

**SILVER PLUME MOUNTAIN PARK COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026, at 6:00 PM**

- I. **Call To Order:** Meeting called to order at 6:03pm by Commissioner Chelsea Nihiser. Chairman Michael Frey is not in attendance due to a family emergency, C. Nihiser volunteers to run meeting.
- II. **Roll Call:** Chelsea Nihiser, Martin Gitlin, Ryan Redfield, and Mark Morris are Commissioners in attendance. Chairman Michael Frey is not in attendance this evening. Special Projects Manager Cindy Neely joins in person. Public Audience via Zoom includes Alexis, Clear Creek County Public Land Manager, and Gil McCormick with Colorado Mountain Biking Association.
- III. **Motion to Approve Agenda:** M. Gitlin motions to approve the agenda as presented. R. Redfield seconds the motion, motion carries with all in favor.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes:** June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025: R. Redfield motions to approve the minutes of June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025, commission meeting. M. Gitlin seconds the motion; motion passes with all in favor.
- V. **Public Comment:** Gil McCormick joins the commission, first via zoom and then in person, and informs them that he works for Colorado Mountain Biking Association (COMBA). COMBA is currently working with the Forest Service on Bard Creek building trails and doing trail maintenance. He has also been working on the Virginia Canyon mountain biking trails. He states COMBA would be interested in working with the SPMP Commission on creating mountain biking trails in the Silver Plume Mountain Park. Cindy Neely informs him that the 7:30 trail, and the SPMP itself, are not meant to be mountain biking trails or land. The 7:30 trail is a dead end, not a loop, and there is no intention of connecting it to anything on the other side. The SPMP Commission is not interested in turning the SPMP into another Virginia Canyon. We are currently not interested in or permitted to create new trails. The Commission informs Gil that Mountain Biking is centralized to the Argentine Central Grade trail on the opposite side of the valley, however the Town is not interested in any assistance with trail maintenance or further trail creation on that side either. The Commission thanks Gil for joining them.
- VI. **New Business / Action Items**

**a. Taylor Kennedy Land Acquisition Update, Master Plan Expansion:**

Cindy Neely joins the Commission and begins discussion with an update regarding the pending purchase of the Taylor Kennedy Land. As the Commission may be aware, the Town has raised all the necessary funds to purchase the next large piece of Republican Mountain. Over half of the funding comes from two large grants, one from the State Historic Fund and the other from Great Outdoors Colorado. Cindy reports that there are ongoing issues with meeting the requirements of the GOCO grant, specifically GOCO's refusal to accept the original appraisal the Town had done, but Cindy feels that we will be able to work through this issue. The SHF also has been having issues processing their grant, although those issues stem from staffing shortages within the SHF. The SHF needed more time to process their paperwork due to the shortages, and have asked to extend the purchase contract, which

originally was set to close on January 30<sup>th</sup>, and will now be extended by 30 days, giving us time to get GOCO figured out. Cindy also states that there will be money left over and can be used for the Conservation Easement and other items. We have completed the title work and the environmental studies that are required. Cindy then begins discussion about the Master Plan Expansion. THK made a master plan for the Jack Pine purchase, and Cindy explains that once the Taylor Kennedy land is purchased the original Master Plan will be expanded to include planning for that land as well. The Jack Pine claims and the Taylor Kennedy claims will all be part of the Silver Plume Mountain Park, and therefore we will have one master plan for the entire park, not two separate plans that may or may not be in align with each other. THK will be conducting the planning and expanding the official master plan. To meet this goal, THK has asked to meet with the SPMP Commission and the Silver Plume Public in the second Quarter of 2026. At this time, they will be open to suggestions for the use of the Taylor Kennedy land. Some things this commission is asked to think about include new interpretive signage. There is existing signage, which has a poor design given the current signage on the first switchback of the 730 makes a wall, blocking the valley from view. Interpretive signage should be consistent with HDPLC standards, and the signage standards set forth in the current master plan. Other suggestions that could be made to THK and included in the master plan expansion are reviewing the QR codes that are currently along the 730, creating a detailed plan for taking care of the 730 trail, and discussing what the commission would like to do with the ruin building on the upper section of the 730. Options for this ruin include fencing it off, stabilizing it, and making it into an interpretive site with a bench and signage. The commission is most interested in fencing it off and making it into an interpretive site. This is a great place to put a bench, as it is a natural resting place along the trail. No matter the course the commission and town take, signage needs to be place on the building itself that clearly states something to the effect of “Historic Ruin, Do Not Enter”. The current master plan categorizes the existing buildings and structures into 3 categories: interpretive sites, stewardship sites, and ruins. For the ruins, the policy is to watch, preserve, and protect. The SPMP Commission will coordinate project, by designing the site, ordering signage, and even performing the construction. M. Gitlin suggests recruiting students from the school district to help build the fence/bench along with the Commission. R. Redfield builds on this idea by suggesting that the Georgetown Community School elementary students could be involved in interpretive site development and could even be recorded for the QR code story. The Commission will need to either budget or fundraise to accomplish this interpretive site. C. Nihiser volunteers to outline a plan for the interpretive site, including a design for the ruin signage, 2-3 podium style signage, with the interpretive site verbiage. R. Redfield will assist the clerk with this project and will pull in support from the kiddos at GCS as needed and appropriate. There is discussion about having the kids ride the train up to Silver Plume form Georgetown and making it into a walking field trip type situation. M. Gitlin states he will assist with the benches, and R. Redfield states his father-in-law enjoys making benches, and is also talented at the craft. The Commission is interested in making benches with material they can find on site, such as logs and timber. The Commission is also interested in redesigning the QR codes, as the commission likes the idea but feels that it could be executed in a different, more accessible way. R. Redfield states he will reach out to the train to inquire into the possibility of them hosting the kiddos on a train ride but states he has had issues with dealing with the train. In the past he had asked for two comp tickets to use in a raffle, and the train representative he spoke with was rude and did not get back to him after their discussion

with the comp tickets. C. Neely states that R. Redfield should not reach out to the train, instead she will. C. Neely also suggests to C. Nihiser that she should coordinate with Greg Jarvis with the HDPLC on the design phase of the interpretive site. He can help ensure signage matches HDPLC branding and help with where to order signage from etc. The HDPLC meets monthly every third Wednesday, so it would be ideal for the Commission to coordinate with Mac McDonald, Silver Plumes representative on the HDPLC, so that he can get the report and proposal on the HDPLC's March agenda. M. Morris suggests an additional sign at the lower gate on the 730 that has hiking and trail info on it, length, difficulty, etc. The Commission agrees to meet on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm for their next planning meeting. C. Neely will invite THK to join the commission, and by this meeting date C. Nihiser/R. Redfield should have put together a plan for the interpretive site. C. Neely then states that there is a retaining wall that has buckling cribbing. This will need to be addressed by an engineer in the very near future and will ideally need to be done by an engineer willing to do so pro-bono. Logan with the Clear Creek Trails Crew will need to be looped in for maintenance duties.

**b. 2026 Planning:** Further planning will be decided during the Commission's next meeting scheduled for March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**VII. Updates:**

**a. Silver Plume Mountain Park Commission:** N/A

**VIII. Adjournment:** At 707pm M. Gitlin motioned to adjourn. R. Redfield seconded the motion, motion passes with all in favor.