

**Cottonwood Heights Parks Trails and Open Space (PTOS) committee meeting
June 19, 2019**

Attendees:

Committee members

Ben Hill
Roger Kehr
Ronna Cohen
Dave McFerren
Kristy Morrison
Jennifer Shah
Melissa Fields
Greg Hilbig
Bruce Jorgensen

Staff

Mike Johnson

Guest speakers

Barb Gardner
Marty

*Action items are shown in **BOLD**.

City staff report - Mike Johnson (5:05-5:45 pm)

A survey will be offered to residents to help verify that the goals identified in the PTOS master plan are the ones of greatest importance and identify and prioritize goals.

Committee members are being asked to take the survey within the next two weeks.

Survey links:

<https://forms.gle/Jvd5RSokahsX81eM9>

<http://bit.ly/2x5Zffl>

Tree preservation ordinance: the City Council is considering an ordinance to preserve mature trees within Cottonwood Heights (hereafter referred to as the 'City').

Outdoor lighting ordinance: the City Council is also considering a revised ordinance to regulate lighting in commercial / public areas in a way that is easy to do but also that is aligned with efforts to reduce light pollution at night.

These ordinances show that the scope of PTOS keeps growing!

It may be helpful for Matt to have a liaison with the PTOS to work with on master planning issues between PTOS meetings. Ronna Cohen volunteered to be that liaison.

Wasatch Boulevard Master Plan: the plan will be on the agenda for City Council voting on July 2, 2019

The City is partnering with Millcreek and two other cities on a 6 city active transportation plan, which will include how to create connections between cities and cohesive signage / way-finding.

TRAC grant (Transportation, Recreation, and Conventions): deadline July 15

- CH (Mike) - fix bumpy bike path areas along Little Cottonwood Creek. Greg Hilbig suggested digging down several feet on either side of the path to discourage tree roots from growing underneath new paving.
- CH Parks and Rec Service Area (Ben Hill) -
 - Option 1 (this year): Antzak Park redevelopment
 - Option 2 (next year?): extend sidewalk at Butler Park to create a large loop; recreation center ADA accessibility; partner with school district; Gilson Engineering doing a survey study to identify options.

Big Cottonwood Canyon Trail: extension of bike lane is now complete. **Ribbon cutting event is planned for sometime in July. Mike would like some of PTOS committee members in attendance.**

Youth Council: Mike is looking for project ideas to suggest to the council. Ideas mentioned: weed pulling (including myrtle spurge), trash collection along Big Cottonwood Canyon Road (from Fort Union down to the Hog's Wallow), graffiti removal.

Bonneville Shoreline Trail: RFP closed last week for proposals to help with identifying scenarios for the sighting of trail access east of Cottonwood Heights and hosting public open houses. Staff is currently going through submitted proposals. Funding options for the trail - Land, Water, Conservation Fund or Trust for Public Lands (\$2-3 M available from latter). Mike working to set up a meeting between the USFS and John Knoblock (BST) to discuss funding possibilities.

Sub-committee reports (5:46-5:50)

Bonneville Shoreline Trail (Greg Hilbig): USFS is not yet ready to draw in the public with relation to the portion of the trail on federal land. Greg urged the USFS to use heavy machinery to complete the trail in a few months vs. 2-3 years working by hand. Mike revisited the connection from the overflow parking area on Fort Union/Canyon Racquet Club area to the BST. On the north side, the BST will eventually cross through the gravel pit area.

Crestwood Park: No updates other than the pool is open!

Special topics (5:51-6:24)

Urban Forestry (Barbara Gardner, forester, and Marty Sheide, the urban forestry manager for Riverton City and a Cottonwood Heights resident.

Tree City USA pamphlet distributed. There are 90 Tree City certified cities in UT. The Tree City guidelines are often used as a starting point for cities starting an urban forestry program.

The only trees being managed by the City are the ones in the established parks. We currently have no inventory of trees throughout the City, including City-owned land, residential areas, and commercial properties.

Barb and Marty are requesting that the City establishes one qualified individual through whom all tree-related questions, decisions, etc. go. Ben noted that the City's Park Supervisor is not required to be a certified arborist. Ben is in favor of an urban forester for the City. Many neighboring cities have an arborist on staff (Orem, Riverton, Murray?, Sandy?, Salt Lake City)

Bruce talked about an individual who pushed for a long time to have a consistent tree planted in strips along major thoroughfares in the City.

Barb noted that Salt Lake City has an extensive inventory of all trees in planting strips along streets. Salt Lake City will pay for, deliver, and plant trees in strips, residents are required to water it.

Barb showed an image of Fort Union (near 2300 East) that showed (a) a lack of trees and (b) trees that are topped to avoid contact with power/telephone lines (topping is bad for trees). She noted that a tree inventory / program like Salt Lake City's will help us to plant appropriate trees to improve aesthetics within the City.

Marty shared a success story from Riverton

Salt Lake County has one urban forester (for the large area).

Marty urges an 8-foot planting strip width at a minimum for planting trees. Anything smaller is investing in 'short term trees' (i.e., trees that need replacement after ~ a decade or less). Greg pointed out that 12 foot clearance should also be included in the ordinance so snow plows can have access without damaging tree canopies.

Jennifer asked about water use of cities with dense, mature tree cover. She also asked if existing urban forestry programs are considering changes in trees selected for planting given shifts in climate we are experiencing and predicted for the future. Barb noted that these issues could be included in the ordinance.

Greg noted that tree selection appropriate near power lines (to avoid the phenomenon of split trees around power lines) also could be included in the ordinance.

Melissa pointed out that these ideas could be linked to the tree preservation ordinance.

Barb recommended reaching out to Scott Sideler, who has expertise in putting together ordinances of this nature. Melissa asked Barb to send her some examples and she will share them with Mike. Mike noted that staff is working to create an inventory on species that exist in the city and their size.

Old Business - Revisited (6:25-6:57)

Dog Park (Roger Kehr)

Survey Monkey results of committee responses:

Top 3 - Cemetery, Hillrise Apts, Crestwood/Utility Facility (tied for third place), Swamp Lot, LDS Church Vacant Parcel/Old Mill Property (tied for fifth place).

Bottom 3 - Golden Hills, National Forest Land, Swamp Lot, Crestwood, LDS Church Vacant Parcel

Several minutes of discussion ensued about weighing the pros and cons of sites in a hypothetical context vs. knowing which parcels in the City are realistic possibilities for establishing a dog park. Committee members recognized that the City is supportive of creating a dog park, the majority of residents want a dog park, but any site that is a possible location will present controversy.

Melissa mentioned Mill Hollow as another location. Ben noted it is designated as a Region 2 park (so County is a partner managing it) and the local residents want a passive park. Kristy noted that residents would also be against a dog park due to the lack of parking and how an influx of cars would affect residents. The board for the service district does not want Butler Park or Antzak Park considered for the dog park.

Ronna asked if the City has approached Sandy to go into a co-venture to create a dog park at Quail Hollow.

Kristy is against having a dog park in the City, given the potential negative aspects of dog parks and the controversy a dog park would pose for residents near any location where a dog park could be established.

Melissa asked for guidance from Mike as to how the committee should proceed with the conversation about dog parks.

Ronna wondered if there was any City owned land where a short term dog park could be tested.

Dave wondered what percentage of residents want dog parks in the City and what percentage of residents are against having a dog park.

Ben noted that the County is not interested in having a regional dog park at Crestwood Park.

Jennifer asked if a dog park was envisioned as part of the gravel pit redevelopment plan.

Mike will take the Survey Monkey results and feedback in discussions with Andy as initial recommendations from the committee to the City Council. However, it was noted that the survey did not include the option to vote for no dog park in the City, thus the survey is somewhat biased.

Action Items - Revisited

Take survey

Attend ribbon cutting

Discuss potential change in meeting time / day via email amongst all committee members