



**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board Virtual Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 14, 2024**

Members Present: Sarah Bryarly, Abby Simpson, Larry Bogue, Greg Thornton, Steve Lenzo, Amandla Atilano-Roque, Julia Sands de Melendez, Andrea Perry

Members Absent: Steve Harris

Alternates Present: Mike Sullivan, Debbie Swanson

Alternates Absent: Kimberley Sherwood

Staff Present: Britt Haley, Eric Becker, Kim King, Lonna Thelen, Anna Bingman, Connie Schmeisser, David Deitemeyer, Caroline Miller, Pat Gentile

Called to Order: Board Chair Sarah Bryarly brought the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. The meeting was conducted virtually.

Citizen Discussion

Mike Pach, citizen, lives adjacent to Jackson Park and had some concerns about pesticides being used in the park. Pesticide exposure is a major health concern. Mr. Pach advocated for the use of Beyond Pesticides, which are least-toxic alternatives. Additionally, he informed staff that Beyond Pesticides has a sustainable parks program, which will convert two parks for free to pesticide-free parks. Mr. Pach would like to meet with staff to discuss these options. Anna Bingman, Staff Assistant, said she would forward Mr. Pach's information to Eric Becker, Park Maintenance and Operations Manager, for a future meeting.

Carol Beckman, citizen, stated that the TOPS program had purchased land around the Rock Creek Mesa area adjacent to Cheyenne Mountain State Park. However, the purchased area does not have public access. Ms. Beckman asked staff to please work on providing access. Lonna Thelen, Design and Development Manager, stated she is working with the developer for potential access.

Susan Davies, Executive Director for the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), informed the Board that El Paso County Parks and Leisure are receiving pushback on their proposed Fox Run Park Visitor Center. Ms. Davies stated that the proposed plans for the nature center would actually add an acre to the park and convert one of the roadways in the park back to a natural area. Ms. Davies encouraged Board members to continue providing positive support for the proposed plan.

Cory Sutela, Executive Director for Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, echoed Ms. Beckman's earlier comments about public access to areas purchased with TOPS funds.

Steve Swan, citizen, thanked Britt Haley, Director, Cassie Melvin, Public Communications Specialist, and Anna Bingman, Staff Assistant, for their quick responses to emails and providing updates to questions and concerns of citizens.

Approval of Minutes – February 8, 2024 meeting minutes.

Motion: To approve February 8, 2024 meeting minutes.

1st – Julia Sands de Melendez, 2nd – Amandla Atilano-Roque, Approved, Unanimously, with Board Chair Sarah Bryarly and Board member Greg Thornton abstaining.

Action Items

Grey Hawk Park Master Plan (Presented by Connie Schmeisser, Landscape Architect II, and Kendrick Wyman, Professional Landscape Architect for the Architerra Group)

Connie Schmeisser, Landscape Architect II, and Kendrick Wyman, Professional Landscape Architect for the Architerra Group, presented the Board with the Grey Hawk Park Master Plan. This presentation included the project overview; themes and recommendations from the Park System Master Plan; neighborhood meeting #1; site analysis; opportunities and constraints; public feedback from meeting #1; public feedback from online survey #1; neighborhood meeting #2; Initial Concept A; Initial Concept B; Initial Concept C; Initial Concept D; public feedback from meeting and survey #2; play equipment types; play equipment type rankings; public meeting #3; final design; funding snapshot as of January 2024; and finally, next steps.

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Board member Greg Thornton asked if this item would move on to City Council for approval. Connie Schmeisser responded that it would not.

Board member Julia Sands de Melendez asked if the north side is a drainage, or if it will be an access point at some point. Kendrick Wyman answered that the consultants had looked at providing access there, but from the grading standpoint. The other challenge for access from that area is an existing storm sewer, which would need to be moved. Additionally, there is another access point close to the northeast side of the park. Next Ms. Sands de Melendez asked if there was public opinion on the choices for playground equipment. Kendrick answered that options were offered, but no pieces have been picked yet. The options offered at the public meeting were in budget, and the clear winner was nature themed.

Board member Andrea Perry commented that this will be a great amenity for the people living in the neighborhood.

Board member Amandla Atilano-Roque asked if all funding has been secured ahead of construction. Connie Schmeisser responded that it has been secured.

City Council President Randy Helms thanked Jayson Campbell from the Grey Hawk HOA for his support during the project, as well as staff. Council President Helms stated that this item had received a lot of support at the City Council Budget Session.

City Councilmember Michelle Talarico stated that she absolutely supported this master plan and is very happy to see it come to fruition.

Carol Beckman, citizen, stated that this master plan was fantastic after a long wait. She added that one advantage to a long delay to a master planning process is the ability to find comprehensive funding. Ms. Beckman stated that she would like to see the new Park Land Dedication Ordinance (PLDO) fees be used to purchase new parcels, though.

Susan Davies, Executive Director for TOSC, said she was pleased with the public process around this master plan. However, Ms. Davies encouraged the Board and staff to continue to find other methods of funding for parks, so processes don't take this long in the future.

Cory Sutela, Executive Director for Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, said he generally supports this master plan. Mr. Sutela echoed Ms. Beckman's comments about the use of PLDO fees.

Motion: To approve the Grey Hawk Park Master Plan as presented.

1st – Greg Thornton, 2nd – Andrea Perry, Approved, Unanimously.

Golf Course Irrigation Supplemental Appropriation (Presented by Kim King, Assistant Director, and Pat Gentile, Golf Course Superintendent)

Kim King, Assistant Director, and Pat Gentile, Golf Course Superintendent, presented the Board with the Golf Course Irrigation Supplemental Appropriation presentation. This presentation included the golf enterprise; current irrigation systems; new irrigation systems; turf grass reduction and irrigation design; funding challenge; funding plan; and finally, the funding plan summary.

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Board member Amandla Atilano-Roque asked why it has taken this long to replace the current irrigation systems. Pat Gentile responded that it was due to a lack of funding that is now available. Next, Ms. Atilano-Roque asked the reason for not taking a phased approach. Kim King answered that there are conditions associated to using the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funding, which has a specific timeframe. Projects using this funding need to be under contract by the end of 2024 and completed by the end of 2026. Finally, Ms. Atilano-Roque asked for clarity on the lease-purchasing finance approach. Pat answered that the funding will be through a five to seven year loan.

Board member Larry Bogue asked if the lifespan of the new system will be longer due to advances in technology. Pat Gentile responded that the new system should last at least twenty years, whereas old systems had a maximum lifespan of twenty years. Additionally, with the piping in the new system, the piping itself should not need to be replaced, just some other, smaller pieces. Finally, Mr. Bogue asked if the water at the courses was potable or non-potable. Pat answered that the water is non-potable.

Board member Julia Sands de Melendez said she was happy to see the reduction in the water footprint with the new system.

Board Vice Chair Abby Simpson stated that the turf-to-natural converted areas at the golf courses look fantastic.

Carl Beckman, citizen, stated that water savings are always a good thing, and appreciated the innovation in selecting the new system.

Motion: To recommend approval of the recommendation to City Council to approve a supplemental appropriation to the Golf Enterprise Fund in the amount of \$2,000,000 for a portion of the cost of replacing the irrigation system at Patty Jewett Golf Course.

1st – Steve Lenzo, 2nd – Greg Thornton, Approved, Unanimously.

Presentation Items

Rock Creek Mesa Land Use Plan (Presented by Caroline Miller, Senior Program Administrator, and Jason Alwine, Landscape and Community Planner with Matrix Design)

Caroline Miller, Senior Program Administrator, and Jason Alwine, Landscape and Community Planner with Matrix Design, presented the Board with the Rock Creek Mesa Land Use Plan. The two presentations included an overview of the property; project summary and site plan; the Park Land Dedication Ordinance (PLDO); PLDO obligation to be met; vicinity map; annexation;

zone change; land use plan; parks; park overall layout; conceptual park plan; Park Land Dedication; walkability; landscape and wildlife; and finally, site photos.

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Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) Supplemental Appropriation (Presented by Kim King, Assistant Director, and Eric Becker, Park Maintenance and Operations Manager)

Kim King, Assistant Director, and Eric Becker, Park Maintenance and Operations Manager, presented the Board with the Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) Supplemental Appropriation presentation. This presentation included the Conservation Trust Fund; new Toro mower; Palmer Park remediation; Grey Hawk Park; and finally, the funding plan summary.

[Link to Agenda Packet Here](#)

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

Kim King, Assistant Director, presented the Board with the Columbaria Platting at Evergreen Cemetery presentation. This presentation included Evergreen Cemetery; columbaria location; columbaria examples; and finally, an example columbarium schematic.

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Blodgett Open Space Master and Management Plan (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect, and Priscilla Marbaker, Principal at Tapis Associates, Inc.)

David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect, and Priscilla Marbaker, Principal at Tapis Associates, Inc., presented the Committee with the Blodgett Open Space Master and Management Plan. This presentation included background information on how master plans are informed; the purpose of the Master Plan; where we are in the process; Blodgett Open Space Master and Management Plan givens; USDA USFS Pikes Peak Ranger district givens highlights; presentation goals; site inventory; existing conditions; elevation, slope, aspect and vegetation; Bighorn Sheep habitat; habitat fragmentation; site assessment – key habitat areas; public engagement responses; public engagement framework; public engagement – by the numbers; summary of community input from the May 20, 2023 onsite event, Popup events, and August 22, 2023 community work session; community input continued; Alternative Concepts I and II presented at the August 22, 2023 work session; summary of community input on alternatives from the August 22, 2023 work session and 30-day online review; summary of

input on the draft Master Plan from the October 12, 2023 community work session; community input continued; draft Master Plan – wildlife corridors, trailheads, special use areas, and trail system; draft connectivity plan; summary of community input on draft plan from the October 17, 2023 community work session, 30-day online review, and email responses; summary of input on the public review plan; community input continued; public review of the draft Master and Management Plan; summary of input on the public review draft from the January 30-day online review, neighborhood focused meeting, and emails; the recommended Master and Management Plan; Master Plan Table of Contents and Appendix Table of Contents; plan overview; wildlife corridors and trailheads; wildlife corridors and existing social route network; trailheads; Chamberlain Trail, Park to Peak Trail and North/South Trail; neighborhood connections, trail hubs and special use areas; multi-use, single-use and directional trails; single-use hiking trails; multi-use, and mountain bike single-use and directional trails; trail loop options and connections from the North Trailhead; trail loop options and connections from the Quarry Trailhead; trail loop options and connections from the Orchard Valley Trailhead; recommended connectivity plan; integrating an adaptive management approach; adaptive management diagram; examples of potential adaptive management changes and process for changes; high priority projects; medium and low priority projects; and finally, next steps and upcoming public engagement.

[Link to Agenda Packet](#)

Staff Updates

New Staff Introductions/Staffing Update

Due to the meeting being conducted virtually, Britt Haley, Director, suggested providing this update at the April meeting.

Board Business

Larry Bogue – Mr. Bogue asked if adjustments were made to the hours of operation for the Manitou Incline. Britt Haley, Director, responded that there had been an accidental miscommunication in a press release that Incline hours of operations were being reduced, when just the hours of operation for the reservation staff have been reduced.

Julia Sands de Melendez – Ms. Sands de Melendez said that the LART Committee had evaluated off-cycle funding. There was about \$6,000,000 in requests with only about \$300,000 to be distributed. Ms. Sands de Melendez thanked fellow Board member Greg Thornton for volunteering to help evaluate proposals.

Greg Thornton – Mr. Thornton announced that the Westside Community Center Working Committee is hosting a “saleabration” on June 15, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Additionally, Mr. Thornton reminded the Board that a production of 12 Angry Men was also occurring at the Westside Community Center for the next few weekends.

Adjournment

Motion: Move to adjourn the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board meeting at 1:52 p.m.

1st – Larry Bogue, 2nd – Julia Sands de Melendez, Approved, Unanimously.