

Parks, Trails and Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 19, 2022



1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. and Parks, Trails and Open Space (PTOS) Committee members present were Jared Coburn, Lois Ziemann, Sue Husch, Dave Jones, Judi Chamberlain, Erin Smith, and Nick Williams. Also present was Town Manager Preston Neill.

2. Departure of Councilor Angela Ferrelli

Preston explained that Angela Ferrelli recently announced her resignation from the Ridgway Town Council, thus ending her role as Council representative on the PTOS Committee.

3. Introduction to New Town Staff Member

Preston introduced Tera Wick, Community Initiatives Facilitator, to the group.

4. Approval of Minutes from October 11, 2021 Meeting

Jared Coburn made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 11, 2021 PTOS Committee meeting. Dave Jones seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Presentation from Agnieszka Przeszlowska regarding the Ridgway Community Garden

Preston explained that the Town's Lease Agreement with the Southwest Institute for Resilience DBA Ridgway Community Garden expires on February 17, 2022. He also explained that Agnieszka Przeszlowska has approached staff with the idea of entering into a long-term lease as Ridgway Community Garden and not under the umbrella of SWIRL. Agnieszka gave a presentation on the Community Garden's progress and activities. Although a duration was not specified, there was consensus among PTOS Committee members to recommend a long-term lease with Ridgway Community Garden.

6. Update regarding policy relative to noxious weed management

Preston provided background on the noxious weed issue in Ridgway. He explained that last summer, Julie Kolb, Ouray County Vegetation Manager, presented information to the Town Council about her department's weed control practices and the outlook for weeds in Ridgway. As a result of the work session, there seemed to be Council consensus to modify the Town's "No Spray" policy to allow for chemical-based herbicide application when deemed necessary by Town staff and Ouray County Vegetation Management personnel. Preston went on to explain that the Town Council recently adopted Resolution No. 22-01 amending the 2003 "no spray" policy to allow for more flexibility in addressing the noxious weed species located in Town. The whole point of modifying the policy was to bring it in line with the *2011 Integrated Weed Management Plan*.

The group acknowledged the motivation and need to modify the policy and there seemed to be support for exploring opportunities to enhance the community's involvement in noxious weed management.

7. Town Manager's Report

Preston briefly highlighted the January edition of the Town Manager's Report and asked if there were any questions.

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Nick Williams broached the subject of bear proof trash cans and asked if there was any support for recommending to the Town Council a requirement/mandate for residents to use the bear proof trash cans and to utilize them correctly. After discussion, no such recommendation was made.

Judi Chamberlain suggested that staff ask Bruin Waste to update the Recycling Guide, specifically the list of accepted items.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the PTOS Committee, the meeting was adjourned. The time was 6:50 p.m.