



## **PARKS AND TRAILS COMMISSION**

**Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 5:00 PM**

Palmer Lake Town Hall – 28 Valley Crescent, Palmer Lake, Colorado

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### **AGENDA**

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*This agenda is subject to revision 24 hours prior to commencement of the meeting.*

**Call to Order.** Commission Chair Reid Wiecks called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

**Roll Call.** Present: Kevin Magner, Cindy Powell, Phyllis Head, Jennifer Nilson, Reid Wiecks, Mike Pietsch. Others present: Trustee Nick Erhardt, Tish Torweihe. Excused absence: Dawn Collins.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

1. Minutes from February 13, 2024. MOTION (Jennifer, Reid) to approve minutes from February 13, 2024. Motion passed 6-0.

**Petty Cash Report.** Mike Pietsch reported donations with a new balance of \$318.

#### **Town Administrator Report**

2. Fishing Derby Special Event on 6/1. MOTION (Reid, Jennifer) to make a recommendation to the Board. Motion passed 6-0.

#### **Business Items**

3. Consider Recommendation on Application for Commission Member. Reid introduced John Tool and John has been a resident of Palmer Lake for over 8 years and now retired. He was a certified project manager and is working with Tim Caves on the new pickleball courts. He is willing to dig in to help with projects. His postal address is Monument, but he lives in Palmer Lake. Administration will verify. MOTION (Reid, Kevin) to recommend to the Board to appoint John Tool to the Parks Commission providing his address is confirmed residing in Palmer Lake. Motion passed 6-0.

4. Proposal of Art Walk Trail in Conjunction with Art Group (by Jeff Hulsman). Discussion with Mr. Jeff Hulsman for an art walk with trolls and looking into a local artist. He contacted Jodie Bliss and looked at submitting a grant to support this project. It will be one project at a time. Pickleball will begin concrete in April and the Troll foundation can be poured at that time to save on cost. The troll would be under the bridge, on the east side of the fence and the west side on Town property. Jeff shared different troll ideas to have one up each year doing different things like throwing disc golf. MOTION (Jennifer, Cindy) to recommend this to the Board to approve the proposed art walk trail. Motion passed 6-0. Jeff Hulsman had a meeting with Jeff Kisicki. Jeff Kisicki would like to purchase a caboose and bring it to Palmer Lake as a therapeutic office during the week. Then on the weekends Parks could use it

somehow for recreational needs. Cindy found a grant regarding athletic fields and will forward the information to Jeff Hulsman.

5. Holiday Lights Proposal. Reid met with April Veley to discuss the holiday lights. They would like to coordinate a one season trial run in the fall of 2024 and winter of 2025. April will work to get volunteers to install the holiday lights and notify Parks as to the date to join in. Then Parks would coordinate removing the lights and gather volunteers. Holiday lights will be stored temporarily stored in the shed until the new restroom storage on the west side is available. Discussion of the holiday red train at the gazebo took place. Jeff Hulman stated that it was built by LPHS students and that they are happy to work on the artwork or rebuild anything needed. MOTION (Reid, Jennifer) to approve the holiday lights proposal for one year.

6. Kiosk Revenue. Reviewed the Kiosk data. Reid will ask Dawn for a comparison graph with data from last year.

7. Parks - Volunteer Hours. Reviewed hours.

8. Consider Cancellation of Earth Day Reserved 4/20/2024. Discussion to reschedule this event next year and a project manager is still needed. MOTION (Reid, Phyllis) to make a recommendation to cancel the Earth Day celebration and schedule it for next year. Motion passed 6-0.

9. Contribution/Item for Parks - Tri-Lakes Lions Club Request. The Lions Club will contribute \$1,000 towards Parks providing they are aware of what the money is used for. Ideas for the funds were discussed. MOTION (Jennifer, Cindy) to use the fund to purchase signs needed for the trails. Motion passed 6-0.

10. Review of Parks Project List. Discussion of the Parks project list, updates, liaison still needed for Awake Palmer Lake and pickleball courts. Reid asked everyone to submit their input in a timely manner. This item will be added to the Parks workshop.

11. Update on Topic of E-Bikes on Town Trails, including Final Survey. Discussion took place about the survey and the 146 responses. Most people generally have an e-bike or mountain bike. The survey will stay open until the end of March, just before the parks 3/26 workshop. Results will be reviewed at the workshop. Data has been collected from other communities and as far as Switzerland. Gordon Roberts spoke, and he is pleased with the positive data gathered. A discussion took place about trail etiquette and the width of trails. E-bikes make just as much noise as a regular bike so there is an awareness of bicycle presence. There was concern that Parks was against E-bikes and that is not the case. Cindy will refresh the survey post and it will be added to the next workshop.

12. Update on the Chicken Coop Bridge. Kevin reported the project is going well and half the materials are on site and the remaining materials will be picked up next week. Thank you to Nick and Kurt Erhardt for assisting with the logistics to transport the 36 feet long, 600lb beams on site. The Academy will pour the foundation in March and build the bridge over a few weeks in April. Brad from the Air Force Academy has been collecting photos and will present building the next two bridges to the next two years senior cadets on April 2-4<sup>th</sup>. The cadets will use Willan's porta potty on the site.

13. Update on the MHYC Trail Work Plan News Opportunity. Mile High Youth Core will be training in Palmer Lake for trail building on April 2-4<sup>th</sup> and will work on a portion of the trail.

14. Discussion and Consideration of Recommendation for Support of BOT Resolution No. 83-2023. The Board approved the removal of six cabins and one long building. Reid was concerned that if the Board

overrules the resolution, how will that affect the prior resolutions pertaining to Parks. The Mile High Youth Core has built a section of the trail. Cindy stated she does not support the decision of this resolution. Jennifer expressed that governments can and should be able to change their mind. The Willians expressed that tearing down the cabins comes at a high cost, and they are willing to restore the cabins. Discussion took place about the condition of the structures and that future revenue would benefit the Town. Trustee Nick Ehrhardt said decisions are based on the information available at the time, stating there is new information, and the Board will listen to Willan's presentation on 3/28. There are many options to weigh and this gift that has been given to us comes with great pressure. Reid suggested waiting for a motion until after the presentation is heard.

15. Review Chain of Command for Public Works Projects. It is important for the Town staff to know what Parks is doing. Reid has asked for everything to go through him, and he will take it to the Town until there is a Public Works Supervisor in place.

16. Review Noxious Weeds Flyer. Cindy and Phyllis assembled a two-page information flyer. There is an additional third page and Reid asked for the added information to be included on one double sided sheet. Discussion took place about what is the most important information for the public. Website links can provide additional information. Flyers can be made available at the Town office, Post Office and the Town website during specific seasons. Phyllis would like to have Mr. Nick Daniels at El Paso County Environmental Specialist provide a final review. Reid asked to add this to the next Parks meeting to consider adopting this or not.

17. Grants Activity/Update – Cindy applied for a \$10,000 grant for trees. The American Academy of Dermatology provided a grant for shade over playground cover. There is an outdoor fitness equipment grant and there are three options of equipment. Cindy sent it to each one for a review because it is a slide show. Future grants should be provided to the Town office for review and be approved to add to meeting agendas. If it is a grant for Awake the Lake, it can go directly to them and share information to Parks.

- > Trees at Centennial Park
- > Shade at Columbine/Centennial
- > Exercise Stations (Trail)

### **Centennial Park**

18. Consider Final Centennial Park Master Site Map. There are no updates, and this was reviewed at the workshop. MOTION (Jennifer, Kevin) to recommend that the Planning Commission accept the Centennial Park site map. Motion passed 6-0.

**Glen Park.** Kevin, Gene and Reid had a meeting to review the trails, fundraising for future bridges, and update of the bridge work to make sure everyone is on the same page.

**Public Comment.** Ms. Jane Fredman is a volunteer with Awake the Lake and is on the subcommittee for the pickleball court. Jane plays pickleball and is a project manager and promotes senior activities. As well as giving back to the Town of Palmer Lake, she can assist with program development and provide lessons, tournaments, and fun events for the public courts. Jane will present some options at the next Parks meeting including an outline and local input encouraging pickleball players for their ideas.

Mr. Jeff Hulsman shared that Awake the Lake is still looking for someone to chair the Festival on the Fourth event. If no one steps forward, then the event may be cancelled.

**Report of Other Meetings.** None.

**Next Meeting (Workshop 3/26; Official's Training on 4/3) and Future Items.** Discussion took place about the next workshop to include agenda items – pickleball proposal by Jane, Project List, Noxious Weeds flyer, e-bike survey results, and exercise station grant.

**Adjourn.** Reid adjourned the meeting at 7:01 PM.

*Minutes by: Tish Torweihe, Administrative Special*