

ESTES VALLEY TRAILS COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 13, 2013
6:00 P.M.

Downstairs Meeting Room
Estes Park 18-Hole Golf Course Clubhouse
1480 Golf Course Road
Estes Park, CO 80517

IN ATTENDANCE: *Voting Members:* Danny Basch, Hal Dalzell, Gary Matthews, Lisa Plaut, Amy Plummer, ~~Lisa Plaut~~, Dick Putney, Dave Shirk, Ken TeSelle. *Non-voting Members:* Ron Duell (*EVRPD Board Liaison*), Skyler Rorabaugh (*EVRPD Executive Director*), Janet Carabell (*EVRPD Administrative Assistant*).

ABSENT: Ed Hayek (excused absence)

GUESTS: None

Prior notice of this meeting was given by posting a Notice at the Town of Estes Park's Municipal Building, the Estes Park Public Library, Estes Valley Recreation and Park District's Administration Office, the Larimer County Clerk's Office in Estes Park, the Boulder County Courthouse in Boulder.

Trails Committee President, Gary Matthews, called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT

Moved by Ken TeSelle, seconded by Amy Plummer, to approve the August 12, September 9, and October 14, 2013 Trails Committee meeting minutes, as amended.

Ayes – 9. Motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A financial report dated December 31, 2013, was prepared by EVRPD's Accountant and presented to the committee. The Trails Fund balance as of December 31, 2013, is \$606,335.

Ken TeSelle asked about the Treasurer's Report Trails budget. The bottom line number represents the entire Parks/Trails annual budget and not the specific budget set aside for trails.

Moved by Dick Putney, seconded by Ken TeSelle, to approve the December 31, 2013, Treasurer's report, as amended (fix name of Homer Rouse).

Ayes – 9. Motion carried unanimously.

COMPREHENSIVE TRAILS PLAN UPDATE

EVRPD received a \$35,000 GOCO grant award for Comprehensive Trails Plan in December 2013. EVRPD will revisit this project in the fall of 2014.

COMMUNITY WELLNESS RECREATION CENTER UPDATE

A professional survey, overseen and compiled by Pros Consulting and the ETC Institute will be sent to random households next week. A separate survey will be linked to EVRPD's Website in the near future and available to anyone who wants to take it. Survey results will be kept separate to ensure that the professionally collected random sample data remains accurate. The Community Wellness Recreation Center Feasibility Study is slated to wrap-up in March 2014. The Town of Estes Park will have a sales tax initiative on the ballot for the Town's April election. If passed, 25% of the 1% increase in sales tax would be set aside for a community center (expected to be ~\$5 million dollars). If the community center project does not go forth, then the 25% will go toward a senior center. Museum funding will be raised privately through *Friends of the Museum*. The Anschutz Wellness Center and sale of Lot 4 will also be on the Town's ballot. EVRPD is not involved in this election process and would hold its own election for community center funds, if needed, at a different time – possibly next fall. Dick Putney suggested using technology similar to what was used for the CDOT meeting in January to inform citizens of election issues. Apparently, residents received phone calls that allowed them to join the CDOT meeting by phone at the time of the call. Questions were pre-screened prior to the event, but there was opportunity for citizen input.

FLOOD RECOVERY UPDATE

Skyler Rorabaugh, EVRPD Executive Director, updated the committee on EVRPD's flood recovery efforts. Fish Creek road corridor and trail repairs will be a joint effort between EVRPD, Larimer County, Town of Estes Park, EVRPD, and the Upper Thompson Sanitation District (UTSD). An RFP is expected to be issued in the next few months, in coordination with the Town's stream habitat restoration project. The project will take at least 18 months if all goes well. Kim Slininger is working for EVRPD to oversee Fish Creek and Homer Rouse trail repairs. Kim is coordinating a Trail Training Academy, in conjunction with trail experts from Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) and other agencies, which EVRPD will host on April 15, 16, and 17. The workshop will cost \$550 and is limited to 24 people. The goal is to create a trails design and repair plan, as well as to train trail repair "experts" that will help with actual trail repair work. Kim is also contacting the Estes Valley Land Trust and property owners along the Fish Creek corridor in order to obtain easements that would allow us to rebuild/move the new Fish Creek Trail away from the roadside. There are some volunteer groups and an Eagle Scout project that have offered to help with Homer Rouse Trail repairs. Cheley Camp is interested in developing a second trail access to the Homer Rouse trail that would cut across the eastern end of the Cheley ranch and then hook-up with the existing trail.

Repairing the two golf courses and the Lake Estes Trail continue to be high priorities for EVRPD. It is hoped that the Homer Rouse and Lake Estes trails will be repaired by the spring. The Women's Club of Estes Park has offered to help re-vegetate the Lake Estes Trail from Fisherman's Nook to the Visitor Center. A \$35,190 grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado will be used for re-vegetation, rock carbon-dating, and interpretative signage in this area.

GOCO grant monies with reduced matching fund requirements may be awarded to help fund a Fish Creek Trail flood recovery project. The Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (NCWCD) grant money for flood damage were gone shortly after being announced.

STONEWOOD PROJECT TRAIL MATERIAL

The contractor for Stonewood housing development on Spur 66 asked EVRPD for advice on materials to use to rebuild the trail that was washed away by the flood. The Trails Committee recommended the contractor discuss trails materials with RMNP and the UTSD (may have a utility easement beneath the trail).

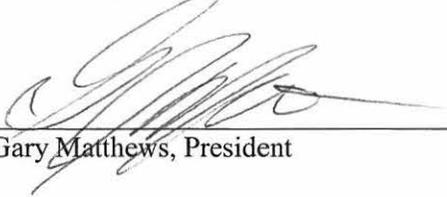
FUTURE TRAILS MEETING SCHEDULE

The Trails Committee decided to meet on the second Monday of every other month at 6 p.m. until further notice. Meetings will be held at the Estes Park 18-Hole Golf Course Clubhouse, in the downstairs meeting room (1480 Golf Course Road in Estes Park) unless posted otherwise. The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 6 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Rorabaugh encouraged committee members to continue to seek trail easements for the Aspen Brook trail and to help identify possible easements for the Fish Creek Trail rebuild. He also encouraged committee members to write state legislators, asking them to consider plans for bike lanes along state highways 7, 34, 36, as the state rebuilds these flood-damaged roads. It was suggested that representatives from the local biking community be invited to the March Trails Committee meeting. EVRPD will resubmit a GOCO grant for the Orbits Walk project, which would connect the observatory in Stanley Park to the Fish Creek Trail.

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.



Gary Matthews, President

March 10, 2014

Date

Recorded by Janet Carabell