

Arvada Park Advisory Committee Minutes
May 14, 2008
Majestic View Nature Center

In Attendance. Cheryl Ames, Bob Barber, Pat Cervera, C. J. Dantine, Mike Foley, David Giddings, Michael Hult, Karl Kramer, Susan Kracklauer, Doug Magee, Brandon Marette, Jessica Myklebust, Bill Orchard, Gary Reeves, Jean Scharfenberg, Carol Whipple, and Larry Wapensky.

Absent. Lisa Medina

Others Present. Mike Lee, Arvada Parks and Urban Design Manager. Karen Baltz, Director of the MVNC.

Call to Order. Pat called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm

Public Present. Spirit Ranch: Healing Through Horses. Cinnamon Ricker, President, Spirit Ranch, 720.838.4304/303.320.6717, www.spiritranchcolorado.org and Kathy Davis, Treasurer, 303.564.6423.

Meadowglen HOA: Dave Hendricks, 8250 W. 81st Drive, Arvada, CO 303.424.0802, dwhbb@comcast.net, and David Sands 8770 W. 80th Drive, Arvada, CO, 80005, 303.425.8844, Verna_sanpetals@msn.com.

Spirit Ranch. The Spirit Ranch Business Plan for 2008-2013 was mailed before the meeting to each APAC member. The Business Plan included vision and mission statements, as well as a tactical plan.

Mike Lee suggested that Cinnamon meet with the APAC. She provided information related to Spirit Ranch. She mentioned that her business is at Shiloh Farm, in unincorporated Jefferson County, near Golden. Jean inquired whether Spirit Ranch had horses. Cinnamon has 6 horses and leases 12 for the business. She said that she wants to run a profit and a non-profit business. The profit business supports in part her desire to provide “therapeutics” for children and youths who have autism or have physical or mental disabilities. The Business Plan provided more information on the assistance she wanted to provide to disadvantaged children and youths, and her desire to help them experience and enjoy horses.

Bob asked a legal question whether it was possible for the City to make public land available for a profit business. Mike Lee said this was a question that was not resolved. Mike Lee noted that a push cart business may be approved in Olde Town. He observed that although both of these businesses are different, there may be a little similarity to the situation presented by Cinnamon. Susan asked about liability insurance for the profit and non-profit business. Cinnamon expressed the need to be adequately insured. Cheryl made a comment about Urban Farms, near Stapleton, that does similar work, and mentioned its funding. Cinnamon was aware of Urban Farms. Cinnamon said that for the therapeutics she needs specialized equipment, such as ramps for walkers, and wheel chairs. She will be using the Indiana Equestrian Center for camps on

June 25 and for autistic children from Lakewood on August 8.

Cinnamon is looking for 30-35 acres for her business. She indicated plans to have a lounge and a place for family members to share in the horse activities. She briefly commented on having instructors who meet North American Handicap Riding Association [NAHRA] certification. She discussed her business model and noted that the profit component provides some financial support for the non-profit work she does. The summer camps Spirit Ranch sponsor make money. The business is expensive, for example, having barns for the horses is costly. Jessica inquired about the number of people from Arvada who avail Spirit Ranch of its services. Cinnamon did not have this demographic information. Most users are from Jefferson County. Cinnamon's desire is to have Spirit Ranch open 7 days a week, and to have groomed trails. Pat said that the APAC would consider her request and that a liaison would be assigned to work with her.

Meadowglen HOA. Dave Hendricks with the Meadowglen HOA discussed the HOA's desire to plant trees on City land "north of 80th Avenue and south of Little Dry Creek, Pomona to Carr." The intent is to provide visual screening of traffic and businesses in the environs of the HOA. Mike Lee asked Dave to meet with the APAC. Dave provided a one page summary of his presentation (attached) and 3 maps and pictures [emailed to the APAC members on May 15] related to the area where the trees could be placed. Dave indicated that the HOA could not use its funds to buy trees that would not be on its land. Dave said that perhaps Meadowglen individuals might contribute to the purchase of the trees. Mike Lee noted that Craig Hillegass, the City's Forester, said that there is water in the area for the trees. Mike Lee noted that the trees would be a benefit to the community. Green trees in this area would enhance the public image. Mike Lee said that perhaps 50-70 Austrian pine might be planted in groupings, staggered, or planted in another way. Mike Lee said that the City does not have the money budgeted for the trees, but that the APAC's views on the feasibility of this project would be helpful. Dave discussed the environmental education program the HOA conducted, specifically about the keeping grasses in their natural state by the nearby dam.

Brandon volunteered to serve as the APAC liaison with the Meadowglen HOA.

7:47 pm

Introduction of New Members. The new members, Gary Reeves, Mike Foley, Chris [CJ] Dantine, Karl Kramer, and Mike Hult, discussed their interest in joining the APAC. Current APAC members welcomed the new members and shared with them their interests and "passions."

8:01 pm

MVNC. Karen Baltz, Director of the MVNC, discussed in detail accomplishments and plans for the future of the Park. She discussed its history and distributed pamphlets and maps. She noted school groups used the Park and that 80 kids would be at the Park tomorrow. The MVNC received awards, including those from the Colorado Alliance for Education, Water Conservation, and from the Rotary Club. She discussed with pride the ecology of the Park, eco-fairs that are

held by the MVNC, its animal management programs, and sustainability activities. Karen provided a little of the history of the MVNC. It is 6 years old this June 2. The current building was reconstructed from the Harder house. Because of the motivation and foresight of land owners, Morey Fox, Bob Hanson, and the Kennedy farm, the MVNC property was preserved for public not private use. Jeffco open space with the support from the City of Arvada played a major role in land acquisition. There were four separate acquisitions leading to the present facility.

Doug asked about the possible trail connection to Two Ponds. Mike Lee noted that there is an underpass on 72nd Avenue by the MVNC. He said that there has been a little progress on small sections of the trail connection on the canals, but more work needs to be done.

Gordon asked Karen to visualize future development of the MVNC. She is working on this assignment. One idea would be to move the main facility higher towards 72nd Avenue. From this vantage point, a visitor to MVNC would get a better view of the Park.

The xeriscape garden will go in this fall. She is trying to balance users need for trails around the park with habitat maintenance. On the west end of the Park by the Church, she anticipates that people will desire more trails. She is considering developing a trail that may overlook Hayes Lake that preserves the Russian olive trees and provides for protection of natural habitat.

Jean noted that the APAC could serve as a “friend of the nature center” and be a champion for its needs. Karen appreciated this assistance. Karen said that the xeriscape garden would have solar lighting. The solar lighting by the parking lot is being repaired. Reusable cloth grocery bags can be purchased from the MVNC for \$3.50.

The APAC thanked Karen for her presentation and expressed appreciation to Bob for inviting her.

Approval of Minutes. The April 9, 2008, minutes were approved without comment.

Grant Awards. The APAC met at 6:00 pm, prior to the main meeting. Three school grant applications were reviewed. Based on the applications, the following grants with dollar amounts were awarded to:

Fitzmorris Elementary School	\$5000
Lincoln Academy	\$5000
Excel Academy	\$3800

Jean was going to notify the schools of the grant. Mike Lee would provide official notification to the schools. The APAC did not allocate \$1200. This sum would be returned to the City for use next year in the Grant Program.

Attendees for Forthcoming APEX District Meetings and Breakfasts with Gordon.

Apex Meeting	Pat	May 15, 2008
“	Susan	June 5, 2008
“	Lisa	June 19, 2008
“	Jessica	July 3, 2008
“	Brandon	July 10, 2008
“	Bill	August 7, 2008
“	Jean	August 21, 2008
Breakfast	Lisa	June 9, 2008
“	Jessica	July 7, 2008
“	Brandon	August 11, 2008

Meeting with Gordon. Susan, Pat, and Bill enjoyed breakfast with Gordon on May 12, 2008. [Pat’s notes from the meeting are attached.]

Report from Staff. Mike Lee.

Because of the complicated meeting, Mike was only able to discuss the Double E Park in detail.

- Double E Park. The Park is east of Alkire Street near 76th Avenue. Mike Lee brought in drawings and plans for the Park. He discussed the slopping nature of the Park. He needs to remove the walk the developer built and provide one that meets ADA standards with no more than a 5% slope. The Park is 5 acres and about 2 acres will be watered. He must terrace the plants because of the slopes. There will be retaining walls. About \$90K for playground equipment has been proposed. He has submitted his plans to the Park Maintenance Department for review. Once that review is done he will develop a bid proposal statement.
- Van Bibber Park. Mike Lee mentioned the construction progress at the Van Bibber Channel.
- Wadsworth Grade Separation. Work has started on planning for plants in this area.
- Trails. Doug mentioned that City Council received a CDOT matching grant for \$300K for trails, but no one was aware of this award.

Unfinished Business.

- Arvada Area Horsemen’s Association. Carol. She is trying to arrange a meeting with the Association.
- Quaker Acres Park. Susan. At the breakfast meeting, Quaker Acres Park was discussed. She noted that the barb wire will be removed. Mike Lee said that improvements at the Park could be at the expense of work at Spring Mesa.

Subcommittee Reports.

- Sustainability/Greenprint. Susan, Brandon, Carol, Jessica, and Bill. Susan. Susan met with a City person on Sustainability. The Team is meeting with Karen Baltz this Friday. Susan is accumulating lots of material and data. She is busy.

- By Laws. Dave. Doug prepared a strike out edit copy of the ByLaws for review by the Team. A meeting will be scheduled to discuss the changes.
- Gold Line Station. Cheryl. She reported that Kevin Nichols with the City had received a \$200K grant for planning the 3 transit stations in Arvada.
- Park Assessments. Carol, Susan, Larry, and Pat. The Team needs a Lead person. Members are to get their assessments of Columbine and Gold Strike Parks to Carol for consolidation by the end of May.
- Apex District Meeting. Pat. She will attend the meeting this Thursday. Larry will review the attendees and the schedules.
- Arvada Report. The due date is June 27 for the next Arvada Report. The APAC will need an article.
- Skate Board. Jean. On July 12, the skate board group will hold a skate board contest at Memorial Park. Emily Oliver with the skate board group had her Olde Town clothing business featured in a recent Arvada newspaper article.

Annoucments.

- Trails Day. Bill. It is June 7. People have signed up to assist.
- Parks, Golf, and Hospitality Volunteer Appreciation. The event is May 30th at 11:30 am at the Arvada Center. RSVP by May 21.
- Synthetic Soccer Field Dedication. It is June 7, 2008, at Long Lake Regional Park at 5:00 pm. A picnic lunch will be served. Larry inquired about the Council Members invited to attend the dedication. Mike Lee said all Council Members are invited to the dedication.

Other news. Carol, Bob, and Mike Foley will be absent next meeting.

Au Revoir to Dave and Doug. They are term limited, and this was their last official meeting.

- Dave's Parting Thoughts. Dave was a member for 10 years. He considers himself to be a generalist. Dave was Arvada Man of the Year in 2007. Dave noted that the Committee gets involved in everything. His advice: "Be mellow." No one APAC "thing" standouts as being salient in his thoughts.
- Doug's Parting Thoughts. Doug was a member for 12 years. In his review he noted that he was a member of the North Jeffco and the City of Arvada Parks group in 1994-1995, and then it ceased because of "sunset" requirements. With Bob Dyer's help in 1997, the APAC was formed. He commented to Jean that in his file he had a document from 6th graders at Allendale School dated October 16, 1997, asking APAC to create a skate board park. Doug said that it was important for the APAC to gain the respect of Mike Lee, Gordon, and the City Council when it was established. He believes that the APAC has earned their respect. He noted the Master Plan for the MVNC in 1998, the Parks and Trails in 2001. He commented on the APAC achievements related to the school grants, the Park Naming Procedure, and the Park Donation Program.

Doug noted that Mike Lee has been with APAC since it was formed. Mike Lee said that he has been with the City for 27 years.

In closing, Bill said that the APAC wanted to name Parks after Dave and Doug, but that the APAC failed to meet the stringent requirements of the Parks Naming Procedure. All was not lost though. Working closely with Brenda, he discovered [or invented] a loophole in the rules to solve this naming conundrum.

There is no naming procedure requirement for a moveable park. On behalf of the APAC, Bill then awarded each of them a bonsai planter with a tree bearing a sign with their names for their respective parks.



Dave Giddings Park



Doug Magee Park

Their contributions to the APAC were appreciated by all!

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 9:19 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Larry

Larry Wapensky