

INSPIRATION COMMON AREA COMMITTEE
MINUTES

March 21, 2023 | 5:30 P.M. Via Zoom

Attendees: Mark Berkstresser, Ralph Charlip, Robert Ellixson, Charles Goretsky, Theresa LeGare, Maurice Smith, Tom Norton. Public Alliance: Justin Janca, Sarah Warner, Shad Ortiz, David Rees. Members of the public: None.

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. The agenda was approved with the addition of items: tree watering (6c), Allenspark issue (6d), sand volleyball court (6e), and Toll Brothers site (6f). Minutes from the February 21, 2023 meeting were approved.

Community Comment & Discussion

- There were no members of the public in attendance.
- Mark Berkstresser discussed the condition of the bluebird boxes, some have hornets or wasps.

Common Area Update was provided by Shad Ortiz (Public Alliance)

- Tree planting for 2023 is paused at the Board's direction due to Aurora Water drought restrictions and BrightView warranty considerations.
- Mite spray and turf fertilization services will be performed by BrightView.
- Irrigation will be activated mid-April.
- The final winter watering of the season was done in March.
- We are working with the developer to resolve dog park gate latch and drainage issues.
- Multiple seeding and turf conversion projects are in progress.
- Pool de-winterization is scheduled for mid-Spring.
- Tom Norton asked about the weather station; Justin Janca replied that this function is operational.

New Business

Furniture color for parks and NACs

- Mr. Berkstresser proposed creating a District palette for furniture painting.
- Teresa LeGare expressed concern regarding uniform color scheme.
- Sarah Warner noted that Pathfinder Park furniture items have been painted black.
- Mr. Norton noted heat retention as a factor also being considered by Hilltop.
- No recommendation will be made until the next significant furniture purchase.

Monument lighting

- Maurice Smith would like the monument at Rockinghorse and Gartrell to have backlit letters like other monuments in the community.
- Mr. Janca responded that the existing lettering is mounted flush; backlighting would require a complete overhaul of the monument.
- Mr. Berkstresser asked about re-attachment of existing letters; Mr. Janca noted that failing adhesive is due to age and weather.

- Mr. Berkstresser requested that Ms. Warner provide a quote to backlight the monument lettering.
- Mr. Norton inquired about light timing; Mr. Janca explained they're governed by photocell.

Graffiti in tunnel

- David Rees reported that graffiti coverup is complete.
- Ms. Warner introduced Mr. Rees as a relatively new member of the Public Alliance team.

Reduced tree replacement

- Mr. Berkstresser discussed budgeting for the replacement of 75 – 80 dead trees. Watering restrictions may reduce tree viability and bulk tree planting is paused.
- Mr. Berkstresser summarized Director Rick Forsman's efforts to re-evaluate tree requirements with the City of Aurora. Mr. Smith noted that expecting an urban forest in a prairie/grassland is unrealistic. Mr. Norton questioned the City's requirements for homeowners while watering restrictions are in place. Ms. Warner discussed the impact of decreased water usage on landscaping and covenant enforcement.
- Mr. Berkstresser recommended waiting until the tree survey is done before removing dead trees.
- Mr. Janca reported the team is creating a photographic history of problematic trees.
- Mr. Goretsky discussed key takeaways from a meeting with Aurora's water conservation department: fill the pool before May 1, limit watering to twice per week per zone.
- Ms. Warner discussed the drought surcharge fee structures for residential vs. commercial use.

Allenspark Drive

- Ms. LeGare discussed negative impacts from the chain placed across an access drive in filing 16. Residents go around the obstruction, creating a trail. Also, mud results from snow piled here. She recommends creating a crusher fines or gravel trail.
- Mr. Norton asked what the access point is for; Ms. LeGare said it connects to the NW Trail at Heritage Eagle Bend.
- Ralph Charlip asked about the ownership of the chain and signage; Mr. Berkstresser noted that the area is developer-controlled, and the chain and sign were installed at the request of the Fire Department. Mr. Charlip suggested removing the chain and sign and installing a removable bollard. Mr. Berkstresser responded that other bollards are missing chains.
- Ms. Warner noted that the District cannot act on this until the area is turned over.
- Mr. Norton asked who drives along this path; Ms. LeGare said BrightView uses the access trail and removal of the chain may alleviate the issue of vendors using the location to store snow piles.
- Mr. Ortiz said that emergency access should not be blocked; Ms. LeGare agreed.
- Ms. Warner noted that a request to the developer is the appropriate course of action.

Sand Volleyball court

- Mr. Norton said that the amenity is required by the City now that it is on the plans.
- Relocation is needed because of the impact of sand blowing into the pool area.
- Mr. Smith proposed moving the court to Pathfinder Park, removing half of the soccer field. He also suggested adding spectator stands.
- The committee noted a significant change would require city approval.
- Mr. Norton stated that the Community Services Center Committee suggests leaving the court in the existing location as shown on the building application and relocate it later.

- Mr. Charlip asked about removing sand to create a concrete court. Mr. Goretsky believes alternative surface materials would be unacceptable to users; he'll discuss with resident stakeholders.
- Ms. Warner requested direction for the upcoming season, such as purchasing a cover. Mr. Berkstresser said a cover should be removable by users to allow usage.

Toll Brothers Site Remediation

- Ms. Warner reported that Toll Brothers is removing their trailer office site along Rockinghorse.
- They must return it to the initial condition, but retaining the parking lot is an option. Mr. Smith voiced approval of keeping the parking lot. Mr. Charlip requested maintenance figures for the lot.
- Ms. LeGare suggested moving the volleyball court to this area. Mr. Smith suggested creating a community garden. Ms. Warner noted conveyance of the land to the District is far in the future.
- Mr. Ortiz and Mr. Berkstresser noted that a timely decision is needed as the removal is underway.

Other - Ms. Warner reported that proposals are in progress for the median at Gartrell and Rockinghorse, to include removal of rabbit brush, addition of smaller shrubs, and redesign.

Review status of CAC efforts

Trail and NAC names

- Mr. Berkstresser reported that new trail and NAC names have been published. On-site signage is being custom made. Mr. Janca will revise the trail map.

Committee Charter Revisions

- The committee discussed possible locations and timing for an off-site meeting.
- Ms. LeGare reported that a Charter draft revision has been distributed to committee members and most have agreed on the direction. She discussed next steps.

CAC planning cycle - An asset chart is being created.

CAC Study or Assessment - Will be ready for the next meeting.

Inspiration Lane Tree lawn remediation

- Mr. Berkstresser outlined the process to reseed the tree lawn under more active management.
- Ms. Warner stated that mowing, aeration, and string trimming are underway. She saw evidence of past terraseeding efforts, emphasizing the need for irrigation to help establish.

Review status of Public Alliance efforts

- Ms. Warner stated that Naranjo has provided a bid that has been approved by the Board to create a paved path from Tansy to Swallow. Start date is weather-dependent.
- Mr. Janca provided an update on the upcoming start date of tree mapping by TreePlotter.

Review Other Special Projects

- Mr. Goretsky and Ms. LeGare provided a brief update on coordination with Aurora Water.
- Mr. Norton updated the committee on the Community Services Center building plans.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m. Next meeting will be held on April 18th.