

Final Notes from Cougar design team

Recommendations/ideas going forward

- A) **Open Space Management Plans should be reviewed and updated as necessary.** It is common within natural resource management agencies to review and update management plans every 5 years in an effort to utilize adaptive management to its fullest potential to get new information that may not have been present at the writing of the original document, or to be sure, in our case that changing demographics of our new neighbors have not changed what our priorities should be. Natural resource surveys are farther along with more trends apparent as time goes along, demographics change so that different issues are considered more important as immigration and emigration of people come and go and community hot spots revealed. Priorities change and new information comes to light over time. It is for this reason that some believe that it is time for expectations to be clarified and the Trails Master Plan and other key open space plans like the comprehensive management plan be reviewed and updated. This will allow for a more holistic and comprehensive view of open space management at KCR to include recreational trails, priorities, budget, and natural resource issues be better understood. Natural resource issues such as habitat fragmentation and the Golden Eagle nest make developing the southern foothills areas less palatable to some on the committee before a comprehensive review is done by the Ken Caryl community to be sure community values are being represented as they are currently aligned.
- While there are a number of approaches to be considered to reviewing and updating plans, it could be as simple as starting with a community survey similar to the one done in 2006. If the survey shows the community values are similar to 2006, then maybe no more needs to be done. If, on the other hand, the new survey demonstrates changing community values, plans can be re-worked to demonstrate that. This need not be a repeat performance of the unnecessarily divisive process that was done previously with the Trails Master Plan. It is however, important for the community to determine what levels of impacts it is willing to tolerate.
- B) **Make sure time is given for proper vetting from the Ken Caryl Community on trail reroutes.** It was believed by some on the design team that when a major change in the alignment of the Upper Cougar trail was proposed, that was a time when the community at large should have been notified of that change. An excerpt from the Executive summary of the Trails Master Plan; “The proposed trail plan includes multi-use trail alignments that are general and conceptual in nature. If a trail alignment changes substantially during the final design process, it should be taken through a public process for review and comment by the community”.

In summary, planning needs to be relevant to a community. To ensure relevancy, key planning documents for open space should be reviewed and updated. By way of example, the 2015 work plan for KCROS includes a trails maintenance plan to be developed: a key part of understanding trails maintenance needs and budget implications (both short and long term). The comprehensive open space management plan has been targeted for an update but no significant progress to date. These along with the Trails Master plan should be reviewed and updated.

The KCR open space manager is in the best position to discuss these documents with the OSC/MA and recommend a path forward. It is important that decision makers have updated information on

community values regarding our open space before any significant future budget decisions are made or management actions taken.

- **C) The makeup of the design subcommittee going forward.** Whether to keep the subcommittee as it is currently formulated or some version thereof needs to be discussed. 1) One potential idea is to go back to what was done before with the modification that a staff person, a representative of the trail building community and a representative of the conservation community be on the design committee to work through trail issues and assure that all viewpoints are represented. This might make it easier for a more personal relationship be developed over time. 2) Another potential idea is to create a trail committee similar to what was done with the Prairie dog task force and create a representative body of residents that meet with a designated scope of work and address issues including the design of n trails with the input of staff and a trail club member to assist with design requirements and neighborhood issues. 3) Another possibility is to have staff address issues and design the trails with input from the trails club and Open Space Committee as is done in most local and county governments. If a subcommittee or task force of community members is decided to be the best choice, a charter is a critical component to be decided before the task force begins.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input! Bob, Susan, Dan, Scott and Sean