menssen noted that the Committee's new liaison with the City, Council Member Ellen Birrell, was particularly interested in these types of issues. Finally, related to active transportation more generally, Ms. Fields and the City discussed a bill being introduced during the Utah Legislative Session related to creating a registry of inactive canals that could potentially be redeveloped as trails. The City noted that East Jordan Canal feasibility study was still underway and expressed that this type of legislation may support the development of a trail in those areas within the City.

Ms. Cohen provided an update on VIP Program. She reported that there are approximately 150 volunteers, but that a VIP team capital was still needed for Butler Park. Ms. Cohen noted that several volunteers have come to the VIP program simply by seeking opportunities to become more involved in the community. Ms. Cohen reported that there had been a couple car break-in issues at the Ferguson Park and that she had brought those issues to the attention of the assistant police chief, Paul Brenneman, who not only toured the park himself, but offered additional patrols in that area. The Committee discussed the addition of a bulletin board at Ferguson Park to which the City said it would follow-up on the status of that request.

In terms of an update from the BST subcommittee, Ms. Fields discussed whether the Committee was interested in sending letter(s) to state representatives regarding legislative bills that impact the development of BST. The City discussed options that the Committee might want to take to support these certain legislation, such as reaching out as individuals to their representatives and/or recommending to the Council that the City support specific legislation. Ms. Fields and Ms. Follstad Shah expressed that they would touch base with community partners about relevant legislation that the Committee might be interested in supporting and would follow-up with the Committee about those details via email.

The Committee discussed its interest in publishing an article in various community publications. The Committee expressed interest in publishing articles about the VIP Program, active transportation, and/or spotlighting certain parks or aspects of the historical walk. The City noted that its staff may be able to

provide additional information as well as support regarding the publication of articles and offered to put the Committee in contact with certain individuals to discuss further.

Public Comment

Barbara Morrell, a member of the public, inquired as to whether there was an update on the Crestwood Park master plan. Specifically, she was interested in whether the master plan was going to include a public pool and if there were future public meetings to discuss this topic. The Committee noted that there was a public open house organized by Salt Lake County from 4-6 p.m. February 1, 2024, however, they did not have any other additional details. CHPRSA was not present for this portion of the Committee’s discussion so the update provided on the Crestwood Park was not available to the Committee to share with Ms. Morrell when she presented her questions to the Committee. The City indicated that it would look into Ms. Morrell’s questions and follow-up with her directly.

Adjournment

Before adjourning, Mr. Menssen invited the Committee to submit topics it wished to discuss at Committee meetings to the City for addition to the agenda no later than Sunday, February 25, 2024. There being no further business, Mr. Owens moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Menssen, and unanimously carried by the committee. The meeting was adjourned.

Mike Johnson

Date

Michael Menssen

Date