
**PARKS, TRAILS, OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE AND TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING AGENDA
SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2015
5:30 – 7:00 PM
TOWN HALL**



Committee: Council Member Rick Weaver, Council Member Eric Johnson, Doug Canright, Jen Coates, Lois Ziemann, Jared Coburn, Council Member Nick Williams, Stephanie Wallin

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Approval of Minutes from July 7th, 2015**
- III. Request to consider basketball court in Hartwell Park – *Jake Coulter***
- IV. 2015 Budget and Priorities for Year End**
- V. 2016 Budget and Priorities**
Including request to budget for additional picnic table in the DWMP, est. \$700 – Rusty Weaver
- VI. Other Business**
 - a. Urban Forest Management and Tree Inventory– *Lois and Jen*
 - b. Memorial Bench Policy – *Stephanie and Rick*
 - c. Green Street Park and Community Garden – *Jen, Eric and Doug*
 - d. *Adopt a Park Program – Jared and Nick*
- VII. Next Meetings: 2015 Dates with Proposed Focus**
November – Urban Forest Management Plan and Tree Inventory, Year End Debrief
- VIII. Adjourn**

PARKS, TRAILS, OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA
JULY 7TH, 2015
5:30 – 7:00 PM
TOWN HALL



Committee Present: Rick Weaver, Doug Canright, Jen Coates, Lois Ziemann, Nick Williams

Committee Absent: Stephanie Wallin, Eric Johnson, Jared Coburn

Public Present: Leigh Robertson with Sheep Mountain Alliance; Bill Lindler with Ridgway Area Trails

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes from March 3rd, 2015

Lois moved to approve; Doug Canright seconded. Rick and Nick approved.

III. Request from Sheep Mountain Alliance to plant trees in Ridgway – Leigh Robertson

Leigh presented the possibility of partnering with the Town of Ridgway on a tree planting program.

Leigh suggested that the Sheep Mountain Alliance may work with Forest Service on purchasing trees and asked the Parks Committee about specific species and a plan.

Lois presented that the Town is working on a tree inventory and this could fit in with that effort.

The committee discussed tree maintenance and water needs for the newly planted trees.

Nick mentioned Solar Ranches street needs for additional trees in this location and Leigh indicated areas in town outside of the parks could be incorporated.

Bill Lindler mentioned providing shade in the Athletic Fields.

The Committee discussed planting trees on private property, incorporating the partnership into a comprehensive park plan (Green Street Park), incorporating the tree plantings and partnership into a plan that includes existing or planned future infrastructure (irrigation, type of tree, planting specs, fencing/protection, etc.), such as the Green Street Park, RAMP project, River Park PUD replacement, or other.

Leigh will explore options and opportunities for this partnership and return to the Parks Committee at a future date. Sheep Mountain Alliance will fund the tree purchase, including donations from Mountain Film attendees.

IV. Recommendation to provide for Wildlife Friendly Fencing – Leigh Robertson, Executive Director of the Sheep Mountain Alliance

Leigh presented removing or changing fences on/adjacent to Town property that aren't wildlife friendly, encouraging Town residents to use wildlife-friendly fences, and (if needed) amending the code re: fences

Rick Weaver suggested that RiverSage PUD requires wildlife friendly fencing and the Town might consider looking at this type of regulation for new subdivisions.

The group discussed outreach and education on wildlife friendly fencing within the Town, including posting of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife materials and explore regulations for wildlife friendly fencing with new subdivisions.

V. Request to design and construct additional trails in the Dennis Weaver Memorial Park – Bill Lindler, Ridgway Area Trails Board

Bill presented a draft map for a future trail in the Dennis Weaver Memorial Park between Highway 550 to the east and the Uncompahgre River to the west. Bill indicated the trail still needs to be located on the ground and planned to avoid any wetlands areas.

The Committee supported advancing this request to design and construct an additional approximately ½ mile trail in the Dennis Weaver Memorial Park to the Town Council with the design to be planned in concert with the Parks Committee (Rick and Doug volunteered to walk the route). Rick made a motion to approve this request, Lois seconded the motion. Doug and Rick approved the motion.

VI. Request to pursue a Trail Wayfinding Plan that would strategically place the RAT logo on the Uncompahgre RiverWay Trail and to also place a wayfinding trail map / kiosk on Town property – Bill Lindler, Ridgway Area Trails Board

Bill presented the request for RAT to finance and install a trail kiosk in Hartwell Park and a request to stencil a RAT logo on the sidewalk every 1/3 to ½ mile leading to the trail system.

Rick Weaver indicated support for including directional signage to the Dennis Weaver Memorial Park and some further directional signage along the trail for the Dennis Weaver Park Trails and the RAT network. Rick requested a walk along the Dennis Weaver Memorial Park to see where the trail is planned to be located.

RAT will advance the request to the Town Council and if approved will need a permit for the plan and for the trail work to be completed.

The committee was in support of signage and wayfinding and in concert with existing sign plan for the town, although concern was expressed about the RAT logo on the sidewalk, and instead recommended that a very limited number of trail map signs be strategically located at specific junctions and decision points along the trail. Lois moved to approve this request Rick seconded the motion. Nick and Doug approved the motion.

VII. Adopt a Park Program and Spring Kick Off Event Update – Jared and Nick
There was no discussion of this item.

VIII. Update on Green Street Park and Community Garden – Jen, Eric and Doug
There was no discussion of this item.

IX. Discussion of an Exercise Park – Rick Weaver

[Bryan Clay Exercise Park - Parks - Diamond Head ... - Yelp](#)

Rick presented a request to consider an outdoor exercise equipment park at an estimated cost of about \$1500 in the Athletic Park. Rick requested feedback from the committee on the concept of providing this project and moving toward some due diligence on planning, cost, etc.

Nick expressed concern about the practical application and literal use of the equipment.

Rick expressed the equipment is constructed to be outside with no maintenance.

Doug expressed concern about public usage and the community survey conducted most recently did not include a single request for an outdoor exercise park. There was also an expressed concern about local facilities charging for use of exercise equipment competing with free, public machines.

The Committee reviewed the priorities in the Parks and Trails plan and determined that there was really nothing similar to this type of improvement and the committee should be focused on identified community priorities, or in the alternative, reach out to the community now and determine if this is a priority improvement for the Town. There was discussion of including something of this sort in the Green Street Park Plan as well.

X. Other Business

a. Discussion of trails in Cottonwood Park – Doug Canright

Doug suggested that the dead end trail of Cottonwood Park to the west end of the park could be improved to be a trail along the lower part of the drainage, but he has since realized this is not a good option for continuing the trail. An alternative would be pursuing an easement along private property but the challenges associated with this are not desired at this time.

b. Urban Forest Management and Tree Inventory– Lois and Jen

Lois reported that the inventory is going great with most of the street trees completed and a few needed, Heritage Park trees are completed, Rollans Park is done except for some small trees; DWMP trees are completed. Remaining to complete with this phase are trees in the Athletic Park and some others.

c. Memorial Bench Policy – Stephanie and Rick

This agenda item was tabled to a future meeting.

d. Rick reported there are 4 pair of boots and 3 headstones in the Dennis Memorial Weaver Park.

XI. Next Meetings: 2015 Dates with Proposed Focus

July – Community Garden, Adopt a Park update and preliminary 2016 budget ideas

September - 2016 Budget proposals

November – Urban Forest Management Plan and Tree Inventory, Year End Debrief

XII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.