

ESTES VALLEY TRAILS COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 1, 2015
7:00 P.M.

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

ATTENDING:

Voting Members: Danny Basch, Hal Dalzell, Ed Hayek, Gary Matthews, Lisa Plaut, Amy Plummer, Dick Putney Ken TeSelle

Non-voting Members: Ron Duell (*EVRPD Board Liaison*), Erica Goad (*EVLTLiaison*)

Staff: Janet Carabell (*EVRPD Administrative Assistant*), Tom Carosello (*EVRPD Executive Director*), Herb Loveall (*EVRPD Parks-Trails Maintenance Manager*), Kim Slininger (*EVRPD Comprehensive Trails Master Plan Manager*)

ABSENT:

Voting Members: Dan Marshall [excused absence]

Non-Voting Members: Ben Greer (*EVRPD Board Liaison*), Tina Kurtz (*Town Community Development*), Phil Kleisler (*Town Community Development*) [excused absences]

GUESTS: Mike Beach and Drew Pollack-Bruce (SE Group)

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 Clerk's Office in Boulder.

Trails Committee President, Gary Matthews, called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

SE GROUP PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION OF TRAILS MASTER PLAN

Mike Beach and Drew Pollack-Bruce presented an overview of the Comprehensive Trails Master Plan progress to-date and discussed the timeline for the project. Discussion included future trail opportunities, trail standards, recent trail use counts and economic aspects of developing trails. Concerns raised by the committee included adequate parking at trailheads, trail access and easements, and ensuring that both potential trails and historic trails previously identified by the committee are incorporated into the trails master plan. SE Group staff left trails maps with the group for review and comment. Comments can also be submitted via the project's Web site: www.estesvalleytrails.com. Patsy McEntee (NPS's RTCA program) will attend a January Trails Committee meeting to gain additional feedback from the group. The January meeting date/time will most likely change to accommodate Patsy's availability.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Danny Basch, seconded by Dick Putney, to approve the September 1, 2015, Trails Committee meeting minutes, as presented.

Ayes – 8. No further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Two financial reports, both dated October 31, 2015, were prepared by Mary Davis, EVRPD's Accountant. Year-to-date reports include a trails fund balance and a trails expense report that compares this year's budget to last year's budget. The Trails Fund balance as of October 31, 2015, is \$640,913. Trails Expenses: YTD actual operating expenses are \$19,185.23; YTD actual non-operating expenses are \$247,827.87; YTD operating budget is \$246,165.00; total YTD trail expenses are \$267,013.10 (most expenses due to the Fish Creek Trail flood repairs).

Questions included: Should the October 2015 trails revenue of \$84,553.38 instead be listed as October 2015 trails expenditures? If so, what is the \$84,553.38 expenditure?

The committee tabled approving the October 31, 2015, Treasurer's Report until the January meeting, when answers to their questions will be provided.

EVRPD UPDATES

Tom Carosello, EVRPD Executive Director, provided the following updates.

Erica Goad is leaving the Estes Valley Land Trust (EVLTL) at the end of 2015 and will no longer serve as the EVLTL liaison to the committee. Tom will speak to Mary Banken, EVLTL, about appointing another liaison to the committee. Erica is interested in staying on the Trails committee and would like to know if /when openings become available. The committee encouraged Erica to continue to attend meetings as a citizen.

The committee will meet monthly in 2016 on the first Tuesday of the month, but will meet at 6 p.m. instead of 7 p.m. EVRPD's Board will plan to hold a joint work session with the Trails Committee in March.

Estes Valley Community Recreation Center Update

The two community center ballot issues were passed at the November 3, 2015 election! EVRPD is working with George K. Baum staff to issue bonds for the community center. RLH Engineering has been chosen as the Owner's Rep for the community center project.

Comprehensive Trails Master Plan RFP Update

Tom has asked for a GOCO Board extension of the Comprehensive Trails Master Plan grant, with completion expected to be June 1, 2016.

Homer Rouse Trail

Kim Slininger clarified that Ken Curry is not opposed to granting a trail easement for the Homer Rouse trail as stated in the September 1, 2015 meeting minutes; rather, Mr. Curry is not in favor of the trail alignment Kim proposed/flagged in late summer. Kim has since met with property owners to discuss a new trail alignment. Lois Smith (Baldpate Inn) asked what the easement would contain and/or "look like" for her property. EVRPD has an easement template that was used for the Fish Creek Trail project in 2010/2011. Amy Plummer will find the Cheley Camp easement for the Homer Rouse Trail (Van Horn Engineering worked on the easement).

Easement Committee Updates

Gary Matthews distributed a handout regarding the meeting Gary, Ken TeSelle, and Amy Plummer had with Kent Meyer (YMCA) and Larry Gamble (RMNP) regarding a potential easement for the Aspen Brook Trail. The YMCA and NPS may be amenable to a possible re-route of the Aspen Brook Trail. Gary suggested formalizing an easement with the YMCA soon, given that Kent Meyer plans to retire in early 2016.

Audem Gonzalez (Town of Estes Park Planning Department) told Tom Carosello that he thinks the easement for Otie's Trail (Otie Whiteside and/or Silver Lane Stables) may have been vacated. The original plat for Stanley Heights shows this as a public right-of-way that was vacated. The Pratt property is included in this area. A water line easement, but not a sewer line easement, exists on the Pratt property. It was noted that the property deed referenced an easement when the property was sold to the Pratts. Discussion included the existence of trail affidavits collected by Larimer County, which catalog historic trails. One factor used in Colorado to determine if a trail has historic precedence is if the trail has been used for more than 18 years. Discussion also centered on how easements would be handled by the district, possible title searches, and that having easements in place helps with the master plan and with building trails in terms of budget, trail links, etc. It was suggested that the future Trails budget should reflect a line item for easements.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.



Gary Matthews, President



Date

Recorded by Janet Carabell