



**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 9, 2023**

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

Alternates Absent: Steve Lenzo

Staff Present: Britt Haley, Kim King, Eric Becker, Anna White, Connie Schmeisser, Skyler Rorabaugh, Mark Snow, Erik Rodriguez, Randy Kosley, Cory Archuleta

Called to Order: Board Chair David Siegel brought the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m.

Ceremonial Items – 7:30 a.m. Time Certain

Randy Kosley & Cory Archuleta Retirements (Presented by Eric Becker, Park Maintenance and Operations Manager)

Eric Becker, Park Maintenance and Operations Manager, took a moment to honor two employees who will be retiring on March 31, 2023: Randy Kosley, Skilled Maintenance Supervisor, and Cory Archuleta, Senior Maintenance Technician. Randy and Cory have spent most of their tenure in the South Athletic District, with Randy retiring with 44 years of service and Cory with 34 years of service. Eric thanked both of them for all of their hard work over the years, and he and the Board wished them both well in their upcoming retirement.

Citizen Discussion

Joe Johnson, President of the Pikes Peak Pickleball Association, introduced himself to the Board and provided some background on what Pikes Peak Pickleball has accomplished in recent years, and through the history of their thirteen year partnership with Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services. With increasing membership, the Association also raised its membership dues to continue providing funds for upkeep and maintenance of courts. Mr. Johnson said they are looking forward to being involved in the Coleman Park master planning process, and hope to see a commitment to pickleball at the park, either from the Board or Staff.

Cory Sutela, Director of Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, said as his organization continues to maintain the Cresta Open Space Bike Park, it is clear that the most sustainable type of pump track is paved. Mr. Sutela is hoping that this could be an option for future parks. Additionally,

Mr. Sutela invited everyone to attend a Rock the Vote event at Concrete Coyote on March 18th from 2 to 8 p.m.

Matt Coleman, citizen, thanked Staff and the Board for all of their hard and diligent work on the Coleman Park Master Plan. Matt is the son of Norman Coleman, whom the park is named after.

Mary Golush, citizen, approached the Board and staff with the desire for a senior center located in the eastern area of Colorado Springs. Once the current Senior Center closes for reconstruction in June, the options for seniors are mostly limited to central and west Colorado Springs. Ms. Golush provided her business plan to staff, which will be distributed to the Board. Britt Haley, Director for Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, said she would be in touch with Ms. Golush.

Kathy Perry, citizen, informed the Board that the Westside Community Center hosted a meet and greet for the community to meet their representatives on the Westside Community Center Working Committee. The meet and greet was successful, and Ms. Perry looks forward to continuing to serve on the Committee.

Terry Sheahan, citizen, spoke in favor of design #1 for the Prospect Lake aeration project. Mr. Sheahan said it not only supports motorized boating but is much more cost-effective overall.

Aaron Orr, citizen, spoke in favor of design #1 for the Prospect Lake aeration project. Mr. Orr thanked staffs for all of their diligent work in getting to this point in the process of restoring lake health.

Chris Hall, citizen, spoke in favor of design #1 for the Prospect Lake aeration project.

Caroline Lambs, citizen, spoke in favor of design #1 for the Prospect Lake aeration project.

Susan Davies, Executive Director for the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), said her organization has a weekly e-blast. The current e-blast has information about current Mayoral and City Council candidates.

Approval of Minutes – February 9, 2023 meeting minutes.

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

1st – Julia Sands de Melendez, 2nd – Abby Simpson, Approved, Unanimously.

Partner/Community Update

Rocky Mountain Field Institute Year in Review (Presented by Carl Woody, Program Director for the Rocky Mountain Field Institute)

Carl Woody, Program Directed for the Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI), presented the Board with the RMFI Year in Review. This presentation included an overview of their organization; open spaces and trails they have performed work on; how work is accomplished; 2022 city projects; 2022 project locations; 2022 work objectives; volunteerism in 2022; 2022 work statistics; photos from various projects throughout the park system; partnership programs; partnership events; 2022 volunteer work groups; and finally, 2023 work plans.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

Action Items

Wild Horse Ranch Acquisition Opportunity (Presented by Britt Haley, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director)

Britt Haley, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, presented the Board with the Wild Horse Ranch Acquisition Opportunity. This presentation included the area map; the overview map; transaction information; photos of the property; considerations; the timeline; and finally, the proposed motion.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

Board member Greg Thornton asked when City Council will vote on this item. Britt Haley responded the first reading of the resolution and supplemental appropriation ordinance took place on February 28, and the second reading will be on March 14.

Board member Dr. Daniel Bowan asked if the 2014 Park System Master Plan identified this area as a priority. Britt Haley responded that it did. Dr. Bowan said he had asked at the last meeting to delay this vote until after the new City Council members are seated following the April 4, 2023 election. Britt responded that she had looked into this and discussed this with The Conservation Fund. With a closing date of May 28, the best move was to continue forward. Dr. Bowan was not in support of that decision.

Board member Larry Bogue asked if there is a timeline for a master plan. Britt Haley responded that there is a potential to master plan this area separately, or all together in one larger Corral Bluffs plan. The process will be expensive, and will depend on the priorities of the new Mayoral leadership.

Susan Davies, Executive Director for TOSC, said this acquisition is very exciting and a great reminder of why TOPS is so vital to this City.

Cory Sutela, Executive Director for Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, spoke in support of this acquisition. Mr. Sutela also echoed Board member Larry Bogue's comments about moving forward with master planning the properties we purchase so the public may access them.

Motion: To recommend the acquisition of approximately 1,021 acres of property identified by tax schedule numbers 4400 000 457 and 5400 000 022 and a supplemental appropriation of \$7,655,000 to include the purchase price and associated real estate transaction costs from the TOPS Open Space category fund balance.

1st – Greg Thornton, 2nd – Julia Sands de Melendez, Approved, 8 to 0 with Dr. Daniel Bowan abstaining.

Evergreen Cemetery Columbarium Platting (Presented by Kim King, Assistant Director)

Kim King, Assistant Director, presented the Board with the Evergreen Cemetery Columbarium Platting. This presentation included history on Evergreen Cemetery; the columbarium location; columbarium examples; the columbarium schematic; a summary; and finally, the proposed motion.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

Board member Larry Bogue asked if there is a waiting list for burials. Kim King responded that there is a waiting list to purchase niches in the new columbarium.

Board member Dr. Daniel Bowan said he would like to see a sliding scale for costs in the future.

Motion: Move to recommend to City Council the proposed ordinance for the platting of the new columbarium in Block 210 at Evergreen Cemetery.

1st – Julia Sands de Melendez, 2nd – Andrea Perry, Approved, Unanimously.

Presentation 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; and finally, the timeline for the fees and charges process.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

Staff Updates

Coleman Park Master Plan (Presented by Connie Schmeisser, Landscape Architect II, and Nicole Horst, Principal Partner for Wenk Associates)

Connie Schmeisser, Landscape Architect II, and Nicole Horst, Principal Planner for Wenk Associates, presented the Board with the Coleman Park Master Plan. This presentation included the site context; project site; project schedule and outreach; vision and program; feedback responses from the on-site community forum, community survey and Sand Creek High School engagement; park security and safety; concepts; concept phase key takeaways; the draft plan; the draft final plan; Active Hub – northwest area; Active Hub – multi-purpose fields; west community gathering space; community gathering space; Outdoor Destination – creek corridor; creek corridor; creek promenade; east community gathering space; neighborhood buffers; community forum #3 key takeaways; site constraints and operations; and finally, next steps.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

Board member Dr. Daniel Bowan commented that he was disappointed to not see swimming pools considered for this master plan.

Prospect Lake Aeration Project Update (Presented by Kim King, Assistant Director, and Erik Rodriguez, Environmental, Health and Safety Specialist)

Kim King, Assistant Director, and Erik Rodriguez, Environmental, Health and Safety Specialist, presented the Board with the Prospect Lake Aeration Project Update. This presentation included project goals; background; blue green algae affects on lakes; blue green algae blooms at Prospect Lake; lake aeration; aeration system lake benefits; water quality looking ahead; treatments for blue green algae; current nutrient levels; design 1 highlights; design 2 highlights; ultrasonic algae control; component comparison; effectiveness comparison; building design; Prospect Lake use comparison; Prospect Lake usage samples; Prospect Lake activation; communications plan; and finally, ongoing updates and the survey.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

Pikes Peak – America’s Mountain Update (Presented by Skyler Rorabaugh, Manager for Pikes Peak – America’s Mountain)

Skyler Rorabaugh, Manager for Pikes Peak – America’s Mountain, presented the Board with the Pikes Peak – America’s Mountain update. This presentation included the operations overview; Pikes Peak – America’s Mountain 2022 review and 2023 outlook; Term Special Use permit; ranger operations; 2021 versus 2022 numbers; 2022 totals; special events; administration operations; administrative overview; 2022 social media recap; 2023 marketing – celebrating 75 years; 2023 budget; 2022 expenditures versus revenue; Facilities Maintenance and Road Crew; completed projects; fire mitigation; 2023 Road Crew projects; fleet maintenance; 2023 large projects; projects completed in 2022 and 2023; special events; the Holiday Tree Program; Festival of Lights Parade; 2022 accomplishments; 2023 and beyond; North and South Slope

operations; monthly breakdown of the North Slope and South Slope; 2022 NSRA contacts; and finally, opening and closing dates for the North and South Slope.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

General Updates

Britt Haley, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, gave the following updates:

- Britt announced that Kim King was promoted to Assistant Direct for the Department.
- The job posting for the Design and Development Manager is up.

Board Business

Greg Thornton – Mr. Thornton expanded more on Kath Perry’s citizen comment about the Westside Community Center meet and greet. He stated there is an overwhelming desire from the citizens for expanded hours. Mr. Thornton added that the proposal process is open, and the next meeting will be to review proposals.

Andrea Perry – Ms. Perry asked about the status of the City Auditorium. Britt Haley, Director, said that staff is hoping to have another update on the business plan and current status in the near future.

Adjournment

Motion: Move to adjourn the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board meeting at 12:14 p.m.

1st – Larry Bogue, 2nd – Andrea Perry, Approved, Unanimously.