

21 January 2009

Minutes of the Alpine City Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PRO) Committee meeting held January 21, 2009 at Alpine City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm. The following committee members were present and constituted a quorum:

Dave Fotheringham, April Cooper, Larry Brown, Evertt Williams

Staff: April Riley, Ted Stillman

Others: Jim Tracy (City Council representative to PRO Committee), Jannicke Brewer

A. 100 SOUTH PARK MASTER PLAN

Ted Stillman said there were basically three things to cover: last night's Planning Commission hearing, dollars and financing, and phasing of the project. Mr. Stillman gave a brief summary of the comments made in the public hearing. Mr. Stillman said a majority of those who came live in the neighborhood on 600 East and most of the concerns were with the parking and increased traffic. April Cooper asked if the concern was not enough parking or what exactly the concern was. Dave Fotheringham said the issue was the number of stalls and the residents wanted less, but he thinks the proposed parking is necessary and shouldn't be reduced. April Cooper said she would rather have too much parking than too little so people aren't parking in front of houses in the area. Ted Stillman related the example of the parking problems the City had in the Smooth Canyon area where people were parking on the streets and the residents were very upset. We had to reduce the usage of that to help alleviate the problem. Jim Tracy said most of the facilities in the proposed plan were located centrally in the park and the parking should be close to them.

Ted Stillman said the other big issue that came up was a skate park. Evertt Williams joined the meeting at 7:07pm.

Ted Stillman explained he met with Lars Anderson earlier today and that Lars calculated the parking figuring about one stall per user. Jim Tracy said he thinks on a hot summer day the parking lot would be full. Jim Tracy added that another reason the parking was on the 600 East side was to help with drop off for the elementary school nearby. Dave Fotheringham also questioned the desire to locate the splash pad closer to 100 South which is already a busier street and thought having it located along 600 East was a safer choice for kids that might be tempted to dart out into the street. April Cooper stated she thought 600 East was a safer choice and it would be easier getting in and out of a parking lot on 600 East rather than 100 South which was already busy. April Cooper stated she thought having more parking was more of a gift to those in the area so there is less likelihood of people parking on the residential streets in front of homes and in driveways.

Jannicke Brewer said the plan is on the Planning Commission agenda again in two weeks. Ted Stillman returned to the topic of a skate park. Lars Anderson provided an example of a skate park from Taylorsville. Ted Stillman passed around a picture of the example. Ted Stillman indicated one possible location for a skate park was on the south side near the southwest corner of the 5 acres that was set aside for future development. Another possible location is at the north end near the bulb that was included as a drop off zone for the elementary school.

Ted Stillman said another item that was mentioned last night was a sled hill at the north end near the detention basin. Ted Stillman said the plan will go back to Planning Commission and Lars Anderson will provide more information on skate parks and other changes that were discussed.

Larry Brown passed around a spreadsheet he worked on to hopefully find a more objective way of looking at the proposed plan. He indicated it was not an exact science. He broke up the population into six categories: Children (girls and boys), Teens (girls and boys), and Adults (women and men). Each of the features included in the proposed plan was then given a benefit score based on usage of the categories. April Cooper said she would like to add adult women as using the splash pad and play areas. She said

those features are a huge benefit to women that want somewhere they can take their children to and let them go and not have to create a huge backyard with those types of features.

Larry Brown continued that he then included an estimated cost for each feature and then figured the percentage each feature represented. Larry Brown then explained he added a skate park at the end of his spreadsheet and looked at two types – modular and concrete. Jim Tracy said the City has an advantage that we are not going to build all of this next year and Highland City is going to be building a splash pad this year. This will give us the opportunity to visit it and get a better idea if we want one as well. Larry Brown asked how changing demographics would affect a splash pad. If our population were to grow older would the demand for this type of feature decrease? Jim Tracy felt it would stay the same as senior citizens would bring their grandchildren to it.

Jannicke Brewer said the hearing last night was advertised in the Newsliner and hoped a lot of people read about it and looked at the plan. Jannicke Brewer stated usually when people don't like something they show up and make comments and stated that a lot of her friends mentioned they thought it was a good plan. Evertt Williams stated that a modular skate park is something that could always be thrown out. Jim Tracy said a modular skate park would be hard to expand. He thought a better approach would be to dedicate an envelope to it and start with a size that could be expanded or retracted.

Dave Fotheringham asked how well the modular type held up compared to the concrete type. April Cooper agreed that we don't want to create something too large that would become an attraction to non-residents. April Cooper felt a modular type was a good compromise. Evertt Williams asked how we respond to the question that a skate park was already approved for Burgess Park. Ted Stillman said it was approved, but a location was never identified within the park. Jim Tracy said another option was to add more tennis courts over at Burgess Park. He stated we could put a modular type skate park in the location where the tennis courts are located and if the skate park was a flop it could be removed and tennis courts added back in. Ted Stillman said the police would like to see the skate park located in a visible area. Dave Fotheringham suggested a location closer to the tennis courts. April Cooper said another option was to build two of the tennis courts and build a skate park where the basketball court is shown and leave it empty in between. Then whatever facility needed to expand could expand in the middle. There was more discussion back and forth on possible locations.

Dave Fotheringham stated that last night Brad Reneer on the Planning Commission said he talked to the Police Chief in American Fork. He said one thing American Fork did was created a commission for the skate park made up of one police officer, one member of the parks department, two youth, and one resident from the neighborhood where the skate park is located. Brad Reneer reported that American Fork said it has had good success with that commission and the kids that really use the skate park have been very helpful in policing and enforcing the rules. Jim Tracy suggested they ask Lars Anderson to revise the plan to include a skate park and try to leave the 5 acres set aside for future development and if not possible, then dip into the 5 acres.

Ted Stillman moved the discussion into funding and passed out an estimate that Lars Anderson had provided. Ted Stillman said the total was \$3,318,465. A skate park would add probably another \$100,000. Ted Stillman said the next task will be to determine how to finance and phase the park and passed out a handout showing what funding the City currently has. Ted Stillman said no decisions need to be made tonight, but at the next meeting we will start discussing this. Jim Tracy suggested that input from Jay Healey and Ron Devey be asked for and considered in the phasing of the park. Ted Stillman said there are no developments going on right now and building has slowed down considerably so we are not getting much in the way of impact fees right now.

Ted Stillman said we currently have about \$900,000 available and said you can do quite a lot with this. Ted Stillman stated the Public Works Department would like to see 100 South improved first and maybe also Blackhawk Lane. Then we would probably move into grading, utilities, and grass. After that we would have to get construction drawings done and bid that out. Ted Stillman explained that once you grade you really need to put the grass in to prevent the weeds from popping up again. Evertt Williams asked about the possibility of any of the work being done through volunteers and service projects. Ted Stillman said it

would be really difficult and there's not a lot that could be done that way because of the size of it and the type of facilities being included.

Ted Stillman said there is a lot of things that staff could do. We have a paving machine and could probably pave the paths. Jim Tracy said that even if it was only grassed it would still be a benefit as it would be a big beautiful open space. Evertt Williams suggested we could provide an opportunity for residents to sponsor a tree like they do with Arbor Days. Ted Stillman said we've had a lot of trees donated in the cemetery and we only have two conditions – we specify the type of trees and we mark the location.

Ted Stillman invited the PRO Committee to the next Planning Commission on Feb. 3.

B. RODEO COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Ted Stillman said the Rodeo Grounds Committee has dissolved. Jim Tracy said there will not be a rodeo this year at Alpine Days. Jim Tracy said they're going to try and have a children's rodeo for the Friday night during Alpine Days and they're trying to find a chairman to chair that event. They're looking for people that know someone or who have some experience with this sort of thing. Evertt Williams mentioned that he and Jim Tracy talked last night and they have at least one name right now and he may have a couple more he should be able to pass on within a week or so. Once they have a chairman they can have a meeting with interested people to help the chairman.

Jannicke Brewer asked if there were any 4H members in the City. Evertt Williams said there are some and those are the names he's recommended. Jim Tracy said one thing Evertt Williams brought up last night was that the signage indicated rules of use has not been posted at the rodeo grounds. Evertt Williams said he is willing to unlock and lock the gates for people. Jim Tracy said he thinks that if we started doing that we would find there would probably be a dozen or so of regular users that we could give a key to and the signs would be up there for those that are only occasional users. Evertt Williams said he thinks it would be better to have someone to unlock and lock it to maintain better control over the grounds. Evertt Williams said he could make a proposal and they could put it on their next agenda.

Jim Tracy asked the status on the power to the rodeo grounds. Ted Stillman said the City had done its part. Jim Tracy said he thinks that if we continue with a smaller children's rodeo we don't need to have a lot of expensive additions right now and it might be better to leave things regarding the power. Jim Tracy also suggested that if we stick with a children's rodeo for Alpine Days, if there's a group that wants a bigger rodeo then maybe that's okay, but have it at a different time other than Alpine Days.

Evertt Williams asked what was going on with the Trail Committee. Ted Stillman said it doesn't really exist. Jannicke Brewer said she felt that the City essentially just got rid of it and Craig Skidmore feels that he has been brushed aside by the City, but he has always been very knowing about what Eagle projects could be done. Evertt Williams said whatever happens with the Trail Committee, there are trails in Lambert Park that need to be rerouted now. Jannicke Brewer said the PRO Committee could invite Craig Skidmore to the PRO Committee to discuss trails. Larry Brown suggested on a future agenda to discuss the trails in Lambert Park and motorized vehicle use in the park.

Motion: Larry Brown moved to adjourn. Dave Fotheringham seconded. Vote: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Larry Brown, Evertt Williams, Dave Fotheringham, April Cooper voted aye. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15