



**Town of Green Mountain Falls
Parks, Recreation, and Trails Meeting Minutes
10615 Green Mountain Falls Road
Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present

Rebecca Ochkie
Clay Gafford
Don Walker
Jesse Stroope

Town Staff Present

Matt Gordon

Board Members Absent

Goody Goodwin

Secretary

Trustees Present

Dyani Loo

Regular Meeting:

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting called to order at 6:05pm.

2. Additions, Deletions, or Corrections to the Agenda

Vice Chair Ochkie asked members if they had any additions, deletions, or corrections to the Agenda. Member Stroope mentioned that Trustee Loo had sent in additions. Vice Chair Ochkie mentioned that she added them to the Agenda.

3. Persons Present Not on the Agenda: 3 Minutes per Speaker

Resident Bratton pointed out that despite the agenda discussing projects and goals for the PRT committee in 2021, the Town's Comprehensive Plan lists out goals and requested that the committee keep those projects in mind. Resident Bratton went on to share his stance on paid parking in GMF and stated that he was looking forward to Jon Cain's presentation on paid parking.

4. Consent Agenda

Member Walker moved to approve. Seconded by Member Stroope. Motion passed unanimously.

5. New Business

Due to Jon Cain running late for the PRT Committee meeting and his presentation on paid parking, Town Clerk/Treasurer Gordon provided a short report on the Memorial Park Bench Project Honoring former resident, Chad Fox. Town Clerk/Treasurer Gordon recommended that due to Municipal Code regarding benches and revocable permits, that the PRT Committee vote to support the project and forward the project on to the Planning Commission. PRT members engaged in discussion regarding the projects specifics and whether the project was within the PRT Committee's purview.

Vice Chair Ochkie moved to support the project and to forward the project to the Planning Commission. Seconded by Member Stroope. Motion passed unanimously.

6. 2021 PRT Annual Goals and Prioritization of PRT Committee Projects

Vice Chair Ochkie opened the discussion focusing on the overall list of projects included in the agenda packet. Projects listed included restrooms/port-o-johns, parking and signage, directives from the BOT and Town Manager to start. Member Stroope shared that he hoped that the committee could put dates out to the public regarding open restrooms. Vice Chair Ochkie agreed with Member Stroope that directives from the BOT are incredibly important for how the PRT should organize its project focus. Committee members then discussed their role as a committee, their duties, and how best to participate within the town government structure.

Resident Bratton shared a comment on how to best choose important projects for a board of committee to focus on.

Vice Chair Ochkie then dove into the names of parks within the community based on a request from Trustee Loo who is working on a grant request. The Committee then discussed and listed out the names which included, Gazebo Lake Park, Emmitt Peters Park, and Pool Park. Resident Bratton mentioned that Flagpole Park has an official name based on a memorialization at the park. Resident Olds stated that the park name in question is Emmitt Peters Park. Member Walker asked for clarification on what the PRT Committee is doing regarding the names of parks. Trustee Loo provided clarification to Member Walker stating that she was asking for the PRT Committee's recommendations for the names of parks within the community and suggested an additional park name, titled Morgan Park, be considered.

Vice Chair Ochkie offered to do additional research on the official names of parks within the community. Member Stroope asked Trustee Loo if it would be acceptable for her to use the names Gazebo Lake Park, Emmitt Peters Park, and Green Mountain Falls Pool Park in her grant application. Member Walker interjected jokingly that he was a little bit cold on Pool Park.

The PRT Committee made no formal motions but after discussion unanimously provided guidance to Trustee Loo that the names provided above would suffice for the grant request.

Vice Chair Ochkie then moved onto the Lake Revival Grant, which covers an ADA fishing deck and various repairs of the area and suggested that the PRT Committee defer discussing those items until the grant to pay for those things went through. Member Stroope and Member Walker shared their agreement.

Vice Chair Ochkie then discussed irrigation as a potential project. Member Stroope shared that the parks in our community don't have backflow preventers. Member Stroope offered to reach out for bids for irrigation to recommend to the BOT at Flagpole Park. Member Walker asked Member Stroope if these backflow preventers would be permanent installations and if they are required. Member Stroope clarified that they would indeed be permanent and that they are required despite not being required initially. Member Stroope went on to explain further that due to costs associated with running the systems, irrigation system usage by the GMF had been limited. Member Walker asked who regulates these systems daily. Member Stroope responded

Town Public Works. Member Walker reported that Gazebo Lake Park had not been properly regulated and experienced overwatering and expressed concern about waste of resources and park access for community members. Member Walker offered to research a watering schedule to address this issue. Vice Chair Ochkie and Trustee Loo expressed that this information would be valuable for the BOT and Town Administration. Member Stroope expressed that he would gather bids for an irrigation system at Town Parks and Member Walker expressed that he would like to have a conversation with the Public Works employees regarding the watering schedule at Town Parks. Member Walker also asked about lift stations and laterals near Flagpole Park. Member Stroope stated that there are septic rings and lateral lines near the park and Lake St that doesn't effect irrigation projects.

Vice Chair Ochkie continued the discussion focusing on the next project, dead tree removal. Member Walker expressed that there was a tree of concern at Gazebo Lake. Member Stroope offered to gather competitive bids to recommend to the BOT to remove the tree.

Vice Chair Ochkie moved on to the next project, rodent and goose control at Gazebo Lake. Member Stroope provided a brief historical background on the topic related to his work with Historic Green Mountain Falls Foundation. Member Stroope offered to pass along the information he learned about mitigating geese to Town Public Works. Member Walker expressed concern about leaving the geese alone and the issue of combining nature and public parks and made the recommendation to dedicate the use of the area as a public park instead of a nature preserve. Member Gafford signed onto the virtual meeting. Members went on to discuss various solutions to mitigating the geese problem and the value of geese to community members. Member Gafford also brought up an issue with gophers and that addressing the gophers should be a priority before working on grass. Member Gafford offered to put together a recommendation regarding a gopher control plan and offered to trap the gophers if the BOT approved it. Member Gafford shared that utilizing swans or swan decoys as a deterrent typically scares geese away. Vice Chair Ochkie recommended to Member Gafford to email this information to the Vice Chair for dissemination and that the goose discussion would continue at a future meeting.

Member Gafford requested to discuss park names again and recommended that Pool Park be named Gaylor Park or Old Gaylor's Park due to historical connections of a previous resident family, the Gaylors. Vice Chair Ochkie added that name to a list of park names for a future discussion.

Vice Chair Ochkie moved on to bear proof trash containers. Member Gafford provided background on the topic sharing details on the number of trash cans, their placement, and his desire to have more bear proof trash cans around the Town. Member Gafford recommended that the trash cans be placed where hikers would frequent.

The Committee placed this item on hold to hear a presentation by Town of GMF Consultant, Jon Cain.

7. Presentation by Jon Cain

Consultant to GMF and Idaho Springs Assistant City Administrator Jon Cain began a presentation on the parking and signage project the Town had begun work on. Cain focused on the current parking and signage situation in GMF, his methods for studying the parking situation in GMF, a parking survey shared with the community, data related to that survey, results related to that data, alternatives to how the paid parking could be implemented in GMF, the need for a parking plan in GMF, and consistent and aesthetically pleasing signage. Consultant Cain went on to discuss the benefits of paid parking that include accessibility and revenue generation for the Town. Consultant Cain brought up additional questions of concern on the survey related to consolidating trail heads, the possibility of a visitor center for hikers, and issues surrounding parking and trails and addressed survey responses related to these. Consultant Cain opened the floor to questions and comments.

Member Stroope asked questions regarding confusion around the definition of what consolidation of the trailheads meant on the paid parking survey and if through the survey process the idea of a virtual trailhead was easily understood. Consultant Cain addressed these questions by stating that the idea of a virtual trailhead was not understood and that the question included on the survey was confusing to respondents. He went on to say that in one on one interviews, and with further explanation, the idea around virtual trailheads was better understood and accepted. Member Stroope asked a clarifying question on how the virtual trail process and system would work. Consultant Cain confirmed that Member Stroope's understanding was sound and went on to share the benefits and potential issues surrounding the virtual trailheads. Trustee Loo shared insight on the Trail Ambassadors who would interact with this virtual system and their desire to meet hikers on the trail instead of sitting in a meeting spot or station. Consultant Cain responded to Trustee Loo by sharing the value of having someone in a centralized location, how to enforce the parking, the possibilities around revenue for the Town, and how to create an experience for visitors to the Town. Consultant Cain stated that he will be sharing a detailed report with the Town regarding the parking and signage survey. Member Stroope appreciated Consultant Cain's understanding of the value of the Trail Ambassadors to the GMF community.

Resident Esch asked if there was a problem with having two entrances to the community and how that affects this plan. Consultant Cain responded that by designing an experience that funnels people to specific areas by placing maps and information on Town and stakeholder websites and by placing wayfinding signage throughout the community, this issue could be mitigated. Consultant Cain went on to share resources for paying for signage.

Consultant Cain expanded on the paid parking idea being suggested for GMF by sharing his perspective on the contextual nature of paid parking in other communities, the possible revenue generation benefits and what issues that revenue may address, and the rules for community members should a plan of this nature be implemented. Consultant Cain ended by sharing that he will be sharing a report with the Town and will plan to attend a future PRT Committee meeting.

8. Adjourn

Vice Chair Ochkie asked Committee Members to adjourn and requested to meet in two weeks on Wednesday, 2/3/2021. Committee Members agreed. Resident Bratton expressed concern that the Mayor requested BOT meetings and other Committee's minimize overlap. Trustee Loo addressed this concern stating that by having the meeting on 1/20/2021, the PRT Committee

fulfilled this request. Vice Chair Ochkie requested agenda items from the Committee for the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Jesse Stroope

Head Chair

Matthew Gordon

Matthew Gordon (May 27, 2021 16:20 MDT)

Secretary