

Town of Georgetown  
Parks and Recreation Commission  
July 7, 2005

Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The Georgetown Parks and Recreation Commission held its regular monthly meeting on July 7, 2005 in the Star Hook and Ladder Building. Vice Chairman Shirley Shimon called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Answering the roll were Shirley Shimon, Elaine Dunn, Elaine McWain, Doug Martin and Peter Werlin. Robert Hodge was absent. Also in attendance was Town Clerk Merinel Williams.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Proposed agenda changes were (1) to remove the report from Joyce Ellingson since she is ill and not able to attend tonight's meeting, and (2) add discussion of a plan for preparation of the 2006 budget request and review of issues related to sanitation facilities in City Park on the 4th of July under project reports. Ms. Dunn moved to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Martin seconded and the motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

AUDIENCE BUSINESS

None.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consider recommendation to the Board of Selectmen regarding the Town's possible acquisition of Block 83 at the southeast end of the lagoon for a park associated with the Clear Creek County greenway trail

Town Administrator Chuck Stearns, Open Space Commission Chairman Frank Young, and Open Space Commission staff person Tim Mauck were present for this agenda item. Mr. Stearns reviewed the background of how this issue came to the attention of the Town. The realtor representing the owner of Block 83 approached the Open Space Commission (OSC) to determine if the Commission would be interested in purchasing the property. The OSC has determined that the property does not meet its criteria for acquisition and so is referring the proposal to the Town. OSC is, however, interested in supporting the Town if it wishes to purchase the property and so is suggesting that the Town could apply for a Great Outdoors Colorado grant to make the purchase. The OSC would be able to provide at least a part of the local match that would be required for the grant. The Board of Selectmen has expressed enough interest in the proposal to authorize Mr. Stearns to pursue the issue and to refer it for comment to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Ms. Shimon stated that she believes the Town should not rush consideration of this issue, and she recalled that she was informed several years ago that the OSC was not authorized to expend funds for properties located within municipalities. Mr. Young clarified that this information is not correct. Since all of the county's citizens pay the tax that supports the OSC, there are no restrictions regarding where the OSC can expend funds or acquire property except that it must be within Clear Creek County.

Mr. Stearns described the location and nature of the property which includes the 10 lots in Block 83 and two portions of vacated streets. The greenway trail is currently proposed to be adjacent to this property on Clear

Creek Drive. If the Town acquires the property, the trail designation would move to the edge of the creek. Mr. Werlin commented that this is one of the best wetland areas in Town, and he doesn't think it probable that anyone would wish to build a house there. Mr. Stearns confirmed that the current asking price for the entire property is \$190,000. However, if the Town proceeds with the project, an appraisal would be conducted to facilitate negotiation of the price with the owner. An appraisal is also a required part of a GOCO grant application. Mr. Werlin commented that in the past he has suggested to the owner that he donate the property to the Town for the park, but the owner was not interested in the idea. Mr. Stearns added that he is not certain that he will have time to do all of the work necessary to produce a grant application by the September deadline. It may be that a grant application would not be submitted until next spring.

Mr. Werlin stated that there are a lot of issues connected with the property, including that a lot of clean-up would be necessary, both initially and on-going. Mr. Stearns confirmed that this issue has also been raised by the Selectmen. He has suggested an easement across the property for the trail as an alternative to ownership, but the owner is not interested in that possibility. In response to a question from Ms. Shimon, Mr. Young confirmed that the OSC will be submitting its own grant application to GOCO for a whitewater park in September, however the OSC could also be a co-applicant on a Georgetown funding request.

Ms. Shimon stated that the advantages of this proposal are the acquisition of public access to the creek for fishing, and that a portion of the greenway trail could be located along the creek. The downsides would be that the property would be removed from the tax rolls, the cost to the Town for on-going maintenance, and the property's location within the flood plain. The group discussed the trail location as previously established by the 1998 lake trail plan, which showed the trail on the west side of the creek, and Ms. Shimon described the trail easement that the Town procured through the Mountain Creek condominiums to accommodate the lake trail. Mr. Young and Mr. Mauck expressed concern about re-locating the trail to use this easement because of the potential for conflict with motorized traffic.

In response to concerns about on-going maintenance of the greenway trail, Mr. Mauck explained that OSC is investigating the formation of a separate entity, possibly a foundation, specifically for management and maintenance of the greenway. Mr. Young pointed out that the proposed route of the trail through Georgetown was developed in response to the desires of Georgetown participants in the process. Mr. Werlin expressed a desire that the trail go through the Block 83 property and then re-cross the creek to the west side. Mr. Stearns cautioned that trail users that might be using the trail for transportation rather than recreation would prefer to minimize meanderings in the alignment. Mr. Werlin also commented that the property has been for sale for many years, and probably will not sell to another buyer any time soon.

Mr. Werlin moved to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the Town proceed with an appraisal of the property and include funding for a match for a GOCO grant application in the 2006 budget if funds are available. Ms. Dunn seconded the motion. Mr. Martin questioned whether the appraisal is critical since appraisals can vary widely depending on what end use the property is being appraised for. Mr. Werlin and Ms. Dunn removed the recommendation for proceeding with an appraisal from their motion, and the motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC HEARING on recommendation to the Board of Selectmen for adoption of rules for Foster's Place in City Park

Ms. Shimon opened the public hearing, noting that there were no members of the public in attendance. The Commission reviewed the five proposed rules as published and agreed upon some changes to the language, although the basic content of the rules remained unchanged.

Mr. Werlin moved to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the Town adopt the following rules for the Foster's Place playground in City Park:

1. The playground is open from dawn until dusk.
2. Skateboards, bicycles, rollerblades, scooters, or any similar wheeled equipment are not permitted. Baby strollers and wheelchairs are allowed.
3. Food and drink, other than water, are not permitted.
4. Smoking is not permitted.
5. Adult supervision of children is strongly recommended.

Ms. Dunn seconded the motion which was adopted by unanimous vote. Ms. Shimon closed the public hearing.

Project Reports

Ms. Shimon provided an update regarding the Hotel parking lot flower beds. The previous plan was to turn these into xeriscape areas, however the Garden Club took the initiative to plant them with flowers this year.

Ms. Williams reported that the Selectmen accepted the Commission's recommendation to give the old playground equipment to Empire, Empire is very glad to get the equipment, and Mr. Hodge is making arrangements for Empire to pick up the items.

Mr. Werlin reported that the bar-be-que grill that was removed for the Foster's Place construction has been re-installed, and he will be returning the flagstone to its proper place soon.

Mr. Werlin also reported that he has been working with Ms. Ellingson on a better watering plan for City Park, and he requested that the Commission allocate a maximum of \$100 to purchase four sprinklers that will all connect together so that a larger area can be watered at one time. Mr. Martin moved to approve a maximum of \$100 to purchase the sprinklers described by Mr. Werlin contingent upon the Town Treasurer's confirmation that funds are available in the budget. Mr. Werlin seconded and the motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Mr. Werlin announced that although he is still enthusiastic about a summer park game night program, he does not have the time to implement the plan this summer. The Commission discussed the possibility of finding another volunteer to carry on with the project. Mr. Werlin will produce a flier to recruit a volunteer to organize game nights for this summer. Ms. McWain volunteered to be the Commission's contact for donations to the program, and for volunteers interested in leading the program.

The Commission discussed sanitation issues for City Park and Mr. Werlin recommended that the Commission become more assertive and involved in planning for proper sanitary facilities in City Park, not only for special events like the 4th of July, but for daily activity as well.

Review parks permit schedule

The Commission reviewed the schedule of park permits that have been issued for events that will occur over the next several months.

Approval of minutes

Mr. Werlin moved to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2005 meeting as corrected. Mr. Martin seconded and the motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:26 p.m. Ms. Dunn moved, Mr. Werlin seconded and it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

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Shirley Shimon, Vice Chairman

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Merinel Williams, Town Clerk