
PARKS, TRAILS, OPEN SPACE MEETING #3
AGENDA AND MEETING OBJECTIVES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 9TH
5:30 – 7:30 PM
RIDGWAY TOWN HALL

TO: PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE / PUBLIC PARTICIPANTS
FROM: JEN COATES
SUBJECT: MEETING #3: AGENDA AND OBJECTIVES
DATE: AUGUST 9TH, 2011
EST TIME: 2 HOURS

Committee Members: Stephanie Wallin, Randy Charrette, Bryan Sampson, Kimah McCarty, Doug Canright, Sara Ballantyne, Eric Johnson, Rich Durnan, Rick Weaver, Paul Donegan, Jen Coates

- I. Discussion of Dog Park Opportunities – Deedee Decker
- II. Quick Review of July Meeting
- III. Review and Finalize Updated Goals and Objectives
- IV. Objectives (action plan) for Goal 1 and Review Revised Map
- V. Next Meeting – September 13th: Goal 2 objectives
- VI. Adjourn – 7:30 PM

PARKS, TRAILS, OPEN SPACE MEETING #2

MEETING NOTES

TUESDAY, JULY 12TH

5:30 – 7:30 PM

RIDGWAY TOWN HALL

Committee Members Present:

Stephanie Wallin, Sara Ballantyne, Rick Weaver, Doug Canright, Bryan Sampson, Jen Coates

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 PM.

I. Quick Review of June Meeting

Jen provided a quick review of the June 14th committee meeting. Doug Canright commented that the discussion of an ice rink should be added to the meeting notes. Jen indicated that there will be additional opportunity for discussing the specific improvements recommended, and those improvements will be incorporated into the final plan element.

II. Review Revised Map

Parks and amenities should be added to the map. Trails and sidewalks should be designated as such on the map. Private trails and public trails should be noted as well. The committee agreed that some trails along private properties would be discussed in the plan, and that trail linkages surrounding the town should also be incorporated into the plan. Trails in the Dennis Weaver Memorial Park need updated.

III. Review and Develop Goals and Objectives

Goal 1 - remove long term management, financing and resource allocation; Local and regional trails should be included in the plan, identifying linkages outside of the town as well as within the town; Discern between existing and future improvements in the objectives.

Goal 2 – call out recreation facilities and amenities only; understand what we have and what we want; Rick expressed a need for a restroom facility in the Dennis Weaver Memorial Park

Goal 3 – Establish and define required standards (not acceptable); incorporate ‘parks, trails, and open space’ consistently throughout the document (ie: not just trails, not just parks, not just open space); incorporate maintenance planning and funding within the standards required for development; combine with Goal 4 (acquisition of parks, trails, and os)

Goal 4 – incorporate into Goal 3

Goal 5 – develop a plan to address Urban Forest Management, including long term care and maintenance; plant trees to replace aging ones; insure inclusion of

management plans with new parks; include tree trimming and maintenance, and noxious weed management; be proactive with maintenance.

Goal 6 – incorporate economic development information; installation of signage for wayfinding; education of community and visitors; increased awareness of amenities.

The committee requested adding some concepts from the “Better Living Through Trails” presentation should be included in the economic development section of the plan.

- IV. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM
Next Meeting – August 9th: Develop Action Plan for Goals 1 and 2

Ridgway Parks, Trails and OS Committee
DRAFT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES – July 30, 2011

GOAL 1. Understand existing conditions and connectivity of current parks, trails, and open spaces within and surrounding the Town of Ridgway, and identify community needs and desires to inform and prioritize new and expanded recreation facilities and amenities.

Objectives

1. Inventory and map existing facilities and amenities, inclusive of linkages and gaps required for an interconnected system.
2. Develop and map a sustaining Parks, Trails and Open Space Plan that identifies and characterizes all existing and proposed parks and trails, open spaces, sensitive areas, view and wildlife corridors, riparian areas and wetlands, river corridor, natural filtration and storm water drainage areas, and other community-valued natural resources.
3. Clearly identify needed trail linkages and recreation paths that provide integrated access to existing and future parks, open spaces, public facilities and schools within the Town.
4. Establish areas of environmental and cultural significance to be prioritized for conservation and preservation, including environmentally sensitive areas, view and wildlife corridors, riparian areas and wetlands, river corridor, natural filtration and storm water drainage areas, and other community-valued natural resources.
5. Identify trail linkages outside of Town, in Ouray County, for future development, and create a “future trails” map identifying these areas.
6. Utilize the following results of the 2009 community survey to inform decision-making:
 - a. *acquisition of strategically located, neighborhood parks and open spaces including a large community park received the most support (44%, 154 respondents);*
 - b. *acquisition of smaller neighborhood parks under 5 acres in size to serve new neighborhoods (21%, 76);*
 - c. *acquisition of a larger ‘community park’ received the least support (7%, 26 responses);*
 - d. *15% (52 respondents) feel the Town has sufficient parks and opens spaces to accommodate new growth;*
 - e. *Open spaces and light use areas received 10% support (36 responses)*
7. Create and distribute a short, online poll for the community to identify priority infrastructure projects for recreational facilities and amenities, and to determine potential locations for these priority facilities and amenities.

GOAL 2. Identify sustainable mechanisms and opportunities for developing, constructing, acquiring, and maintaining desired parks, trails, and open spaces.

Objectives

1. Establish and define sustainable development standards and design guidelines for new development incorporating low-maintenance obligations, low-water irrigation systems, noxious weed management, tree and native plant preservation, and other good stewardship and conservation oriented standards, such that development clearly understands the requirements and benefits of developing parks, trails, and open spaces. Development standards should be codified, and guidelines made readily available to inform the process.
2. Apply new development standards to existing facilities and amenities (eg: installation of low-water irrigation systems in areas currently requiring hand-watering), to the extent feasible and possible with existing resources.
3. 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 and park land development costs.
4. Provide for and encourage increased development density including compact, mixed uses when the development allows for the dedication of open space(s) that preserves sensitive areas, view and wildlife corridors, riparian areas and wetlands, river corridor, natural filtration and storm water drainage areas, and active consideration of other community-valued natural resources.
5. Invest in the rural economy through identification and support of local agriculture and farming operations, including appropriate, context-sensitive land uses at the perimeter of the municipal boundary.
6. Utilize the following results of the 2009 community survey when considering acquisition and maintenance of parks, trails, and open spaces to inform decision-making:
 - a. Require development of parks, trails, open spaces by new residential subdivisions,
 - b. Pursue grant dollars (GOCO),
 - c. Include fee-in-lieu payment option;
 - d. Some limited support for new taxes was expressed as a financing mechanism
7. Explore the following opportunities to create a diverse income portfolio for the acquisition, development and maintenance of parks, trails, and open space amenities and facilities: state funds, private foundations, trust funds, support land trust partnerships and initiatives, special events and fundraising (eg: parks appreciation), sales tax, user fees, and impact fees.

GOAL 3. Prioritize Urban Forest Management with long term maintenance objectives and financing

Objectives

1. Insure new parks, trails, and open spaces development plans include a long-term management and financing plan, inclusive of irrigation and water rights when possible.
2. Assess and care for existing trees in public parks for health and longevity, and plant new trees accordingly to insure long-term growth and healthy canopies.
3. Perform annual evaluations of public spaces and pay attention to annual fluctuations in the health of urban forests and evaluate changes over time, making adjustments as appropriate due to changes in climate, environment, or other factors influencing the health of the forests.
4. Develop a quick guide to preferred trees, native plants and vegetation to inform new development and parks planning efforts for environmentally appropriate plantings and inclusive of low-water management demands.

GOAL 4. Utilize parks, trails, and open spaces as an economic driver for the Town.

Objectives

1. Market and promote parks, trails, and open spaces using various mechanisms for public outreach and education such as a public parks and trails user map showing amenities and facilities within each park and existing connectivity within the Town and region.
2. Work with the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce, City of Ouray/Ouray Chamber Resort Association, Ridgway State Parks, and others to promote recreational amenities within the Town and Ouray County.
3. Provide educational information and resources on the economic benefits of parks, trails and open spaces for property owners and developers.
4. Install appropriate signage and way-finding throughout the Town.

