

**CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**

MINUTES

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

6:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING

Join via Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82910769205>

Commissioners Present: Pat Cervera, Kathy Koniz, Nikki Larsen, Cambria Rollo, and John Route

Commissioners Absent: Chris Schilling and Karen Stanley

Guests: None

Staff Present: Karen O'Donnell, Parks & Recreation Director

Item 1 – Determination of Quorum & Call to Order

Chairperson Rollo called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Item 2 – Introductions – Members and Guests

Chairperson Rollo welcomed everyone to the meeting. No guests were present.

Item 3 – Approval of Minutes

Chair Rollo moved to approve the November 17 and December 15, 2021, meeting minutes as written. Commissioner Cervera approved the motion, Commissioner Route seconded it, all approved.

Item 4 – Unfinished Business

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Chair Rollo stated that Commissioner Larsen will be stepping down from the committee when her term is up in March 2022. Commissioner Larsen stated that she is going to focus her time getting involved with the Sustainable Neighborhood Group.

Update on Municipal Code Amendment Process

Director O'Donnell reported that City Manager, Patrick Goff, suggested to discuss this item at a City Council study session so they are aware of the proposed changes. After that, it would have to be presented at a City Council regular meeting for them to take formal action. It would also be open for public comment, so the process would probably take two meetings to approve. Commissioners are welcomed to attend the meetings.

Strategic Plan Review Continued

Chair Rollo asked if everyone had reviewed the plan and if there were any comments regarding the 2020 Strategic Plan Progress document.

Director O'Donnell stated the plan would be reviewed again for updates in early 2022. One of the items listed was the promotion of the completion of the Anderson Building. Director O'Donnell mentioned that before COVID, the facility (aside from the outdoor pool) wasn't being utilized as much as it could be. They are brainstorming different options on what else they could do there at that facility. They did move the Pilates Reformers over to that building since it is a popular class and in making sure that space is utilized. They have been able to reuse the space at the Recreation Center for that class on a regular basis. There was a discussion to have youth and family outings in the gymnasium to show movies as an idea to reuse the space.

Commissioner Cervera asked if the gymnasium was being used for indoor pickle ball. Director O'Donnell stated that she was uncertain and perhaps the dimensions aren't correct for that but would check since it is smaller than their other gym. They get quite a bit of basketball use in the wintertime and with the boy scout groups renting out that space.

Chair Rollo inquired about the collaboration with Wilmore Davis Elementary students regarding a nature playground project, as mentioned in the plan. There are comments in the progress document indicating that ideas from the WD students will be incorporated, and the nature player is now open to the public. Additional funding is required to complete the vision of the project.

Commissioner Cervera asked about any updates for Prospect Park and the Green at 38th.

Item 5 – New Business

Upcoming City Council Meeting - Parks and Recreation Items

There were no upcoming Council items specific to Parks & Recreation for the agenda.

Item 6 – Staff Updates

Prospect Park Update

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Director O'Donnell explained they have had several weather delays at Prospect Park so it may be difficult to reopen the entrance on March 1. She emphasized that they to be careful not to track dirt and mud onto 44th because it could create issues with the stormwater. Also, the shelter was removed quite a while ago. Much of the equipment has already been ordered and it's on schedule. As soon as the weather is suitable, they will begin work on the pickle ball courts.

Fitness Court Update

Director O'Donnell stated the Fitness Court will be installed at Panorama Park in the coming months. Commissioner Larsen shared a post from a user that lost weight working out at that park. Director O'Donnell stated that it would be great to share stories like this one at their grand opening. All the equipment has been delivered and it is being stored at Public Works. They are planning for April to do the concrete portion and the installation should only take a week. They are also planning on the grand opening around July 1st, but that date has not been confirmed as of yet.

Colorado Parks & Recreation Association Awards

Director O'Donnell stated the Colorado Parks and Recreation Association gives out awards annually. They had an award ceremony in December which was nice to finally do it in person. They awarded Beth June, their Recreation Coordinator who oversees their youth programs and therapeutic recreation with a President's Award. She is super creative and glad that she was recognized by the current President. Also, the Community Champion Award can go to any individual or organization that is truly a champion for Parks and Recreation in the community. It is a statewide award and Localworks won the award. This is an example of their collaboration with our department to provide great events and social opportunities.

Horticulture Positions

Director O'Donnell stated that they have two Horticulture Assistant positions opening up online by the end of this week.

Item 7 – Future Agenda Items

- 2022 Goals and Objectives Planning
- Prospect Lake Water Quality
- Vape Pen Exchange

Item 8 – Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Route: No comments.

Commissioner Larsen: Just about the positive feedback from the Panorama Park user that I mentioned earlier, miss getting out to the parks.

Commissioner Cervera: Would like an update on the disc golf course. Director O'Donnell stated there are no updates on that, but it did come up in one of their staff meetings regarding the feedback received from the "Let's Talk Program" for that neighborhood. Jeff and Ashley are

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leading that process and they will ask questions about that and share our diagram of what it might look like to get any feedback that people might have that are participating.

Chair Rollo: If you have any neighbors or friends interested in the position openings, that would be great.

Item 9 – Adjournment

With no further business, Chair Rollo adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.