



**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 10, 2020**

Members Present: Ron Ilgen, Carol Beckman, Dr. Daniel Bowan, Abby Simpson, Larry Bogue, David Siegel, Jason Rupinski, Sarah Bryarly, Greg Thornton
Alternates Present: Andrea Perry, Lisa Weiland
Staff Present: Karen Palus, Kim King, Britt Haley, Anna White

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

Citizen Discussion

Alli Schuch, Watershed Outreach Coordinator for Creek Week, informed the Board about the upcoming Creek Week clean-up events. She thanked the City for their partnership and help with supplies for volunteers. She encouraged the Board members to get involved, as well as explained safety measures being taken during Creek Week in response to COVID-19. She said participants could register at www.fountaincreekweek.com.

Bill Beagle, a representative from the Incline Friends, expressed concerns about the current reservation system in place at the Manitou Springs Incline. He recognized the hard work on the City's behalf on both implementing the system to reopen the Incline, as well as for the work of the Incline attendants. However, his concern was a reservation system staying in place after the need for it as a COVID-19 response is gone. He said the Incline Board of Directors strongly opposed any reservation system, and would like to see it go away as soon as possible. Finally, he gave a shout out to Park staff for the completion of the Northern Incline Return Trail.

Susan Davies, Executive Director for the Trails and Open Space Coalition, echoed Bill's statements about the Incline. She said her organization had been continuing to encourage people to use the reservation system and inform them, but would like to see the reservation system go away completely.

Cory Sutela, Executive Director for the Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, informed the Board about the upcoming Pikes Peak Apex Bike race later this month. He said there was an upcoming volunteer workday for trail mitigation in Palmer Park, with needs identified by David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect. Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Director, added that the Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance had awarded a check for \$5,000 to the race organizers for their continue stewardship work in supporting the race.

Approval of Minutes – August 13, 2020

Motion – To approve the August 13, 2020 minutes.

1st – David Siegel, 2nd – Sarah Bryarly, Approved, Unanimously

Presentation Items

Public Land Dedication Ordinance (PLDO) Update (Presented by Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, and Chris Lieber, Principal at NES Landscape Architects)

Chris Lieber, Principal at NES Landscape Architects, presented the Board with the Public Land Dedication Ordinance (PLDO) update. This presentation included fundamentals of PLDO in agreement; guiding principles; areas of consensus; areas of continued dialogue; and finally, next steps.

[Link to PowerPoint presentation here](#)

Board members agreed on the areas of consensus moving forward. Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Director, said the task force will continue to work on the areas of continued dialogue and will continue bringing updates to the Board. The intent of the task force will be to bring a recommendation to the Parks Advisory Board in the future.

TOPS Reauthorization (Presented by Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager)

Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager, presented the Board with the TOPS extension update. This presentation included a recap of prior TOPS votes over three different voting periods; the value of stewardship and why TOPS is so vital to the City; the role of the Trust for Public Lands; and finally, a 2020 TOPS acquisitions update. Britt added that the Mayor had signed a letter for technical assistance as it relates to the reauthorization of TOPS.

[Link to PowerPoint presentation here](#)

Britt was joined by Conor Hall, Conservation Finance Director for the Interior Mountain West for the Trust for Public Land (TPL). Conor's presentation for the Board included information about TPL's conservation finance program; the two primary roles of the conservation finance program; key steps for successful ballot measures; the process and results of each key step; and finally, his contact information for anyone with additional questions.

[Link to PowerPoint presentation here](#)

Recreation Services Update (Presented by Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager)

Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager, along with facility supervisors, presented the Board with the Recreation Services update. This presentation included the Recreation Services division overview for financials in 2019 and 2020 year-to-date; information about the historic City Auditorium; a detailed look at each community center, including information about summer programming successes amid COVID-9; an overview of the Therapeutic Recreation Program; information about Sertich Ice Center and its programming; an overview of youth and adult sports; and finally, more about the response to COVID-19 throughout all programming.

[Linke to PowerPoint presentation here](#)

Manitou Incline Update (Presented by Gillian Rossi, Park Ranger Supervisor)

Gillian Rossi, Park Ranger Supervisor, presented the Board with the Free Incline Reservation (FIR) System update. This presentation included the timeline of the Incline closure due to an emergency declaration from Manitou; a picture of hikers climbing in protest of the closure; information about the public health ambassadors (also referred to as Incline attendants) and their training; information about the reservation software; and finally, usage figures from data collected both through the Incline attendants and the software. She added that the Incline attendants and the software are funded through the Cares Act and can stay in place with that funding as long as they are being used for COVID-19 response.

[Link to PowerPoint presentation here](#)

Multiple Board members expressed the concern that the reservation system be removed once COVID-19 impacts are done. Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager, said that existing agreements for the Manitou Springs Incline can be reevaluated. A formal request was made by Dr. Daniel Bowan to see COVID-19 impacts on the Incline, in regards to removing the emergency declaration and the reservation system. Karen said she would verify with our legal team how to move forward with that request, as the information would have to come from Manitou Springs, as they put the emergency declaration in place.

Staff Reports

Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Director, gave the following Covid-19 update:

- Karen said the Department would continue to follow public health guidance as the year continues.
- Summer was successful with programming through our Recreation Services division.
- Pikes Peak - America's Mountain is seeing an increase in visitors.
- Outdoor ice skating in Acacia Park has been approved by Public Health for this winter.

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

- All information has been submitted to the budget office and there will be a budget schedule presented next month.
- The Department saw a huge reduction in Conservation Trust Funds. \$1,200,000 of funding was lost, mostly from the maintenance budget. Kurt Schroeder, Park Operations Manager, is doing his best to work with funding we still have. The Budget Office is also working with us.

Board Business

Board Recommendation for Two Representatives for the Coleman Park Master Plan

Board members Sarah Bryarly and Abby Simpson volunteered to be the Parks Advisory Board representatives for the Coleman Park Master Plan.

Carol Beckman – Carol asked Britt about the status on filling the vacancies on the TOPS Working Committee. Britt said she had gone through the applications and was verifying residency.

David Siegel – David said that 3-on-2 meetings were being conducted with City Council members in regards to the Public Art Master Plan. There is also a LART meeting this afternoon.

Larry Bogue – Larry said he had participated in the Early Morning Hike and Bike at Garden of the Gods and had enjoyed the event.

Sarah Bryarly - Sarah asked if there would be a calendar contest this year. Karen Palus responded that there would be a calendar contest and information will be going out soon.

Adjournment

Motion: Move to adjourn the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board meeting at 11:23 a.m.

1st – Carol Beckman, 2nd – Sarah Bryarly, Approved, Unanimously