



## MINUTES

### City of Glenwood Springs Parks and Recreation Commission Zoom Meeting

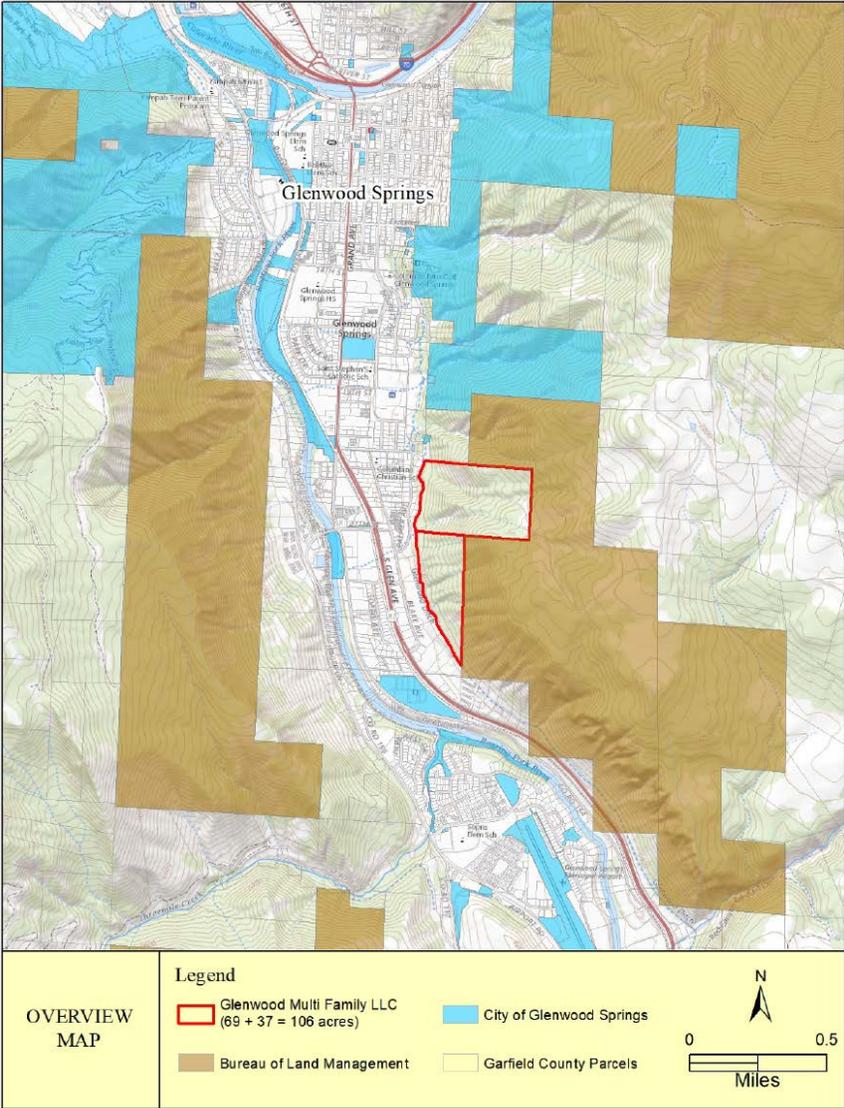
October 13, 2020 6:00 P.M.

1. Roll Call: 6:02pm
  - a. Commission: James Fosnaught, Laura Speck, Andrew Mueller, Jasmin Ramirez, Dawn Randolph, Aeson Akins
  - b. Staff: Brian Smith, Karstin Moser, Debra Figueroa, Joseph Deras, Gary Tillotson
  - c. City Council Representative: Steve Davis
  - d. Presenters: Mike Pritchard (RFMBA), Erin Quinn (AVLT), Jacob Baker (RFOV)
2. Citizen Comments:
3. Approval of September Minutes:
  - a. Andrew move to approve. Laura second. All in favor, none opposed.
4. Bike Trails – Mike Pritchard (RFMBA)
  - a. Existing trails: The Grandstaff Trail and South Canyon Trail System were part of Glenwood Springs Concept Trails Plan and have been maintained for the past 3 years by RFMBA. Wulfsohn Trails also included in recent maintenance. Basic maintenance included cutting back corridor growth, clearing fallen trees in the higher elevations of the Coal Camp trail in South Canyon, maintenance of the tread, and special features such as berms, rollers, and jumps. Estimated 100+ hours dedicated to maintenance this summer.
  - b. Big project from this summer was Lookout Mountain, another area identified in the 2015 Glenwood Springs Concept Trail Plan, located on the hills adjoined to the eastside of Glenwood Springs. Trail planning process began this year with contracted services through In the Trail Solutions for 6 miles of new trail with the trailhead new the Doc Holliday grave site. Encampments and trash were found at the site. Hope is that activated of the area with make these issues dissipate. Work to continue with CPW and BLM on environmental assessment process and wildlife considerations.

Trail approval estimated to be 2022; however, one of the trails proposed is a hiking only trail and has potential to start construction in 2021 (utilizing existing social trails that head to the south of the Doc Holliday grave site and some new trail constructed through a ravine and down a ridge to connect to the Valley View Hospital parking lot).

- c. Nothing of interest on the trail cameras on the trails in South Canyon regarding wildlife. No further discussion with CPW on the area has happened at this time. Open and close dates for trails were established at a previous meeting.

5. Sopris Views Trails and Picnic Area (Area behind Walmart)



- a.
- b. Public safety concerns due to encampments, trash, human waste, and fire potential are high in this area.
- c. Other consideration are the people currently camping on the land who are experiencing homelessness.
- d. Laura Speck has reached out to the County, BLM, ECOS and other community agencies about what can be done.

- e. Property is currently privately owned, and the owner is willing to donate the land to the City or County.
- f. County is reluctant to assume ownership of the land as a parkland since they do not have the organization structure to support park management.
- g. City Council has votes to provide funds to aid the County in a cleanup.
- h. Erin Quinn (AVLT): Main idea is to clean up the area and make it a community asset by activating the land with trails and quiet places for sitting. AVLT has offered to fundraise a \$400k management fund for the City to manage the property. Potential funding available through the GOCO Resilient Community grant. Catholic Charities is aware of and in support of this project if it moves forward.
- i. Jacob Bakers (RFOV): RFOV serves as a stewardship organization and end goal is greater community. Trails are a means.
- j. Chief Deras (GWS PD): Public safety perspective, the land is not currently within the City limits so enforcement by GWS PD in that area is limited. Land would need to be annexed to allow enforcement of city ordinances and laws. Concerns include access, why the County is so eager to move the area to the City's possession, and additional resources (personnel) would be needed for enforcement if possession is given to the City.
- k. Chief Tillotson (GWS FD): If a trail system is built there, a two-track access road should be included to allow access for fire suppression.
- l. Debbie Wilde: Working with City to lead a countywide discussion on homelessness. Will investigate additional resources that may be available for homelessness in this situation.
- m. Mike Pritchard (RFMBA): Feels the City should control this large, undevelopable parcel, there is opportunity on it for trails or open space. City already holds similar parcels to the north of this parcel with trails on them. Terrain is rugged so park space or roads would be very challenging.
- n. Questions/Comments:
  - i. Commission
    1. Andrew Mueller to Debra Figueroa: Why are city owned properties above this parcel not annexed in for law enforcement. Debra – Unsure of why not but it is something we can investigate.
    2. Dawn Randolph: Concerns about where the inhabitants go if the land is cleaned up and activated, safety consideration for volunteers during cleanup, and ethical issues about cleaning up encampments. Trails do increase stewardship which is a good long-term goal.

3. Andrew Mueller: Would like to see the community pursue short-term, mid-term, and long-term goals for this property. Short-term should include enforcement of laws by the County, community advocates involvement in the homelessness issue, and proper access for law enforcement and fire suppression. Mid-term should include the County, once they assume ownership of the parcel, to pay the City to maintain the property if they do not have the manpower. Long-term could include creation of a regional recreation district to handle situations like this.
4. James Fosnaught: Potential is there to create a non-profit to take ownership of the property, like a land trust, with stakeholders from the county, city, community, organizations. A private association would not have the same legal constraints as the City. Could be funded by City and County. Land could be used for trails, primitive camping, or a safe outdoor place.

ii. Public

1. Ron Rash (RFOV): Additional thoughts, RFOV is not an advocacy organization but a tool to be used on city land for trails, etc. Good hiking trails could be a possibility on this land. Cleanup could be successful with adequate notice to volunteers.
2. Richard Backe: Property past Walmart down valley but upwind of the property that caught fire. Fire potential from inhabitants is a safety issue.

iii. City Staff/Council:

1. Council has routed this conversation to the Parks & Recreation Commission for consideration of the property being used as parkland.
  2. Steve Davis: This is an important project but it is not for Glenwood. The County claims to not have the staff but nor does the City.
- o. Andrew Mueller makes a motion that the Council go back to County Commissioners and tell them that at this point the City is not interested in owning the property and that the County use its resources and legal authority to clean up the hazardous conditions on the property. Additionally, that the City offer the City be part of a multiagency taskforce

to consider this property as parkland, open space, or public or private recreation area. No second, motion fails.

- i. **Motion amended: The City and County move forward to jointly clean up the current mess on the property but the City go back to the County and insist that the County takes its responsibility seriously about law enforcement and public safety and that the County be primarily responsible for property within its jurisdiction. Additionally, the Commission encourages the City and County to create a multiagency task force to study this property and come up with long term solutions. Seconded by Laura Speck. All in favor, none opposed, so moved.**

6. 2020 & 2021 Parks & Recreation Budget Review and Discussion

a. Capital Projects

- i. Fitness Equipment Purchase @ \$25k
- ii. Security Camera Systems @ \$40k
- iii. Acid-Rite System at pool will save \$2k annually
- iv. Pool plaster and gutter grate replacement
- v. Deck resurfacing
- vi. Carpet replacements @ \$30k in Community Center, all carpets are past their expected lifespan and are creating trip hazards.
- vii. Stair Replacement at Arts Center for second floor access. One of two items needed to allow City to rent out Arts Center to generate revenue
- viii. Second item need to be able to rent out Arts Center is Fire suppression, planned for 2021
- ix. Clay sink install at Arts Center to address storm water issues.
- x. Sprinkler automation system (iRab). Ran into issue when Grizzly Creek Fire water restrictions were in place, takes about 2 days to change all systems schedules currently
- xi. Final phase of park signage
- xii. Design of safe return and parking lot expansion at Whitewater Park @ \$50k
- xiii. Equipment and vehicle purchased for Parks
- xiv. Analysis of Parking Garage structural issues
- xv. Install isolation valves on the bathroom plumbing at City Hall

b. Operating Budgets – overall, cut about \$300k for 2021

- i. Parks – received \$120k to help with staffing and some equipment purchases.

- ii. Community Center/Recreation – this budget subsidizes most of the department through user fees. Reduced by about 20%. Staff created multiple models based on revenue projections for 2021 with COVID-19 impacts.
    - iii. Arts – Cut most of the budget for 2021. Plan to have building closed for most of year.
    - iv. Facilities – decreased by about \$5k
  - c. Special Budgets
    - i. Conservation Trust: Has been used for match funds with New Castle for the Lova Trail past couple of years. In 2021, will go toward Sayre Park renovation.
- 7. November Agenda Items
  - a. Underserved Communities
- 8. Adjourn at 8:07pm.