



## MINUTES

### City of Glenwood Springs Parks and Recreation Commission

August 4, 2021 at 6:00 pm

1. Roll Call at 6:01pm
  - a. Commission: Laura Speck, Bill Coleman, Kris Smulczenski, Andrew Mueller, James Fosnaught
  - b. Staff: Brian Smith, Karstin Moser, Cristi Newton, Dan Roper, Matt Urmson
  - c. City Council Representative: Ingrid Wussow
  - d. Guests: Mary Weiner – Wulfsohn Community Garden
2. Citizen Comments:
3. Approval of July Minutes
  - a. Bill moved to approve the July minutes as written, Andrew second. All in favor.
4. Community Gardens Water Solutions – Mary Weiner
  - a. Rainwater not a viable option for irrigation at the garden.
  - b. Board would like improved communication from City when water is shut off due to watering restrictions.
    - i. Board President is receiving the Garfield County Emergency Alerts notifying subscribers that watering restrictions are in effect.
  - c. Garden raw water part of the Meadows raw water irrigation system. When the raw water is shut down due to water restrictions, the garden does not have water.
  - d. If water is shut down again, City will provide water from the Ice Rink hose bib again.
  - e. Options to resolve in the future could include pulling over domestic water lines. These systems would still be subject to outdoor watering restrictions.
  - f. Garden is also looking to improve their irrigation system from above ground to soaker hoses.
5. City Arborist Position (if hired)
  - a. Not hired, will place on agenda once hired.
6. Parks Supervisor, Matt Urmson, Introduction
  - a. Prior to COGS was with Mountain Valley Development services as their greenhouse supervisor.
  - b. Background in wildlife biology working with carnivores throughout North America.
7. Special Event Permitting
  - a. Review of draft Special Event policy that coincides with the ordinance City Council passed last month allowing for commercial activity in City Parks.
    - i. 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Bethel Plaza to be considered separately.
    - ii. Timeline of Revisions:
      1. Department, City Manager, and City Attorney met in May to discuss.
      2. Staff started researching policy and the first reading of code revisions happened in June with Council.
      3. Discussion with Parks and Recreation Commission and follow up with City Manager and legal in July.
      4. Revisions made by staff this week for presentation to Commission today.
      5. Second reading of ordinance and adoption of the draft policy planned for second meeting in September.
    - iii. Application deadlines:

1. 60 days for any permit that require a liquor license or ROW Permit.
2. 30 days for tax licensing, health department approval, fire department approvals, performance contracts, and utility needs.
- iv. Changes to fee structure based on impact of use and staff time involved in the permitting process.
  1. Waivers or monetary support requests will be directed to the Financial Advisory Board for grant opportunities.
- v. Revision to parks hours from 7am to 10pm to 6am to 10pm.
- vi. Activities should be recreational in nature.
- vii. Limitations to the number of people that can be in the park or areas of the park at one time as to not monopolize the park.
- viii. Commission recommends that security requirements be changed to include a minimum requirement based on number of people but allow for department discretion. Include requirement for security plan for events that security would need to be present.
- ix. Certificate of Insurance naming the City as Additional Insured to be required for all commercial activities.
- x. Commission recommends that notification requirements for amplified sound and/or road closure be posted at the corners of the road(s) to be impacted and include date(s), time(s), location, name of event, on-site contact information, site plan/route map.

**b. Motion by James: The changes that have been suggested by the Commission be adopted. Seconded by Bill. All in favor.**

8. Water Conservation Issues – Andrew Mueller

- a. Presentation - Rising Temperatures and Declining Flows: The Current and Likely Future of the Colorado Rivers Basin
  - i. Background
    1. 65% of the flow of the Colorado River originates in the Colorado River Water Conservation District.
    2. The Colorado River flows down to Lake Powell, to Lake Mead, then originally down to the Sea of Cortez, but no longer reaches.
    3. River supports 40 million people with drinking water and 4 million acres of irrigated agriculture.
    4. There are areas outside of the Colorado River Basin that use Colorado River water; Los Angeles, San Diego, the Imperial Valley (most senior water rights), the entire Colorado front range.
  - ii. Changes in Temperature and its effect on the river
    1. Western Colorado and Eastern Utah have seen the largest increase in average temperature across the U.S. from 1895 to 2018.
      - a. Garfield County at 3.6 degrees.
    2. For every one-degree Fahrenheit increase in temperature, stream flow decreases by 3-8%.
    3. Increased temperatures creating increase sublimation of snow into a gaseous state.
    4. Lake Powell is at its lowest level since construction at about 27% full. Lake Powell acts as a savings account for water that allows us to meet the water right obligations of the Colorado River to the lower basin and Mexico. With its “balance” declining, we may not be able to meet those obligations and would jeopardize our ability to use Colorado River water which would impact our economy.
  - iii. Benefits to implementing permanent watering restrictions include:
    1. 20-40% reduction in water use when restricted to odd/even outdoor watering.
    2. Reduced in-water temperature increase in river because the volume of water in river will be greater.
  - iv. Suggestions to decrease unused green scaping (lawns) and use more drought tolerant plantings.
- b. What parks is doing now:
  - i. Prioritizing services and determining if areas can be turned into native landscaping.

- ii. Upgrading irrigation systems with improved monitoring abilities.
    - iii. Advocating for low/no water use landscaping in right of ways
  - c. Idea to create a demonstration garden within the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Landing to educate public on low water use landscaping.
  - d. Ingrid suggests creation of a subcommittee on the Parks and Recreation Commission to develop recommendations for Council on water use reductions.
    - i. Laura and Andy volunteer.
- 9. Communications and Marketing
  - a. We're trying to distribute our marketing materials in both Spanish and English.
  - b. Marketing materials are distributed in paper format at the front desk, on the Glenwood Rec website, via email distribution lists from our registration software and website mailing list, and on social media.
- 10. VMC Pass Stats
  - a. Glenwood Springs Student's passes valid from June 1 to August 28.
  - b. 306 youth have received a pass.
  - c. Just under 1300 visits with these passes.
- 11. Director's Report
  - a. RiverFEST is this Saturday at Two Rivers Park.
  - b. Sayre Park project moving along.
  - c. Summer of Music tonight at Two Rivers Park.
  - d. 90s Movie Night is tomorrow in Bethel Plaza.
  - e. Music on 7<sup>th</sup> on Friday in Bethel Plaza.
  - f. 8/28 3v3 basketball tournament at Community Center.
  - g. Masks recommended indoors but not required at this time.
- 12. September Agenda Items
  - a. Water Conservation
- 13. Gear Library Tour
  - a. Sample of the gear set up in meeting room.
  - b. Marketed at underserved populations but is available to anyone.
  - c. May look into sponsored gear in the future by local business.
- 14. Motion to Adjourn at 8:04pm by James, second by Laura. All in favor.