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PARKS, TRAILS, OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE  
AND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2019  
6:00 PM  
TOWN HALL

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

I. Call to Order  
6:06 pm

II. Approval of meeting minutes from November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
*Robb move approval of the meeting minutes.*  
*Eric seconded the motion.*  
*All committee members present voted in favor.*

III. Follow up on downtown horse pen and hitching post  
*Jen reviewed the minutes from the November 6, 2018 meeting and updated the committee on a conversation with CIRSA the Town's insurance liability provider and a conversation with Joan Chismire on the use of the Ranch History Museum property. Jen shared that CIRSA did not favor the idea of a pen or hitching post because of the high liability with the pen or post on town property. The Town is responsible for maintenance and liability of the pen or post. CIRSA recommended with the pen that the Town require the horse owners provide liability insurance naming the town as additional insured and the town will have a premium adjustment once the structure is constructed.*

*Richard stated he understood the Town's concern about the liability associated with a pen or hitching area in the park. Richard explained there used to be a fence in the park that was used as a hitching post. The areas to hitch a horse now are not ideal, but can work. Richard has hitched his horse to the new light bollards downtown can be used as well as some trees in the park to tie a horse, although it is not ideal. Richard expressed the desire to have something central in the park, not on the Ranch History Museum or non-central location.*

*The Committee determined that the liability associated with a horse pen or hitching post is significant. The Committee discussed the desire to accommodate and welcome the ranching community downtown.*

*The Committee denied the request to install a hitching post in Hartwell Park. It was determined that horse owners can continue to tie up their horses in a way that doesn't require this feature to be installed.*

IV. Update on Heritage Park Plan  
*Jen updated that the grant application to the Colorado Tourism Office (CTO) was submitted by the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce*

V. 2019 Budget and priorities

*The Committee discussed priorities in 2019, as put forth at the September Committee meeting:*

- a. *Policy on maintenance of trees in public rights-of-way;  
Chase and Jen are working on this and plan to bring to the Committee in March.*
- b. *Review the Green Street Plan and making priorities for the future: discussion included: Continued work at Green Street Park to further develop the Green Street Park plan, including a potential play structure, trees internal to the park (away from the street and at the west periphery), paving the parking lot and landscaping around the parking lot;  
Nothing was budgeted for this priority in 2019. Town staff continue to work with the Ridgway Community Garden on improvements for the garden in the park. The parking area has been completed and the town has made the tap for water*
- c. *Replace trees at Green Street Park;  
Chase updated that trees are planned to be replaced in the spring 2019.*
- d. *Tree Board from the Tree Inventory and Management Plan  
The Committee discussed the benefit of establishing a Tree Board. Lois will do some research on Tree Boards and report back to the group after the March meeting and consideration of the draft tree maintenance ordinance.*
- e. *Adopt a Park program  
The committee discussed the status of this program and efforts in 2019. Cottonwood, Hartwell, Rollans and Heritage Parks were discussed as primary parks needing the most attention. The Committee discussed engaging the volunteer groups when special projects arise.*
- f. *Solar Ranches trails improvements (Cottonwood Park)  
\$5k in 2019 budget. Doug reported that the north/south connections from the Cottonwood Park trail to Chipeta could use some attention.*
- g. *OCSA improvements in the Athletic Fields (bleachers, storage, concession building)  
Meeting to be scheduled with OCSA in coming weeks and staff will report back to the committee.*
- h. *Water in cottonwood park  
\$5k in 2019 budget for this effort. Town staff is hoping to get this started in the spring.*
- i. *Picnic table replacements  
\$15k in 2019 budget for new picnic tables. Staff will follow up with the committee on picnic table options.*
- j. *Add: Heritage Park planning in partnership with the Chamber and CTO*

VI. Old Business

*Chase shared that he plans to connect with the Conservation Corps in the Fall on potential projects for 2020.*

*Harmony Park is installed in Hartwell Park.*

*Pickleball striping is planned to be bid in the early spring.*

VII. New Business

VIII. Adjourn

*The meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm*