



Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Rebecca Dunn, Chair
Michael Smith, Vice Chair
Dan Ahrens
Scott Dowis
Jessica Kallweit
Melissa Lindsay
Karly Morkes

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

5:00 PM

**Cantril School
312 Cantril St.
Castle Rock, CO 80104**

Note: This meeting is open to the public. Three or more Council members may also attend this meeting, during which the items listed herein will be discussed. If you are unable to access any portion of these materials due to a disability as defined under Colorado House Bill 21-1110, please call us at 303-663-4440, email the Town's accessibility team at accessibility@CRgov.com or submit an accommodation request form at CRgov.com/A11yRequest.

TIMES SHOWN ARE APPROXIMATE AND MAY BE ADJUSTED DUE TO CHANGES TO THE AGENDA.

CALL TO ORDER

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rebecca Dunn at approximately 5:02 p.m. Staff in attendance included Jeff Brauer, Jeff Smullen, Mike Kilman, Brian Peterson, Bob Maloney, Jennifer Martin, Maia Yates, Dan Wahl, Marne Hansen, Arissa Pacheco and Becca Schnorr. Various members of the Town's Teen Advisory Group were also present.

Present 3 - Chair Rebecca Dunn, Commissioner Dan Ahrens, and Commissioner Melissa Lindsay

Not Present 4 - Commissioner Michael Smith, Commissioner Scott Dowis, Commissioner Jessica Kallweit, and Commissioner Karly Morkes

PUBLIC COMMENT

DURING THIS TIME, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION AND STAFF ON ITEMS THAT ARE NOT ON THE AGENDA. COMMENTS SHOULD BE LIMITED TO NO MORE THAN FOUR (4) MINUTES.

None.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

[PRC 2024-013](#) **Approval of the Minutes**

Approval of the minutes from the October meeting was deferred to approval in December due to a lack of quorum in attendance.

AGENDA ITEMS

[PRC 2024-014](#) **December Meeting Date Change**

Staff proposed moving the regular meeting of the December Parks and Recreation Commission from Wednesday, Dec. 18 to Wednesday, Dec. 11 to allow Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course to host. Dan Ahrens commented that he would be unable to attend the rescheduled date, and Rebecca Dunn and Melissa Lindsay both confirmed their ability to reschedule. Staff would assess schedules and the

availability of the additional members not present to determine a date and confirm soon.

[PRC 2024-015](#) **Teen Advisory Group Update**

Teen Advisory Group (TAG) Coordinator, Arissa Pacheco, and various members of the organization presented an overview of their upcoming efforts to commission members and staff. TAG helps local teens in 7th through 12th grades play an active role in planning and carrying out Parks and Recreation activities for the community's youth. TAG currently consists of ten students from Castle View High School, Colorado Early Colleges and Academy Charter School, who meet monthly to work on community service projects and events. Throughout the 2024-2025 school year, TAG will assist with Spooktacular, the Giving Tree, Reindeer Games, Story Tellers and S'mores, the Winter Ball, the Earth Day volunteer event, the Therapeutic Recreation spring dance and the Kindness Rock Garden at Butterfield Crossing Park.

[PRC 2024-016](#) **Rueter-Hess Reservoir Recreation Update**

Outdoor Coordinator, Marne Hansen, serves as Staff Liaison to the Rueter-Hess Recreation Advisory Board, and provided an update on current happenings at the reservoir to commission members and staff. Owned and managed by the Parker Water and Sanitation District, Rueter-Hess Reservoir sits northeast of Castle Rock just one mile east of the I-25 at the Castle Pines Parkway exit. While the top priority is maintaining water quality, the district has established the Rueter-Hess Recreation Authority, which now sits under Douglas County, to plan and oversee the site's recreational opportunities. The authority is composed of appointed representatives from the Town of Castle Rock, Town of Parker, City of Lone Tree, City of Castle Pines, Douglas County and the Parker Water and Sanitation District.

The reservoir opened to the public for limited recreation in 2017 and has since expanded through the installation of an incline challenge hill and trail networks. The authority has also launched catch and release fishing. Members of the public are invited to register to visit the reservoir to enjoy non-motorized water recreation on select days in April through October. Each participating community also hosts select Partner Days, and in 2024, Castle Rock offered a free day to residents where 100 cars and 130 people took advantage of the water.

Future recreation plans are still being determined, but could include special use permits, catch and keep fishing, windsurfing, expanded trails, movable docks, shoreline upgrades and streamlining the entrance process and parking.

Dan Ahrens asked if only non-motorized boats were allowed entry, and Marne confirmed that motorized boats are not currently allowed at the reservoir to meet the peaceful and serene mandate established by Parker Water and Sanitation to guide the property's master plan.

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

Staff provided the following updates to commission members:

- Town Council approved the necessary contracts to commence the Centennial Park Court Replacement Project. Demolition will commence this fall and the goal

will be to have the courts open to the public for summer use in 2025.

- Ballot initiative 2A was approved by voters, which will increase Castle Rock's sales and use tax by .2% to fund police and fire personnel.

- Incumbents were reappointed to continue service on Town Council in districts one, two and six, and new member Mark Davis will replace the incumbent from district four.

- A public open house was held on Nov. 12 to continue to gather public input on the master planning process of Lost Canyon Ranch Open Space. Over 80 people attended the event and several hundred have submitted responses to the online survey, which will be available through Dec. 13. Dan Ahrens asked about the type of feedback received, and Jeff Smullen confirmed that people continue to express concerns related to residential-only access and also noted that many are commenting on uses such as mountain biking and rock climbing. Jeff further noted that staff are uncertain at this time which uses will be allowed given the conservation easement held by the Douglas Land Conservancy. Next steps will include gathering the feedback to create a trails plan and master plan to seek additional input on next spring.

- Construction Documents have been completed by the contracted architect for the proposed Sports Development Center. Rebecca Dunn asked if the project has been approved by Council yet, and Jeff Smullen explained that Confluence Companies will likely take the development agreement to Town Council early next year, which will mark the next step in the approval process.

- The Park Operations and Maintenance Division has been working diligently to prepare holiday lights for the Town's annual starlighting event all throughout Downtown Castle Rock.

- Heather Rossiter, the department's Special Events Supervisor, will soon be leaving to move to Grand Junction with family. The department will soon be recruiting to fill Heather's vacancy, as well as hiring a new Sr. Supervisor in Athletics.

- Upcoming events include Starlighting on Saturday, Nov. 23 from 2-6 p.m., the Festival Park Starlight Market on select Fridays and Saturdays in December, Reindeer Games on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 1-4 pm and Story Tellers and S'mores on Dec. 14 from 5-7 p.m.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

None.

TOUR OF CANTRIL SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

Facilities Supervisor, Dan Wahl, provided members and staff with a tour of recent upgrades completed to date at Cantril School. The historic schoolhouse was purchased in spring 2023, and staff have worked with contractors to improve ADA accessibility throughout the facility, upgrade restrooms, renovate the kitchen for improved catering opportunities, renovate various classrooms for expanded art and cultural programming, upgrade electrical and install a kiln for pottery. Upgrades will continue in phases as budgetary resources allow.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:36 p.m.