

Park, Trails & Open Space Committee
Wednesday, January 22, 2020
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Cottonwood Heights City Offices

Attendees: Ronna Cohen, Jennifer Follstad Shah, Melissa Fields, Ben Hill, Michael Johnson, Erin Davis, Matthew Dominesey, Roger Kehr, Sarah Ricketts, Christine Mikell, Mike Menssen, Greg Hilbig, Carl D (Dave) McFerren,

Not Present: Greg Reid, Kristy Morrison, Bruce Jorgensen,

Discussion:

Jen Shah re: Seven Canyons Trust & riparian ordinance

- Melissa & Jen attended the Cottonwood Heights Parks & Rec Foundation meeting last week to pitch for the foundation to provide \$2k for the Seven Canyons Trust
- Exec director of Seven Canyons Trust gave the pitch, Jenen gave arguments for why
- The foundation voted unanimously to support the funding
- Now we find out in March about the matching grant
- We look to have the appropriate matching funds, CH would be stakeholders in the visioning process in opening up the greenways,

Wendy Fisher, executive director, founder, Utah Open Lands

RE: campaign to preserve a critical piece of Cottonwood Heights open space

- Utah Open Lands - started 30 yrs ago, first local statewide land trust in Utah - enables the organization to preserve land from being developed
- Top 2 reasons people move to Utah - scenic beauty and recreation opportunities
- If we lose those two assets, we will lose some of the growth
- Utah Open Lands hopes to preserve the land for public benefit and economic longevity
- They work thru conservation easements

Wendy & Utah Open Lands bringing us a project - they want us to recommend to the city council...

- Want to acquire property they call Cottonwood Heights Bonneville Shoreline (two properties at the base of LCC)
- They see scenic value, good to link BST, development would take away from LCC entrance
- They suggest we use the land to create trails / trailhead parking / access
- They want to keep the land from becoming 11-13 homes
- Need to raise the money to acquire the land otherwise it will be developed
- Appraised value is \$3.8 million
- They received a partial donation but still need to raise/pay \$3million

- Received grant for \$500,000 - looking at other sources, foundations, agencies etc
Requests that our committee will forward a request to CH City Council to add \$1million towards the acquisition, would still need to raise another \$1.5million
Need half of the purchase price by March 1st. Drop dead for total amount is June 1st
- Discussion & Questions...
 - Christine Mikell - from the city's perspective, a lobbyist is working for an eminent domain law to be re-enacted for certain areas
 - This piece of land could be other end of BST...could help us connect the trail
 - Ronna - is Wendy / Utah Open Lands requesting a budget item? Wendy - if we got \$1million from CH it would go to the 50% purchase price needed by March 1. They are asking for funds to come from an open space pot, perhaps the transient room tax, don't want to destroy entry corridor into LCC
 - Christine Mikell - got \$1.5million for BST, could take money from there, city council would need to decide where the money would come from.
 - Could possibly pay a higher price for the land in exchange for more time to raise the funds
 - If CH donated, city would own it, Utah Open Lands would have conservation agmt that we could not develop
 - Christine Mikell - City has not had the discussion yet
 - This land could not be a dog park in part because it's a sensitive area, dog parks are tough to maintain in a natural setting, don't think it would achieve conservation values, considered watershed area, dogs add 20% to pathogen levels
 - Ronna - what do you (Utah Open Lands) want from us (Cottonwood Heights PTOS Committee)? Wendy - make a recommendation if we are in favor of acquiring - recommend to city council that is valuable open space, support Utah Open Lands and commit \$1million towards the purchase
 - Mike M - there is a pool of money already for BST? If we didn't use that money for this, what would we spend it on? Christine Mikell - there has been work started on Ferguson canyon trailhead, could use the money to start connecting parcels, think the quickest/most efficient way is to acquire the two endpoints and use eminent domain to connect
 - Jen - even without the connection to BST, there is a broader connection into LCC
 - Ronna - we have an opportunity to acquire land - there are no other parcels like this we could acquire

Ronna - motion to recommend to council that within their means and discretion to commit \$1m to Utah Open Lands to acquire this parcel of land...

Ben Hill - abstains

Remainder of committee members present approve

Will we get guidance on how to help raise? Wendy - YES!

Mike Johnson - will include in weekly report to council,

More information on Utah Open Lands and this parcel of land available [here](#).

Staff/Council/Rec District updates

Christine Mikell -

- Dog parks were a point of discussion at today's retreat
- City Manager Tinge given direction to investigate site options in greater detail, specifically the Ferguson canyon overflow parking area (about 3 acres)
- Reviewed the cost of dog parks in the Salt Lake valley area - smaller, local level - \$51k per year to maintain Draper dog park (has shade structures, turf, approx 3 acres)
- Melissa shared group recs that we want funding for - one was master plan for open space - council will share draft with us in March
- Talk re signage at Ferguson canyon and weed mgmt, funding requests in lists and working to attach \$\$ to each item - June 16 is when they adopt final budget
- Bike lanes, talked re to add bike lane to Bengal Blvd - green bike lane - about \$36k for bike lane on one side (with lane separation option)

Mike Johnson, survey highlights and wayfinding project

- Survey results sent to entire committee
- Residents generally interested in off-leash dog park
- Reviewed high level results... city parks and open spaces was towards the top of how people would budget their money (if you could distribute \$100...)
- Strong support for dedicated bike lanes
- Full survey will be online
- Sensitive lands overlay ordinance - in midst of staff level review
- Last spring got trac grant which got us replacement of sections of BCC trail and some recreational wayfinding signage
- Install mileage markers along trail from BCC mouth to Knudsen Park, also signs historical / educational / environmental, signs pointing to trails or canyon or BST or parks etc.
- Showed examples, sending us with maps to talk / recommend where to put these signs, where to point people
- At next meeting taking NE quadrant of city and putting down potential sign locations and what amenities to point to...start to think of kiosks along the trail

Ben Hill, Parks & Recreation Foundation

Talked about the foundation changing its brand - emphasizes relationship with the city / cooperation

Logo changed, website and mission statement in the works

Subcommittee/project reports

BST, Greg Hilbig: will know Thurs/Fri, will be meeting to look at sections of BST, wilderness bill kicking around has fallen apart, no new bill proposed yet, significance of wilderness is no bikes are allowed, some key places where BST has been mapped that would go thru wilderness areas, will have more info next month

Crestwood Park, Erin Davis: nothing

Dog Park, Roger Kehr: nothing to add

Walking routes, Ronna Cohen: attended historic committee mtg and presented idea, they are working thru their own processes, city has shown nice support to move forward, everyone seems to like the idea, moving forward

Summer park nature talks, Mike Menssen: got two different speakers who agreed to help, geologist and someone from hawkwatch, need to find 3rd speaker, work with Ben Hill to find some dates, has asked a 3rd person, just hasn't heard back

Review action items

- Go thru map of Cottonwood Heights and mark ideas for wayfinding signage locations

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 26, 2020