
PARKS, TRAILS, OPEN SPACE MEETING #6
AGENDA AND MEETING OBJECTIVES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH
5:30 – 7:30 PM
RIDGWAY TOWN HALL

TO: PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE / PUBLIC PARTICIPANTS
FROM: JEN COATES
SUBJECT: MEETING #6: AGENDA AND OBJECTIVES
DATE: NOVEMBER 8TH, 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, Jen Coates

- I. Quick Review of October Meeting
 - a. *Student survey on facilities*

- II. Finalize Goals, Objectives, and Action Items

- III. Review Revised Map
 - a. *In-town/ out-of-town*

- IV. Next Meeting – December 13th: Review and Finalize Plan and Map; Discuss role of Committee into the future
 - a. *January 31st – Present to Planning Commission*
 - b. *February 8th – Present to Town Council*

- V. Adjourn – 7:30 PM

PARKS, TRAILS, OPEN SPACE MEETING #5
MEETING NOTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11TH
5:30 – 7:30 PM
RIDGWAY TOWN HALL

TO: PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE / PUBLIC PARTICIPANTS
FROM: JEN COATES
SUBJECT: MEETING #5: NOTES
DATE: OCTOBER 11TH, 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, Jen Coates

Attending: Stephanie Wallin, Doug Canright, Eric Johnson, Rich Durnan, Rick Weaver, Jen Coates

- I. Review of September 13th Meeting
 - a. *Feedback on priority amenities and facilities*
 - b. *Review of Goal 2 Objectives*

The committee discussed the structure and format of the goals and objectives, and determined some re-working of the goal, objective, action item format is appropriate. General comments include:

- Goal 1 is existing circumstances
- Goal 2 is future development and maintenance
- Goal 3 is management and maintenance
- Goal 4 is quality of life, community building and economic development

Regarding the survey completed by some community members and to be completed by students of the Ridgway High School, the committee would like to have a future survey in the plan as an action item but the "results" of the preliminary survey could be an addendum to the plan, which is periodically revisited

General discussion included:

- breaking out objectives and action items separately
- staffing for maintenance and operations of the expanded PTOS and facilities inventory
- the continued need for the PTOS committee as preliminary review and recommendation before Town Council action is requested
- special districts, fundraising, legal issues, etc.

-Rec center – the committee talked about options for a recreation center in Ridgway for the region and determined this would not be a stand alone goal, but that a Special District may be considered in the future.

The Committee also discussed how we can move forward without major budget commitments and identified the utilization of public/private partnerships (adopt-a-park, volunteers, CSU extension) as an opportunity for the Town.

Jen will re-work goals, objectives, and action items based on inputs today and the Committee will review again in November.

II. Goals 3 and 4: Objectives (action plan)

-Discussion of Goals 3 and 4 was wrapped into the overall goals, objectives, action items discussion above.

III. Next Meeting –
November 8th: Finalize Plan; Discussion of permanent Parks, Trails, OS Committee

The Committee discussed the need to have an additional meeting in December and then present the final plan to the Planning Commission in January and the Town Council in February 2012.

IV. Adjourn – 7:25 PM

I. GOALS, OBJECTIVES and ACTION ITEMS

GOAL 1 - EXISTING CONDITIONS

Understand and identify existing conditions for parks, trails, and open spaces within, surrounding and linking to the Town of Ridgway.

Objectives

1. Understand and 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.
2. 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.
3. Identify community needs and desires to inform and prioritize new and expanded recreation facilities and amenities.

Action Items

1. Inventory and map existing parks, trails, open spaces, facilities and amenities, to understand linkages and gaps required for an effective interconnected system.
2. Evaluate the 2011 Land Use Map to understand sensitive areas, view corridors, wildlife corridors, riparian areas and wetlands, river corridor and setbacks, natural filtration and storm water drainage areas, and other community-valued natural resources. Utilize this map in the planning and development of parks, trails, open spaces, and facilities.
3. Create and distribute a local survey for the community to understand current use and demand for recreational facilities and amenities, and to identify priority infrastructure projects for development.

GOAL 2 – SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Implement mechanisms and opportunities for developing, constructing and acquiring, desired parks, trails, open spaces and facilities.

Objectives

1. Convey a clear and consistent message regarding community needs and desires for the development and/or preservation of parks, trails, open spaces and facilities.
2. Identify and share the economic benefits associated with the development and/or preservation of parks, trails, open spaces and facilities.
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. Preserve open spaces by understanding and investing in the rural economy.
6. Understand and participate in local and regional efforts outside of direct local government actions, and support public-private partnerships that further this goal of a sustainable future.
7. Involve the community in the preservation and care of existing facilities and amenities.
8. Observe, monitor and respond to the Town’s growth and community demands for increased or improved services, including the functions and duties of Town personnel to insure efficient and effective operations.

Action Items

1. Establish and define sustainable development standards and guidelines for new development incorporating community values such as low-maintenance obligations, low-water irrigation systems, noxious weed management, long-term financing, tree and native plant preservation, and other good stewardship and conservation oriented standards. Development should clearly understand the requirements and benefits of developing parks, trails, open spaces and facilities. Development standards should be codified and include options and alternatives (payment-in-lieu, etc) for context appropriate development and competing demands. Guidelines should be clear and readily available to inform the process.

2. Develop a quick guide or small brochure containing facts and information for the community and future development regarding the economics associated with developing parks, trails and facilities and preserving open spaces.
3. To the extent feasible and possible with existing resources, apply new development standards to existing facilities and amenities (eg: installation of low-water irrigation systems in areas currently requiring hand-watering, etc.).
4. Continue to pursue outside funding including grant opportunities to supplement efforts for the acquisition and development of desired facilities and amenities.
5. Consult the 2011 Land Use Plan and Land Use Map to assist in evaluating development patterns and promoting appropriate development of parks, trails, open spaces and facilities.
6. Work with the Ouray County Land Use Department to identify, understand and support the rural economy including small-scale agriculture and farming operations and implementation of appropriate, context-sensitive land uses at the perimeter of the municipal boundary that contribute to a local and regional sustainability.
7. Support the local trails group(s) as appropriate with acquisitions of property and easements for trail development and expansion opportunities and that provide context appropriate linkages into existing and future trails.
8. Identify individual and group partners and organizations to implement community-involvement programs including an "Adopt A Park" program.
9. When appropriate, increase personnel resources including a Parks Department Supervisor/Director and explore the feasibility of a establishing a Special District.

GOAL 3. MAINTAIN AND SUSTAIN

Insure sustainable, long-term care and maintenance of existing and future Town parks, trails, open spaces and facilities.

Objectives

1. Insure new development understands and incorporates long-term management and financing in the planning and development process.
2. Insure Town Parks Personnel understand long-term maintenance and financing needs for safe and healthy parks, trails, open spaces and facilities, including appropriate noxious weed management to insure healthy and diverse indigenous and native plant populations and to nurture healthy native wildlife populations.
3. Continue monitoring and strive to understand and adapt to the dynamic natural environment and changing demands for healthy spaces.
4. Explore opportunities to create a diverse income portfolio for the acquisition, development and maintenance of parks, trails, and open space amenities and facilities.

Action Items

1. Adopt development regulations to incorporate long-term management and financing for new parks, trails, open spaces and facilities, including but not limited to the acquisition and/or dedication of irrigation and water rights when possible and feasible. These regulations should include low-maintenance priorities so as to keep future maintenance costs as low as possible and within reason for the Town.
2. 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.
3. Insure the Town Parks personnel understand, implement and monitor the Noxious Weed Management and Native Plant Restoration Master Plan, and update the Plan as appropriate to meet the changing demands of a dynamic environment.
4. Provide continuing education and training of parks staff to assess and care for existing flora and trees in public parks for health and longevity, and plant new flora and trees accordingly to insure long-term growth and healthy canopies.
5. Perform annual evaluations of public spaces and pay attention to fluctuations in the health of flora and urban forests, evaluating these changes over time, making adjustments as appropriate in response to transformations in climate, environment, or other factors influencing the health of the flora.

6. Insure regular monitoring of existing and future infrastructure occur and that improvements needed for safe and attractive facilities are appropriately conveyed, budgeted and completed.
7. Offset maintenance costs through:
 - a. Pursuit of outside funding from the State of Colorado, private foundations, and trust funds
 - b. Supporting land trust partnerships and initiatives
 - c. Community and fundraising events (eg: parks appreciation)
 - d. Implementation of a sales tax, impact fee and/or user fee options. *User fees should be for private reserved events only (e.g.: weddings, soccer tournaments and practices, private use of the gazebos or pavilion, etc.). Otherwise, public spaces for general public use should be at no cost.*
 - e. Engage in the free market through the sale of parks related products, merchandising of specific goods, collecting a portion of the sale of public art pieces, and the establishment of formal donation opportunities through Region 10 Enterprise Zone Tax Credit opportunities, and others.

GOAL 4 – QUALITY OF LIFE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Improve the quality of life for residents and visitors in the region through the development, management and care of parks, trails, open spaces and facilities and utilize these community-building improvements as economic drivers for the Town and the region.

Objectives

1. Understand community desires to capitalize and develop quality of life improvements.
2. Market and promote parks, trails, and open spaces using diverse and various mechanisms for public outreach and education.
3. Identify and establish effective regional partnerships to address increasing demands.
4. Provide educational information and resources on the economic benefits of parks, trails and open spaces for property owners and developers.
5. Install appropriate and easy way-finding for residents, businesses and visitors.

Action Items

1. Continually survey the community through various mechanisms to understand priorities and needs for developing parks, trails, open spaces, and facilities.
2. Continue to orchestrate and promote community events and festivals.
3. Work with the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce, City of Ouray/Ouray Chamber Resort Association, Ridgway State Parks, Ridgway Area Trails Group, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, private enterprise and others to promote recreational facilities and amenities within the Town and throughout Ouray County, including the collaborative development of outreach materials and mapping.
4. Develop and distribute brochures, pamphlets and online resources with proposed development applications.
5. Create and make readily available throughout the Town a public parks and trails user map showing amenities and facilities within each park and existing connectivity within the Town and region. Maps and way-finding should be available at the Town gateways, public spaces, and private businesses.
6. Work with community residents and businesses to install appropriate signage and way-finding throughout the Town, targeting gateway areas such as Highways 550 and 62, the Uncompahgre RiverWay Trail, the Regional Athletic Field, Hartwell Park and Town Hall, and other local parks and trails locations. Involve the State Highway

Department to the extent reasonable and feasible to locate and install way-finding along the state highways within the Town.

7. Continually monitor existing, changing resources and increasing demands and when appropriate, explore opportunities for the development of a regional Recreation Special District.