
PARKS, TRAILS, OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
AND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 6TH, 2018
6:00 PM
TOWN HALL



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

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

Community Present: Sandy Countryman, Willy Richardson, Mayor John Clark

- I. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 6:09 pm.

- II. Approval of meeting minutes from July 2, 2018 and September 4th, 2018
Eric moved to approve the July 2, 2018 minutes. Robb seconded the motion. All present approved the minutes.
Lois moved to approve the September 4th, 2018 minutes. Jared seconded the motion. All present approved the minutes.

- III. Request to place a hitching post in Hartwell Park – Rich Weber and Sandy Countryman
Sandy and Willy presented a draft rendering of the hitching post with an enclosed pen and gate. Robb asked about safety and having the horses in the park and the location as related to human and horse interactions.
Willy shared that if horses are in the pen it should be safe.
Sandy shared that horses are no longer being brought downtown because of the removal of prior hitching posts.
Willy stated a container with pinafore could be provided to dispose of horse manure.
Jared presented the idea of having the hitching post at the Museum property on the east side of Railroad Street.
Sandy shared that it was uncertain how many people and horses might use the hitching post.
The Committee discussed liability and town costs in the short and long term and an opportunity to work with the Ranch History Museum for a site on that property for a hitching post.

The Committee suggested due diligence on liability with this use on public property as well as the aesthetics, safety, compatibility with other uses, and location.

Willy suggested a size large enough to pen 6 horses and more horses could fit in round pen than a square pen. There may be more or less horses depending on events in town, etc.

The committee asked Sandy and Willy to provide more information on pen details, dimensions, costs and to explore opportunities with locating the pen on the Ranch History Museum leased property. They directed staff to explore liability and alternatives including potential locations and a plan for the gated pen.

IV. Update on Harmony Park – Town Manager

Jen presented a revised location from PARC, which is to move it from the south aspect of the playground area to the north aspect of the playground area. The posts for the instruments need to be 3 feet deep and there are too many tree roots in the south area. The north area is free of roots and sprinkler lines and is level. The width of the Harmony park area would follow the existing playground, and then form a square, so the opposite direction (south/north) would be the same distance as the existing (north/east). The area will be trimmed with same material as the other playgrounds - railroad ties and the same wood chip fiber will be used. The poles (recycled plastic posts) will be placed 3 feet into the ground.

The committee discussed impacts of the instruments on Town Hall staff and also the concert series, agreeing that a few nights in July should not greatly be impacted. The Committee unanimously supported the revised location.

V. Request for town-wide clean-up day – Councilor Tom Heffernan

This agenda item was deferred to the January meeting.

VI. Draft policy for tree maintenance in public rights of way – Town Manager

This agenda item was deferred to the January meeting.

VII. 2019 Budget and priorities

a. Review Green Street Park plan and review priorities

The committee was fine with the priorities set at the September meeting.

VIII. New Business

The Committee rescheduled the January meeting from January 1st to January 8th, 2019.

Heritage Park Plan

Jen shared with the Committee conversation with the Chamber Board to reimagine and plan the Heritage Park area and Visitor Center. The Chamber is considering applying for a Colorado Tourism Office grant in January 2019 for \$15,000 with a 25% match. The Committee discussed opportunities for the Heritage Park area and expressed support for planning this area. The Committee expressed support to clean up Heritage Park sooner than later.

Master Plan:

The Committee will review the following goals and policies as drafted for the Master Plan and provide any feedback directly to Jen to share with the Master Plan Task Force. Lois requested that action items from the Urban Forestry Plan be incorporated into the Plan. The Committee will email comments and input to Jen to provide to the Task Force.

GOAL ENV-1: Maintain a healthy and vibrant community forest.

POLICY ENV-1.1: Community Forest

Protect, preserve, and enhance Ridgway's community forest, maximizing tree canopy cover across the community where possible.

POLICY ENV-1.2: Tree Diversity

Strive to increase the diversity of tree species in the community forest so that no one species accounts for more than 10% of all trees.

POLICY ENV-1.3: Community Forest Management

Select, situate, and maintain trees to maximize benefits and minimize hazard, nuisance, hardscape damage, and maintenance costs.

POLICY ENV-1.4: Community Support

Foster community support for the local community forestry program and encourage best tree management practices by private property owners.

POLICY ENV-1.5: Tree Retention and Replacement

Support the retention of healthy, mature trees and the addition of new trees in both public improvement projects and private development. Encourage the replacement of trees where retention is not feasible.

GOAL CHR-1: Develop an interconnected system of parks, trails, open space, and recreational facilities that meets the needs of Ridgway's residents and visitors.

POLICY CHR-1.1: Dedicating Parks, Trails, and Open Spaces

Establish an equitable basis for dedicating parks, trails, and open spaces associated with new and proposed development including annexations and subdivisions, with "payment in lieu" and land donation options for dedicated parks, trails, and open spaces that considers land values, park land development costs, and long-term maintenance.

POLICY CHR-1.2: Multi-use Trails

Encourage and support trail development within and surrounding Ridgway, particularly trails that fill gaps in the Town's current system and improve continuity, including development of the Uncompahgre River Corridor trail network from Montrose to Ouray with an underpass/overpass for Highway 550. Where feasible, create trails that support walking, hiking, biking, and other non-motorized uses.

POLICY CHR-1.3: Low-Impact Trails

Balance the desire to build additional trails in Ridgway and the surrounding area with the need to protect environmentally sensitive areas from human disturbance, and the need to maintain the viability of ranching and agricultural operations.

POLICY CHR-1.4: Future Growth

Observe, monitor and respond to the Town's growth and community demands for increased or improved services, including the functions and duties of Town personnel to ensure efficient and effective operations.

POLICY CHR-1.5: Community Involvement

Involve the community in the preservation and care of existing facilities and amenities.

POLICY CHR-1.6: Facility Maintenance

Ensure Town staff can reasonably manage and finance the long-term maintenance of existing parks, trails, open spaces, and facilities prior to dedicating, building, or assuming ownership or maintenance responsibilities of additional amenities.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.