



# Parks, Trails and Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes

## Tuesday, May 4, 2021

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### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. and Parks, Trails and Open Space (PTOS) Committee members present were Jared Coburn, Lois Ziemann, Angela Ferrelli, Sue Husch, Erin Smith, Nick Williams, and Robb Austin. Also present was Town Manager Preston Neill.

### 2. Additions to Agenda

Robb requested an update on the Athletic Park baseball field. Preston requested an update on the proposed bike park at the south end of the Athletic Park. A brief discussion was held on the annual practice of applying magnesium chloride to the Town's unpaved streets.

### 3. Approval of Minutes from March 3, 2021 Meeting

Robb made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 3, 2021 PTOS Committee meeting. Jared seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

### 4. Update on Heritage Park Improvements Project

Preston updated the group on the status of the Heritage Park Improvements Project. He reported that after a competitive Request for Proposals process in April, the Town Council awarded the Heritage Park Improvements Project to Clarke & Company out of Grand Junction, CO. Clarke has expressed that they are aiming to complete both phases by early July.

### 5. Update on Review of Town's Landscaping Regulations

Preston explained to the group that in late 2020 and early 2021, the Planning Commission held several discussions about the Town's landscape regulations as a first step in the process of updating the regulations in a way that will encourage water conservation or require low water usage landscaping. He went on to explain that Community Planning Strategies, the Town's planning consultant, is in the process of reviewing all comments and notes gathered and they are aiming to have an updated set of regulations drafted for the Planning Commission to review at the May Planning Commission meeting.

### 6. Discussion on Parks and Trails Map Project

Preston explained that the Town's 2021 Strategic Plan contains a priority to update the Town's Parks and Trails Map since it needs to be updated to include additional parks, trails and amenities and it also needs to be updated in a way that meets the Town's established brand elements. Preston reviewed the results of the survey that was created by the design firm selected to undertake the project. As the group reviewed the survey results, it was decided that clarity is needed from the Town Council about the motivation for this project before proceeding.

### 7. Discussion regarding Water Restrictions and "Water Conservation Tips for Residents"

A discussion was held about drought conditions in western Colorado and the need for all water users to pay attention to the water they use this summer. It was mentioned that high water use puts a strain on the water distribution system. Preston shared a screenshot of the U.S. Drought Monitor for Colorado Conditions dated April 27, 2021, which showed most of Ouray County in the "Extreme Drought" category. While the group did not make a formal recommendation to the Town Council to promulgate Stage 1 Voluntary Water Restrictions, they did discuss ideas to achieve higher rates of water conservation. Ideas included, but were not limited to:

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- Instituting rebate/incentive programs
- Posing challenges to water customers (e.g., challenge to drop water usage 25% month over month)
- Penalties for overuse of water
- “Water saving tip of the week” in the Ouray County Plaindealer

The group reviewed the “Water Conservation Tips” document that Sue put together.

### **8. Discussion regarding New Membership and Committee Formalization**

Preston asked members about what the process for new membership has been in the past. Preston revealed that it does not appear that the committee has been formally designated as a standing committee of the Town Council, complete with “authority and procedures” that govern roles and responsibilities and other items like qualifications of members and term.

After it was explained that Dave and Judi Jones are interested in joining the group, Robb made a motion to nominate Dave and Judi to serve on the PTOS Committee. Jared seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Preston committed to relaying the nomination recommendation to the Town Council for ratification.

Robb announced that the next meeting of the PTOS Committee (July) would be his last one serving on the committee.

### **9. Baseball Field Update**

Preston explained that the improvements to the baseball field were completed during the fall of 2020 and that Public Works staff is continuing to work with the Ouray County Baseball Group on various field prep items.

### **10. Bike Park Update**

Preston briefly recapped that last fall the Town Council approved the request from Matt McIsaac to utilize the southern portion of the Athletic Park for a bike park. He went on to say that at their next meeting, the Town Council would consider approving a formal lease agreement, even though the bike park is still in the middle of the fundraising and design processes.

### **11. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the PTOS Committee, the meeting was adjourned. The time was 7:03 p.m.