



**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes - FINAL  
Thursday, April 11, 2019**

**Members Present:** Jason Rupinski, Carol Beckman, David Siegel, Mina Liebert, Gary Feffer, Daniel Bowan, Michael Phan, Ron Ilgen

**Members Absent:** Hank Scarangella

**Alternates Present:** Abby Simpson, Greg Thornton, Sarah Bryarly

**Alternates Absent:** Lisa Wieland , Brooks Williams

**Staff Present:** Karen Palus, Britt Haley, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Christi Mehew, David Deitemeyer, Tilah Larson, Jody Sanchez-Skamarak, Matt Mayberry

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**Called to Order:** Board Chair Mina Liebert brought the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m.

**Citizen Discussion**

**Shanti Toll-** Friends of Red Rock Canyon (FoRRC ) Vice President, distributed the FoRRC newsletter. He requested to make a presentation to the Parks Board regarding a proposed trail in Red Rock Canyon at the July meeting. Park Staff said the trail can be built; however, should it be built. The trail is creating a missing link to the best short hikes in the park.

**Susan Davies** , Trails and Open Space Coalition(TOSC) Executive Director

- The “Meet and Greet” for the TOPS park rangers on Tuesday evening was great.
- The Friends of Ute Valley received the David J. Collas Community Service Award from the Colorado Springs Fire Department.
- The Friends of Peregrine received a \$1,000 grant from the Edmondson Foundation to support their efforts.
- The Friends of Boulder Park had a public meeting and are reviewing the comments they received regarding how to make the park better.
- TOSC polled their members regarding where E-scooters should be allowed. User groups are concerned about safety. 68% said they should not be allowed on trails and 85% said they should be on streets and roads. They would like signage and an education process for scooter users.

**Elizabeth Hudgens**, International Baccauaureate Coordinator at Midland Elementary School, stated their 5<sup>th</sup> graders have a presentation to share called “Access To Trails” and they would like the board to take action on accessing trails in the Colorado Springs area.

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

**Approval of Minutes** – February 14, 2019

Motion – To approve the February 14, 2019 minutes with proposed changes by Parks Board members Carol Beckman and Daniel Bowan. Carol Beckman stated the March minutes document needed to be corrected to reflect the March date in place of the February date. Daniel Bowan requested to add under the “Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Commercial Use” presentation item that commercial uses be tracked within Garden of the Gods and reported on a yearly basis. In addition, he requested to add to the “Garden of the Gods Restroom Update” that the design of the restroom’s overhang be pushed back and not go over the trail.

1st – David Siegel , 2<sup>nd</sup> – Ron Ilgen , Approved, Unanimous

**Ceremonial Items** (10:00 a.m. time certain)

National Volunteer Recognition Month

Kim King/Annette Proctor

\*This item has been moved to the May meeting.

**Action Items**

**Blodgett Open Space Interim Use Plan** (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The TOPS program successfully acquired approximately 64 acres of open space for the expansion of Blodgett Open Space. The property adjoins a portion of the southern border of the existing Blodgett Open Space. Parks Staff proposes the adoption of an interim use plan for the recently acquired parcels to accommodate appropriate public access and management for the property prior to a more robust public master and management plan process in the future.

The Parks Department with support from the Friends of Peregrine Parks and Open Spaces, initiated a planning process for an interim use plan for the recently acquired property. The goals of the interim use plan allow for the development of sustainable public access to the open space as well as providing management and operational guidelines for management of the resources. The plan accommodates the existing use and necessary access to the communication tower located on the property.

Additionally, the interim use plan includes the following:

- Trail Development – The plan proposes development of approximately 1,500 linear feet of trail.
- Trailhead Development – The plan proposes a gravel trailhead to accommodate space for 15 vehicles and serve as a designated interim trailhead for the new open space.
- Open Space Management – The newly acquired parcels are to be adopted into the Blodgett Open Space and will collectively be managed by the TOPS Ranger program as one cohesive open space. TOPS Ranger staff proposes to use the existing horse barn for their maintenance operation (for use as a maintenance facility). Further management

improvements include the repair of existing wire fencing along the east and south boundaries, placement of wayfinding and informational signage, erosion control and mitigation, invasive weed management and rogue trail monitoring and removal.

A neighborhood meeting was held on January 31, 2019 to present the interim use plan to the neighbors and provide an opportunity for public feedback. Based on the feedback received from the meeting, there was strong support for the interim use plan including additional parking for the open space. There were however, significant concerns about the trailhead being used after hours, including loitering, building of camp fires, trash dumping and other illegal activities. The public comments received expressed a strong desire for the Parks Department to gate and lock the trailhead when the open space is closed at night.

After discussion with TOPS ranger staff and other stakeholders, the decision moving forward is to not gate and lock the trailhead on a nightly basis. Parks staff would like to adaptively manage the parking lot to see if any issues and what kind of issues may develop before fully committing to manage the area by locking a gate nightly. Additional measures will also be taken to increase the Colorado Springs Police and private security patrols of the trailhead.

The TOPS Working Committee voted unanimously for the support and recommended approval of the Blodgett Open Space Interim Use Plan at their March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting.

Board member Jason Rupinski asked if the crosswalk by the parking lot will remain and David Deitemeyer replied yes.

Board member Ron Ilgen inquired if the placement of trees to hide the area from the neighborhood create a concern that it would increase illegal activities. David Deitemeyer replied the selected placement of trees is to help screen the area from the houses across the street. He showed the planting areas on the map.

Board member Daniel Bowan stated he appreciated the process and accommodating the neighbors' concerns.

Board member David Siegel asked what the timeline was for the development of a permanent plan for this area. David Deitemeyer said it is on the priority list. Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager, stated that staff is currently working on the 2020 budget and this plan will be considered some time beyond 2020.

Board member Michael Phan:

- Asked for confirmation if there are currently 19 parking spots that exist on the road that are being used. David Deitemeyer showed the current trailhead and parking lot on the map which should accommodate 15 parking spaces and the bike lane should be shifted so on street parking is available.
- Asked if there is a rule in regards to expanding the parking lot in the future. Physically there is room to expand the planned parking lot; however, that will depend on discussions with the neighbors in the area.

- Inquired if the neighbors highlighted any other concerns with the plan. David Deitemeyer replied yes. Both on the existing Blodgett Peak trailhead and the Blodgett Ranch Trail people are camping and leaving trash in the area.
- Asked about the long term maintenance of the area. David Deitemeyer said it will be incorporated into the operations of the TOPS Stewardship program.

Board member Carol Beckman:

- Asked which are the existing trails. David Deitemeyer responded at this time the department is allowing public access on the rogue trail network. The main road continues to the back to the western edge and at this point the department would like to provide a connection to the West Woodmen Trail and this will avoid having to go onto US Forest property.
- Inquired that when the map is posted which trails will be on the map. David Deitemeyer replied the main connection east to west will be identified; however, he has not gone into that level of detail yet with staff. Britt Haley, stated two will be identified for appropriate use: the current road that is being used and the other roads will be evaluated on this property for public use.
- Asked if the 15 parking lot spaces will be marked. David Deitemeyer replied they will be using landscape timbers.
- Stated at the TOPS Working Committee meeting committee member Lily Weissgold asked about the training for the security firm that works for the HOA in this area. David Deitemeyer stated he has not received an answer and will follow up on this matter.
- Asked if there is planning for an extension to the lot, will placement of the trees be appropriate. David Deitemeyer stated yes; however, the focus is to provide the short term benefit.
- Inquired if there is an opportunity to expand the parking lot prior to the master plan effort. David Deitemeyer said from a space standpoint yes.
- Asked for more detail on where the erosion issues are and the appropriate action taken. David Deitemeyer showed areas on the map that had flooding issues and said there are opportunities to do mitigation work in the drainage area. The department is currently working on this situation and wants to get the water to go into the watershed.
- Asked regarding the entrance and exit to the parking lot onto Woodmen Road if the department has talked to the traffic department. David Deitemeyer responded that they have not had in-depth conversations with them; however, these will occur during the master plan process. The community has worked with Public Works and City Council when traffic concerns have occurred. Britt Haley stated they informed Traffic Engineering, Public Works and City Council member Don Knight regarding the project. Carol Beckman heard that a left turn out of this area would be problematic. Britt Haley replied the sight line is good. There is more concern regarding the traffic going east bound on Woodmen and there has been a lot of community discussion regarding the parking lot entrance/exit. The City has a new traffic engineer, Todd Frisbie, that will be consulted.
- Stated a concern was fire mitigation; however, this area is not heavily populated with trees. David Deitemeyer replied that he toured the area with the City Forester, Dennis

Will. There could be some scrub oak mitigation and a vast amount of the area has steep slopes. This is hard to treat and can be expensive. There is not a lot that can be done but some opportunities have been discussed.

- David Deitemeyer stated communication regarding the improvements in the area will be handled through the Homeowners Association newsletter as well as announcements during their meetings.

Board Chair Mina Liebert asked if the Friends of Peregrine are working with the Peregrine Homeowners Association. David Deitemeyer replied they are all together as one group. Mina stated that some of the grant they received can go to support the security patrolling in the area.

Susan Davies , Trails and Open Space Coalition Executive Director

- Stated this is an excellent project and it was quickly completed.
- The neighborhood folks said they did not want bathrooms in the area which was an interesting choice. Possibly during the master plan process that decision might change.
- The mountain bike community has asked TOSC if the rogue trails that are there now will be left until the master plan process begins. David Deitemeyer said what is in the area currently will remain.
- Asked if the additional property and trails in this area add to our overall regional trail connectivity. David Deitemeyer replied technically no; however, future planning efforts may create opportunities.

Board member Ron Ilgen asked if the Peregrine Friends have adopted this plan. David Deitemeyer replied yes.

Motion: A motion to approve the Blodgett Open Space Interim Use Plan.

1st – Carol Beckman, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Michael Phan, Approved, Unanimous

**TOPS Appointment from Alternate to the TOPS Working Committee** (Presented by Britt Haley, TOPS Program Manager/Design and Development Manager)

TOPS Working Committee member Jim Klever has given notice to the TOPS Working Committee chairman that he is resigning from the Committee mid-term. Thus, a vacancy for the remainder of his term has arisen. Paula Krantz has served on the TOPS Working Committee as an alternate since September 13, 2018 and has indicated she would like to be a regular member.

Board Chair Mina Liebert stated Paula Krantz would be filling the rest of Jim Klever's term and have the opportunity for two additional terms.

Britt Haley, TOPS Program Manager stated that two TOPS Working Committee members' 2<sup>nd</sup> terms will expire this Fall. The committee will be looking for four alternates.

Board member Ron Ilgen suggested that when reappointment items come to the board it would be good for the committee member to be present at the meeting to answer questions.

Motion: Move approval of the appointment of Paula Krantz to the TOPS Working Committee to serve the remainder of Jim Klever's term from April 11, 2019 – September 2, 2020 as presented. 1st – Carol Beckman, 2<sup>nd</sup> – David Siegel, Approved, Unanimous

### **Presentations**

**Parks Department Annual Report** (Presented by Tilah Larson, Senior Grant Administrator)

- Presented the 2018 Annual Report to the board and highlighted certain areas.
- Thanked park staff that helped provide information for the report.

**Cemetery Update** (Presented by Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager, Jody Sanchez-Skamarak, Cemetery Supervisor)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

**City Nature Challenge Update** (Presented by Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Claire Swinford, Downtown Partnership Urban Engagement Manager stated they would like to participate in this event.

### **Staff Updates**

**Relocation of Trailblazer Art to America the Beautiful Park** (Presented by Matt Mayberry, Cultural Services Division Manager and Claire Swinford, Downtown Partnership Urban Engagement Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

### **Board Business**

Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director

- Michael Phan and Carol Beckman will be up for reappointment for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term. Please send her an email of interest.
- Three board vacancies will be available starting in August. She has sent emails to Park Board alternates requesting if they are interested.
- The positions of Chair and Vice-Chair will become available in August. Those members that are interested in these leadership roles please feel free to talk to Mina Liebert, Gary Feffer or Karen Palus.
- The following projects will need new board representatives:
  - The Protect Our Parks (POPS) Initiative needs two representatives. Hank Scarangella and David Siegel volunteered. Please attend the meeting on Monday, April 15 at 11:30 a.m. at the Mayor's office. She will forward the meeting request to them.

- The Lodgers Automobile Renter Tax (LART) Committee will need one representative. Board Chair Mina Liebert, current LART representative, explained the board and role of the representative. The following members expressed interest: Daniel Bowan, Michael Phan, Ron Ilgen and David Siegel.
- The TOPS Working Committee will need one liaison to represent the “open space” category to start in August. This position is appointed by City Council.
- The Active Transportation Committee will need one representative starting in August. Daniel Bowan volunteered.
- The Camp Creek Drainage project will need one representative. Carol Beckman volunteered.
- The Garden of the Gods Foundation representative will be the new Parks Board Chair that will be elected in July.
- The Historic Preservation Alliance needs one additional representative. Ron Ilgen volunteered.
- The Larry Ochs Sports Complex Master Plan will need two representatives. Carol Beckman volunteered.
- The 30<sup>th</sup> Street Renovation project will need one representative. Carol Beckman volunteered.
- The following are current project assignments:
  - Panorama Park Master Plan: Hank Scarangella and Mina Liebert. This project will come to the board in July as a presentation and action item.
  - Pulpit Rock Regional Park/Austin Bluffs Open Space/University Park Open Space Master and Management Plan: Carol Beckman and Jason Rupinski.
  - Acacia, Antler’s and Alamo Parks Master Plan: David Siegel and Michael Phan.
  - Park Land Dedication Ordinance: Hank Scarangella.
- Announced a Park Land Dedication Ordinance (PLDO) workshop including the Parks Board and Planning Commission will be held on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. here at Park Headquarters in the Open Space room. This item will come to the Parks Board for action.
  - Board member Daniel Bowan requested to attend the meeting online. Karen Palus said she would check to see if this was possible.
  - Board Vice Chair Gary Feffer stated there is a lot of information that will be presented and this discussion is long over due and vital to the Parks department.
  - Karen Palus stated:
    - She will send out the criteria and draft ordinance next week. Please take time to review the material and email any questions to her ahead of time so she can give them to the consultants.
    - The new ordinance is in alignment with the master plan which includes updating fees.
    - The Parks Board will be responsible to give recommendations regarding the new proposed ordinance.
    - Karen Palus stated PLDO funds have been used for many projects. Now the fees received will be designated for a specific project or area. Past

fees went into one account and was used for new park development. For example: John Venezia Community Park and portions of the Legacy Loop. Now there will be eight pots of funding that will have certain parameters and the process is complicated. This is the right way to approach PLDO; however, the department will most likely receive less land, less funds and now the money will be going into eight pots.

- Acreage is based on the level of service.
- She anticipates developers coming forward with creative ideas.
- Asked the board to pay close attention to the credits and criteria for the new proposed ordinance.

Susan Davies, TOSC Executive Director, stated that this still doesn't address the problem that parks are still not being developed. She asked the board to please bring this up during the meeting.

Board member Ron Ilgen requested that there be a preview session of the PLDO discussion.

- The Cottonwood Creek Bridge dedication will be on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 p.m.
- The Panorama Park project first public meeting will be held on Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. This item will be presented to the board during the July meeting.
- The Great American Clean-Up and Comcast Cares Day will be held on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at Hillside Community Center.
- The Swearing-In for the Mayor and At-Large City Council members will be held on Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Pioneer Museum. The alternate location is the City Auditorium in case of inclement weather.
- A seven million dollar Tabor retention item may go before the voters during the November election. The Parks department has been asked to provide a list of projects that need to be funded. This will be discussed during the City Council meeting in May.
- A golf video advertising the "Mayor's Cup" on Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> was shown to the board.

Jason Rupinski inquired about the construction being done at the North Cheyenne Canon parking lot near Mesa Road. Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager, replied that a contractor is performing this work. A controversy occurred in regards to cutting down a tree in the parking lot. City Forester, Dennis Will, had checked out this tree and it was diseased and needed to be removed.

#### Ron Ilgen

- Stated he will be on the review panel for the Pikes Peak Concessionaire RFP process.

#### Gary Feffer

- Asked if the department was still in discussions regarding the City Auditorium RFP process. Kim King stated the process is continuing and they are discussing next steps.



- Stated the Historic Preservation Alliance has not heard anything regarding the master plan. Board member David Siegel said the last meeting was nine months ago and the first chapter of the master plan received a lot of push back.

#### Daniel Bowan

- Stated at a past meeting a presentation was provided in regards to E-Bikes and it was helpful. He inquired if there will be any information provided regarding E-Scooters. Kurt Schroeder stated the department was considering to do a trial and to see the possible impact. Kurt will reach out to Scott Abbott, Regional Parks, Trails and Open Space Manager, to provide details.
- Asked about the FoRRC newsletter and their proposed trail request. Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager, stated that a presentation was given to the TOPS Working Committee in November of 2018 about taking a trail off the Red Rock Canyon Open Space Master Plan. Parks staff, from a resource management point of view, has stated this is not a good place for a trail due to past flooding and erosion that has occurred. Shanti Toll, FoRRC Vice President, feels the trail should be constructed as identified on the master plan. Shanti Toll stated in late 2018 that he needed more time and in January 2019 he conducted a site tour for the committee to see the proposed trail area. During the April TOPS Working Committee meeting Shanti Toll stated he was ready for a decision to be made and to move forward. Britt Haley anticipates this item to be on the next TOPS Working Committee agenda and she will then have more information on how the Committee would like to proceed. She has attended the last four FoRRC meetings to work on the communication with the friends group and provide updates.

#### David Siegel

- Inquired about the Garden of the Gods line workers event. He had received several comments of frustration about the utility poles being installed in the garden. Kurt Schroeder, Maintenance and Operations Manager, stated this was a Colorado Springs Utilities national event. They went through the Special Events process and the Garden of the Gods Foundation and Rockledge Ranch were involved in the planning. A permit was issued and there was a process they needed to follow to restore the area. David Siegel stated this raises the question as to what is a permit, especially regarding an event at Garden of the Gods. Kurt Schroeder replied the time of year the event is held is certainly important and a factor if it will be approved. Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, stated once the event was addressed on social media citizens understood. Kurt Schroeder said the event was monitored the entire time and the parks archaeologist was involved in the process. Staff is very pleased with the restoration efforts.

#### Carol Beckman

- Stated the North Cheyenne Canon connector trail is a nice trail and it now ends at the road near the picnic area. There is a trail on the other side of the creek and she assumes the plan is to have the connector to Helen Hunt Falls or the Columbine Trail be that trail. To get to the trail there is a crossing but no bridge. She asked if there is a plan to put a

bridge in this area. Britt Haley suggested she talk to David Deitemeyer who is the best resource for this project.

- Provided an overview on the following meetings: Austin Bluffs Master Plan; Leon Young Pavilion; and TOPS Working Committee.

#### Mina Liebert

- Thanked the department for sending the board invitations to events and asked the board to please put all meeting dates on their calendars.

Gary Feffer stated he attended the party for the Pioneers Museum accreditation process and it was very impressive. The museum will find out their status in six months. Only three percent of museums are accredited in the nation.

#### Mina Liebert

- Stated the accreditation process is a lot of work and time consuming. The party for the Pioneers Museum was a great event and it was nice to meet the site visit reviewers.
- The Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center hosted the event for the Pioneers Museum. The Center recently received a Social Impact Business of the year award.
- Stated they have selected fourteen youths to be on the Youth Advisory Council from the neighborhood that will help with the Panorama Park Master Plan process. The first public meeting is on Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. They are working with Stream that will be creating the master plan.
- Thanked staff for the volunteer appreciation gifts.
- Stated the TOPS Rangers “Meet and Greet” this past Tuesday evening was great and very informative and asked that staff send the presentation to board members that were not able to attend that evening.
- The Rocky Mountain Field Institute “Fund Your Fourteener” is scheduled for Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Pioneer Museum from 6:00 p.m – 8:00 p.m.
- The next public meeting for the “Re-Imagine Waldo Canyon” will be held on April 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Westside Community Center.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Waldo Canyon Community Workshop will be held on Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Westside Community Center Gym.
- The Nancy Lewis Memorial Tree Event will be held at Rockledge Ranch on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m.

#### Adjournment

Motion: Move to adjourn at 11:27 a.m.

1<sup>st</sup> – Carol Beckman, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Michael Phan, Approved, Unanimous