



MEETING NOTES

June 5, 2019 7:30 AM

**Glenwood Springs City Hall
Council Chambers**

Members of the River Commission in attendance included Erika Gibson, Sarah Gordon, Chairman Brendon Langenhuizen, Vice Chairman Ashley Moffatt, Elise Osenga, Scott Schreiber, and Chris Treese. Ryan Davis was absent. Shelley Kaup (City Council), Kyle Holt (Roaring Fork Fishing Guide Alliance) Al Laurette (Parks and Recreation Superintendent), Assistant City Manager Jenn Ooton, Eric Petterson (SGM), Chad Rudow (Roaring Fork Conservancy), Brian Smith (Parks and Recreation Director), Bryana Starbuck (PR Studio), and Trent Hyatt (Senior Planner) were also in attendance.

Receipt of the Minutes

Commissioner Gibson moved, Commissioner Treese seconded, and all members were in favor of accepting the minutes from the May 1, 2019 meeting.

Lake Christine Fire Debris Flow Hazard Mitigation

Chris Petterson from SGM attended the meeting to discuss his involvement in hazard mitigation efforts for potential debris flow areas resulting from the 2018 Lake Christine fire. The fire started on July 3, 2018 and burned three homes and over 12,000 acres above the Town of Basalt. Mr. Petterson was part of the Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation team. The team found fire models to be inconsistent with the actual burn severity and ecological damage conditions found on the ground. He explained that areas with higher burn severity resulted in waxy, hydrophobic soils which are susceptible to severe runoff events. The rocky nature of Basalt Mountain makes travel and survey the fire impacts difficult. Mr. Petterson described some of the work implemented by the team such as in channel best management practices, place of very large hay bales, revegetation via helicopters and planes, etc. He explained that most of the impacts from the fire are outside of major drainages but that there is no way to limit impacts from flood events if/when they happen.

Comments from Commissioners/Staff/Guests

Bryana Starbuck with PR Studio discussed two ongoing projects with the group, Xcel transmission line improvements in Glenwood Canyon and river closures associated with the 27th Street bridge replacement project.

Sub-Committee Updates

Two Rivers Park – Brian Smith explained that SGM was working on revised final plans following the receipt of comments/direction from City Council.

Public Outreach – Commissioners Gordon and Gibson discussed a proposed yearlong public outreach plan to include letters to editor, a focus on World River day, and other ways to get the public involved.

RiverFEST – Councilor Kaup recommended efforts to limit the use of single use plastic at the event.