



**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 13, 2023**

Members Present: David Siegel, Sarah Bryarly, Larry Bogue, Greg Thornton, Dr. Daniel Bowan, Julia Sands de Melendez, Abby Simpson, Andrea Perry

Members Absent: Steve Harris

Alternates Present: Steve Lenzo

Staff Present: Britt Haley, Kim King, Eric Becker, Anna White, Mark Snow, Jake Butterfield, Stephanie Adams, Blake Zink, April Allen, Elizabeth Clark, Andy Morris, Matt Mayberry, Pat Gentile, Jarod Clayton, Connie Schmeisser

Called to Order: Board Chair David Siegel brought the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m.

Citizen Discussion

Allen Beauchamp, a member of Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), spoke on behalf of TOSC, and thanked everyone who was involved in supporting Issue 1 on the ballot, which was an extension of the Trails, Open Space, and Parks (TOPS) Program. The issue passed with overwhelming support from the community, and TOSC believes that the ballot language supported the original mission of the program. However, Mr. Beauchamp stated that this is a small piece of a bigger challenge, which is sustainable funding for the Department. TOSC believes that through working with citizens, staff, and City leadership, more support for the Department can be achieved through the general fund or other funding mechanisms. Britt Haley, Director, thanked Mr. Beauchamp and TOSC for all of their work on the campaign.

Diane Percy, citizen, spoke on behalf of the track cycling community and their values, training, and community involvement. However, Ms. Percy expressed both frustration and disappointment with the limited access to the Velodrome. Ms. Percy stated that in a 2018 agreement, the public was to have 1,200 hours of access annually. After closures due to COVID-19, the Velodrome is still only allowing the public about 160 hours from May to September. Ms. Percy asked that staff and the Board make a commitment to citizens for access, as training times do not impact each other.

Jim Lawrence, a coach for the Front Range Junior Cycling Team, echoed many of Ms. Percy's concerns who spoke before him. He stated that his team uses the Velodrome, and it is vital to his team. Mr. Lawrence argued that having a practice space such as the Velodrome helps build camaraderie in the cycling community, and helped grow their program into what it is today. Mr.

Lawrence requested that the Department take operational control of the Velodrome to allow for more community access. Britt Haley, Director, and Kim King, Assistant Director, took a moment to provide some background on the Velodrome and its operations. In December 2018, a presentation was made to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board by staff of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) for operations of the Velodrome. Britt noted that the agreement with the USOPC does not require 1,200 hours for community use but does require an adequate provision of hours for the community. Britt understands the frustration of the citizens and thanked them for being kind and appreciative when discussing the issue at hand. Board member Dr. Daniel Bowan requested a presentation on the Velodrome at the next meeting to discuss operations.

Kathy Perry, citizen, is a participant at the Westside Community Center, and on the Westside Community Center Working Committee. She stated she would be unable to stay for the Westside Fees and Charges presentation but wanted her comments on the record regarding the item. Ms. Perry stated that the fees and charges are based off those of the other community centers but believed that the area of town was not taken into account in the creation of those fees. Ms. Perry stated that fees that high are difficult for the community when they are trying to build back up a community center, such as the Westside Community Center.

Approval of Minutes – March 9, 2023 meeting minutes.

Motion – To approve the March 9, 2023 meeting minutes.

1st – Greg Thornton, 2nd – Larry Bogue, Approved, Unanimously.

Action Items

Westside Community Center Fees and Charges (Presented by Kim King, Assistant Director)

Kim King, Assistant Director, presented the Board with the Westside Community Center Fees and Charges. This presentation included the City User Fee Policy; fees and charges process; fees and charges comparison; proposed fees; the fees and charges public process; and finally, the proposed motion.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

Board member Abby Simpson asked if the fees and charges were lower during the previous operation by the Woodmen Valley Chapel. Kim King responded that they were lower during that operation.

Board member Greg Thornton said he empathized with Ms. Perry, who spoke during citizen discussion about this item, but also understands the needs of the City.

Motion: To recommend approval of the proposed 2023 fees and charges for the Westside Community Center to become effective May 1, 2023, as shown on Exhibit A.

1st – Andrea Perry, 2nd – Sarah Bryarly, Approved, 7 to 0 with Greg Thornton abstaining.

Presentation Items

Veterans Memorial (Presented by Jake Butterfield, Capital Projects Coordinator)

Jake Butterfield, Capital Projects Coordinator, presented the Board with the Veterans Memorial. Jake was joined by Kerri Liljegren, Associate Principal for Stream Landscape Architecture, and Nicole Lane, Principal for Martin/Martin Consulting. This presentation included the project background; project milestones and timeline; site background and memorial history; current conditions – structure; current conditions – site/plaza; current conditions – access and entry; project goals; an update on the structural assessment; a site context map; site analysis – existing conditions; site analysis – pathway alignments; site analysis – opportunities; takeaways from the veterans stakeholder meeting; design concept; renderings of the plan; public meeting recap; next steps; and finally, the plan for memorial identification.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

Ceremonial Items – 9:00 a.m. Time Certain

National Volunteer Month and Recognition (Presented by April Allen, Analyst II – Volunteers and Multimedia)

April Allen, Analyst II – Volunteers and Multimedia, presented the Board with National Volunteer Month and Recognition. This presentation included National Volunteer Week; background information on the volunteer services of the six individuals nominated for Individual Volunteer of the Year: Bob Falcone, Dianne Hartshorn, Johnathan Stepp, Judy Willey, Robert Young, and Tristan Stevens; the selection of Bob Falcone as winner for the Individual Volunteer of the Year; background information on the volunteer services of the five groups nominated for Volunteer Group of the Year: Bread Based Universal Garden Support and BBUGS Cooking Club, the Mills Family, RISE Southeast, the Sharp/Henricks Family, and the Therapeutic Recreation Program Water-Skiing Volunteers; and finally, the selection of RISE Southeast as the Volunteer Group of the Year.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

Multiple Board members thanked all of the volunteers, not only for their service to the Department and community, but for coming to the meeting to be recognized for all of their dedication and hard work.

Staff Updates

Election Update (Presented by Britt Haley, Director)

Britt Haley, Director, provided a verbal election update for the Board. Once again, Britt thanked the Board for their support of the TOPS ballot measure, which passed with a 78% approval rating. Britt added that four new members of City Council were elected, all of whom showed support for both TOPS and the Department. Finally, there will be a mayoral runoff election, which will take place on May 16. In the meantime, Britt informed the Board that staff had been working on a transition binder for the next mayor, which includes priorities and initiatives, a SWOT analysis, and other materials to help with the transition.

Rock Ledge Ranch and Greenhouse Update (Presented by Andy Morris, Park Operations Administrator)

Andy Morris, Park Operations Administrator, presented the Board with the Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site and Greenhouse update. Andy was joined by Warren Wright, President of the Living History Association. This presentation included a map of the site; Ranch statistics; American Indian Area; the Homestead Cabin; the Rock Ledge House; the Blacksmith Shop; the Orchard House; and finally, the 1880s Greenhouse. Warren then informed the Board of efforts to restore the Greenhouse so vegetables can be grown for the community year-round. Additionally, Warren detailed fundraising efforts.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

Water Conservation and Usage Update (Presented by Jarod Clayton, Water Conservation Specialist)

Jarod Clayton, Water Conservation Specialist, presented the Board with the Water Conservation and Usage Update. This presentation included comprehensive irrigation water management; potable water rates; daily service charges; non-potable water rates; 2022 Annual Commodity Charges – actual versus budget; irrigation water cost – actual versus budget; inches used by months; monthly reports; 2017 to 2022 irrigation water requirement; 2017 to 2022 versus 1949 to 2009 irrigation water requirement; 2017 to 2022 average accumulated irrigation water requirement; 2022 projects; current projects; and finally, the 10-Year irrigation system replacement plan.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

Golf Annual Report (Presented by Pat Gentile, Golf Course Supervisor)

Pat Gentile, Golf Course Supervisor, presented the Board with the Golf Annual Report. This presentation included the two golf courses, Patty Jewett and Valley Hi; 2022 rounds data; days closed; 2022 financials; 2022 golf revenue by month; 2023 budget; golf rounds throughout El Paso County; golf rounds throughout the state; engaging the community through social media; Valley Hi Golf Course; 2022 projects at Valley Hi; photos of work done at Valley Hi; 2023 and beyond at Valley Hi; Patty Jewett Golf Course; 2022 recognition of Patty Jewett; 2022 projects at Patty Jewett; photos of work done at Patty Jewett; and finally, 2023 and beyond at Patty Jewett.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

Community Engagement Update (Presented by Stephanie Adams, Senior Analyst – Community Engagement; Blake Zink, Senior Project Administrator; April Allen, Analyst II – Volunteers and Multimedia; Elizabeth Clark, Analyst II – Special Events; and Jodi Schlosberg, Graphics Technician)

Stephanie Adams, Senior Analyst – Community Engagement; Blake Zink, Senior Project Administrator; April Allen, Analyst II – Volunteers and Multimedia; Elizabeth Clark, Analyst II – Special Events; and Jodi Schlosberg, Graphics Technician, presented the Board with the Community Engagement update. This presentation included the Community Engagement Team; CAPRA accreditation; community relations; special events; volunteer management; and finally, contact information.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

General Updates

Britt Haley, Director, informed the Board that they can expect an update on the City Auditorium in the near future. Staff is waiting for an updated business plan and feasibility study, and will bring an update forward once that information is received.

Connie Schmeisser, Landscape Architect II, introduced Caroline Miller to the Board. Caroline is a Program Administrator in the Planning Department, focused on the Park Land Dedication Ordinance. Previously, Caroline was a Lead Interpreter and Recreation Assistant in North Cheyenne Cañon Park. Next, Connie informed the Committee that the art installation at Panorama Park is finished, and there will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 19 at 4 p.m.

Kim King, Assistant Director, announced that the input session was complete for the Prospect Lake aeration project. Input was sent to the Mayor and Chief of Staff, who will make the final decision on the two designs.

Eric Becker, Park Maintenance and Operations Manager, announced that a selection had been made for his previous position, the Special Improvement Maintenance District Supervisor. John Gephart was selected, with an extensive background in turf management and water conservation. John will begin in June.

Board Business

Greg Thornton – Mr. Thornton informed the Board that there were two Westside Community Center Working Committee meetings in March to approve programming and leased space. Four proposals have been postponed to the April meeting. Mr. Thornton added that there will be another Westside Community Center Working Committee meet and greet on Tuesday, May 16th.

Julia Sands de Melendez – Ms. Sands de Melendez informed the Board that the Public Art Commission has appropriated funds for a Public Art Policy redesign. Additionally, there is a new art installation in Nancy Lewis Park from the Colorado Springs Parkinson’s Support Group. Matt Mayberry, Cultural Services Manager, noted that the art had been dedicated the previous Thursday.

Sarah Bryarly – Ms. Bryarly announced that the upcoming Incline Friends meeting had been moved to May 11th.

Abby Simpson – Ms. Simpson thanked staff for the quick removal of extensive graffiti at Panorama Park. She said at the TOPS Working Committee meeting, an update on the Blodgett Peak master plan was provided.

Larry Bogue – Mr. Bogue was happy that TOPS had passed. There was an update on the Palmer Trail closure during the TOPS Working Committee meeting, as well. The Forest Service recently completed an assessment of the rockslide and are working on signage ahead of reopening the area.

David Siegel – Mr. Siegel announced that the Garden of the Gods Foundation will be making a \$557,000 donation to the Department this year. Next, Mr. Siegel said that the LART Committee had completed their off-cycle review and several Parks projects were funded.

Adjournment

Motion: Move to adjourn the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board meeting at 11:26 a.m.

1st – Greg Thornton, 2nd – Larry Bogue, Approved, Unanimously.