
PARKS, TRAILS, OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
AND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MAY 1ST, 2018

6:00 – 7:30 PM

TOWN HALL



Committee Present: Jen Coates, Jared Coburn, Doug Canright, Lois Zeimann, Mayor Pro Tem Eric Johnson, Town Councilor Robb Austin

Committee Absent: Nick Williams

Public Attending: Kurt Johnson, Ruth Stewart, Chris Lance, David Gottoroff, Jeff Norman, Michelle Montague, Pam Kraft, Susan Baker

- I. Call to Order –
The Meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm.
- II. Meeting Minutes from March 6th, 2018 meeting
Lois moved to approve the minutes. Eric seconded the motion. All approved.
- III. Meeting Minutes from April 10th, 2018 meeting
Robb motioned to approve the minutes. Eric seconded the motion. All approved.
- IV. Update from Community Garden on proposed locations for garden – Ridgway Community Garden (RCG)
Jen briefed the group on this continued conversation regarding funding, budget, plan and location for the Community Garden. Town Staff walked the potential sites (Athletic Fields, Green Street Park).

Kurt Johnson speaking for the Community Garden suggested the group feels the trajectory of the garden is to be in the Green Street Park. While infrastructure is in place in the Athletic Park (non-potable water, bathrooms, sidewalk, parking) the ability to grow is limited without impeding the future plans of the Athletic Park.

Kurt provided a budget for phase 1 and phase 2 of the community garden buildout estimated at \$33,300. Kurt shared the Garden has \$20k in the bank an access to another \$10k from other commitments. The budget does not include access to the site or parking, for which the garden has requested help from the town. Kurt suggested \$12k could be removed from the budget by removing the cold frame and the shade structure.

Eric Johnson expressed concern about parking and the need for access and parking and any funding committed by the Town should cover multi-use such as a parking area. Jen shared that the cost of access and parking would be removing and replacing sidewalk to accommodate vehicles and loads for the garden. Robb Austin supported Eric's comments.

Kurt expressed that the gardeners would like to start working this Fall 2018 and be able to plant next spring. There was some discussion of seeking additional outside funding from GOCO or another agency. At this time the budget matches resources but outside funding may be pursued later.

The committee expressed the need for ADA access to the garden and access for vehicles.

Lois asked if there was a design theme for the improvements. Kurt explained the plan is very simple.

The Committee supported the concept plan as presented for Green Street Park and recommended the idea be presented for the Town Council at the May 9th regular meeting, including a request that the Council commit the \$10,000 budgeted as matching funds for the GOCO grant to complete public improvements at the Green Street Park such as access and parking to the property. The Committee also requested that the RCG return to the Committee after any approval from the Council, and present more detailed design and construction plans for the Committee's approval.

V. Request for support and funding for musical instruments to install in public spaces (www.freenotesharmoniypark.com) - Public Art in Ridgway Colorado (PARC)

Pam Kraft and Susan Baker summarized the purpose of PARC and how they work on a very limited budget primarily acquiring gifted artwork for public display. Pam and Susan presented the concept of Harmony Park musical instruments, sharing that the instruments are valued at more than \$40,000 but the owner is prepared to sell the instruments to the Town for \$1000 each. PARC is prepared to commit \$3000 toward the \$7000 needed for all of the instruments available, and is requesting \$4000 from the Town for the purchase of the remaining 4 instruments. Pam and Susan presented ideas for locations in various parks in Town (eg: Hartwell, Athletic, Cottonwood, Rollans). The instruments will require bases for installation (Trex material) that will also need some funding to complete. Pam reported that no maintenance is required.

Pam and Susan requested the approval of the Committee to place one instrument in the Dennis Weaver Memorial Park.

The committee discussed clustering more than 3 instruments together, except for the one proposed for the Dennis Weaver Memorial Park, and being very careful and strategic about the location.

The Committee supported the request to locate one instrument in the Dennis Weaver Memorial Park and to ask Council for financial support of up to \$4000 to facilitate the purchase and installation of the instruments. The Committee also recommended clustering at least 3 instruments in a single location.

VI. Presentation of Dog Park ideas and locations – Ruth Stewart
Ruth shared a handout of dog park ideas and locations, including 2 locations at the Athletic Park and 1 location along the river corridor near the current off-leash area at the river.

David Gottoroff requested instead of the town expending funding on a dog park that the Town look at the leash laws and that the Town open up all parks to be off-leash and contain the spirit of dog parks in all parks in town.

Robb asked ideas from the Association of Professional Dog Trainers about maintenance, rules and regulations, development and enforcement of rules, areas for small dogs to be included in the park, no toys in the park, and areas to run, as points to consider with any dog park.

Ruth expressed the more recent leash laws seem to have improved the environment in Town.

Tom McKenney expressed that he feels the Town is dog-friendly today. Tom asked about the on-leash and off-leash areas. Tom supports the dog park 100% if people want it. Tom does not support a dog park in a location where dogs can currently be off-leash and under voice control, but instead to place a dog park within the mandatory leash area within the town.

David Gottoroff expressed concern about the clarity and understanding of leash-mandatory areas in the Town of Ridgway.

Kelly Ryan expressed that a dog park could be great and should be located in an area that is within the mandatory leash-area. Kelly suggested that signs be placed around town that clearly indicate off-leash areas around town, preserving and proactively protecting the off-leash areas around town.

Doug Canright asked about the long-term plan for the town-owned property north of the library. Jen and Eric responded that the property is planned for parking and/or municipal purposes.

Michelle Montague expressed the Town would want to look at the liability of a dog park.

Robb asked if a dog park might be part of the Master Plan discussion with the Town this year.

David Gottoroff suggested the baseball field location

Kelly Ryan suggested the property near Second Chance outside of Town.

Doug Canright suggested support for including the dog park location in an existing mandatory leash area and not in the off-leash areas.

The Committee expressed some support for a dog park either inside a the current mandatory leash area or outside of the Town of Ridgway, and also as an appropriate conversation for the Town's Master Plan process this year.

VII. Discussion of playground equipment donation

The Committee discussed the proposed playground donation and expressed that they do not want to obligate the town to maintaining and keeping a wooden structure as in the past they have been problematic with splinters and long term maintenance, and for those reasons the Town has moved to non-wooden structures on public property.

VIII. New Business

Doug presented that small children are riding motorcycles on the pump track and through Solar Ranches trails and Cottonwood Park. Doug asked about the use of motorized objects on town trails. Doug will reach out to the offending parties and ask that they not ride on public and HOA trails.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.