



**TOPS Working Committee Meeting**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, July 7, 2021**

**Members Present:** Bob Falcone, Blaze Panariso, Ingrid Richter, Bob Shafer, Paula Krantz, Hank Scarangella, Stephanie Surch

**Members Absent:** Michael Merrifield, Nancy Hobbs

**Alternates Present:** Wendy Thomas, Jeff Davis

**Parks Board Liaisons Present:** Carol Beckman, Greg Thornton, Jason Rupinski

**Staff Present:** Britt Haley, Kurt Schroeder, Karen Palus, Kim King, Anna White, Kelly Rajab, David Deitemeyer, Emily Duncan, Scott Abbott

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TOPS Working Committee Chair Bob Falcone brought the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

**Agenda Preview**

Committee Chair Bob Falcone announced the agenda for the meeting.

**Announcements**

Britt Haley, TOPS Program Manager, made the following announcements:

- Britt introduced Owen Rask, a Fellow working for the department from Colorado College. He will be helping the Administration Division with the Recreation Programming Plan, as well as other tasks this summer.
- Britt hopes this will be the last virtual meeting, and in-person meetings will resume in August.
- The Presidential Parks Sustainability Commission (PPSC) had their final meeting. Proposals made between those meetings and the Mayor and City Council retreat are under evaluation. Mainly, they are looking at modifications of the percentages. There is potential to open the categories.

Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, gave the following updates:

- Karen also alluded to the PPSC meetings and what has moved forward to the Mayor and City Council. She will be talking to the Mayor on Monday. Committee member Hank Scarangella informed the Committee that the Commission had agreed upon a 0.1% increase and a twenty-year extension. He said the real task now is finding the balance between acquisition and maintenance. However, percentages can always be changed later with another vote. Karen replied that the percentages have always been challenging and hopes this ballot measure will bring some much-needed flexibility to

them.

- Karen mentioned there may be a need for a special meeting for a consensus on the final official stance of the TOPS Working Committee.
- The “Then and Now” Exhibit at the 21C Library opens tomorrow night, July 8.
- The Sesquicentennial downtown celebration is on July 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Finally, Karen informed the Committee that this would be Parks Advisory Board Liaison Jason Rupinski’s last meeting, due to being term limited. She thanked him for his tremendous support of the TOPS Working Committee as a liaison.

### **Approval of Minutes** – June 2, 2021

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the June 2, 2021 TOPS Working Committee meeting.

1<sup>st</sup> – Blaze Panariso, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Paula Krantz, Approved, Unanimously

### **Citizen Discussion**

Susan Davies, Executive Director for the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), expressed her excitement about the TOPS Ballot Initiative moving forward. She did urge staff that if excess revenue comes in, to strongly consider putting it towards Boulder and Thorndale Parks. The Friends of Boulder Park have been engaged in the master planning process and could use some help.

Cory Sutela, Executive Director for Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, thanked staff for their continued work this summer. He said his organization had been collaborating with David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect, on work in the Austin Bluffs Open Space.

### **Presentation Items**

**Cheyenne Mountain State Park Annual Update** (Presented by Jason Hagan, Senior Ranger, Cheyenne Mountain State Park)

Jason Hagan, Senior Ranger for Cheyenne Mountain State Park, presented the Committee with the Cheyenne Mountain State Park Annual Update. This presentation included the park map; staffing; visitation and revenue; fire mitigation; new additions; and finally, the Dixon Trail Maintenance.

[Link to PowerPoint presentation here](#)

**TOPS Trails Projects Update** (Presented by Emily Duncan, Trails Development Coordinator)

Emily Duncan, Trails Development Coordinator, presented the Committee with the TOPS Trails Projects Update. This presentation included the TOPS Fund Summary and 2020 Estimated Fund Balance; the Legacy Loop work on the Rock Island Trail Segment, Mesa Creek Crossing, and Mesa Road Underpass; the Sand Creek Trail; the Ute Valley Regional Trail Phase I and Phase II; the Rock Island Trail; Other-Funded Trail Projects; and finally, closures and detours.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation here](#)

**Citizen Discussion**

Susan Davies, Executive Director of TOSC, said she had sent a picture of trail damage from the recent rainstorms to Scott Abbott, Regional Parks Supervisor, and his staff had cleaned up the trails very quickly afterwards. She asked if there was any other trail damage from the recent storms. David Deitemeyer responded that there was minimal damage, just some gravel washing on to concrete. If he becomes aware of any more damage, he will let Susan know. Susan's next comment was that as TOPS is discussed moving forward, that 3% for administration may not be enough, and encouraged the Department see if this number could increase so there is adequate staff to take on all of the projects down the line.

Committee Chair Bob Falcone thanked Jason Rupinski once again for all his help as a Parks Advisory Board Liaison.

Britt Haley informed the Committee that there would be no site visit for the month of July.

**Motion to adjourn**

1<sup>st</sup> – Blaze Panariso, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Paula Krantz, Approved, Unanimously