



MEETING NOTES

August 7, 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, and Scott Schreiber. Ryan Davis and Chris Treese were absent. Al Laurette (Parks and Recreation Superintendent), Gary Vick, Richard Todd, and Trent Hyatt (Senior Planner) were also in attendance.

Receipt of the Minutes

Commissioner Osenga moved, Commissioner Schreiber seconded, and all members were in favor of accepting the minutes from the July 11, 2019 meeting.

Riparian Setback

Gary Vick and Richard Todd, two riverfront property owners along Cowdin Drive, were in attendance to discuss the riparian setback currently being considered by the City's Planning and Zoning Commission. They indicated their desire to work with the River Commission to achieve its goals while also protecting the use of the riparian areas on private property. Mr. Vick encouraged cooperation instead of regulation and opined that is better to build consensus around the issue instead of contention. Mr. Todd expressed his desire that property owners retain the ability to maintain gardens, landscaping, walkways, etc. within the setback area. Mr. Vick explained his concerns related to property values, views, and river/fishing access. He asked why a cost benefit analysis was not performed for the proposal. The two encouraged the River Commission to review the implications of the proposed standard further. Mr. Hyatt explained that the Planning and Zoning would consider the proposed again at their September 24 meeting.

7th Street Discussion

Mr. Hyatt explained that City Council had asked staff to reach out to boards and commissions to survey their thoughts on whether or not 7th Street should remain closed to vehicular traffic/limited to pedestrian traffic moving forward. The River Commission recommended City Council limit the use of 7th Street to pedestrians only for the following reasons: less maintenance related to snow removal will generally allow for improved water quality; allows more area for potential stormwater improvements; less use will allow for the longevity of the construction

materials installed; will reduce potential safety impacts to pedestrians; and will allow for pedestrians to be closer to the river.

RiverFEST 2019 Recap

The group discussed the event and provided recommendations/options for 2020 as follows: provide or rent bigger tents for shade; provide smaller and burlier garbage bag options; highlight and recognize weirdest/biggest/most toxic items founds by volunteers; provide plastic bins for rafting volunteers; remind folks to stay off private property and better identify these areas; and contact private property owners in advance to make them aware of the event.

Election of Officers

Chairman Langenhuizen rendered his resignation as chair of the River Commission. He then nominated Vice Chairman Moffatt to finish out his term as Chairman, Commissioner Schreiber seconded, all were in favor. Chairman Moffatt moved to appoint Commissioner Schreiber as Vice Chair, Commissioner Gordon seconded, all were in favor.

Sub-Committee Updates

Public Outreach – Commissioner Gordon discussed some the water related events she would like to emphasize moving forward such as May public works month, Audubon Day, Earth Day etc. She recommended members pick a topic to focus on.

Three Mile Creek Confluence Project – Vice Chair Schreiber discussed the public open house event, survey results, and explained that he would present conceptual plans for the project to group at a later, appropriate date.