



parks · recreation · cultural services

**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes - FINAL
August 9, 2018**

Members Present: Jason Rupinski, Carol Beckman, Daniel Bowan, Ron Ilgen, Hank Scarangella, Mina Liebert, Gary Feffer

Members Absent: Michael Phan, David Siegel

Alternates Present: Brooks Williams

Alternates Absent:

Staff Present: Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Christi Mehew, David Deitemeyer, Tilah Larson, Scott Abbott, Annie Engen

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

Ceremonial Items (time certain 7:30 a.m.)

Guardians of Palmer Park (Presented by Scott Abbott, Regional Trails and Open Space Supervisor)

- Scott Abbott presented an award to John Hawk, Rob Spitzer and Brady Anderson for their support and time in renovating the Palmer Park Youth Camp Pavilion.

Citizen Discussion

Joel Marx, El Paso County Trail Coordinator, worked last Saturday with Alex Hladkyj from Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) on a connector trail at Red Rock Canyon Open Space. The group of 32 volunteers had to hike 2 miles to get to the site upon arrival. Park and RMFI vehicles along with tools were at the site. The 26th Street gate should have been open for volunteers so they did not need to do this hike and thus been more productive.

Kurt Schroeder, Parks Operations and Maintenance Manager, replied he will look into this situation and see what occurred.

Dan Downs, El Paso County Certified Crew Leader, stated his concern about the experience at Red Rock Canyon Open Space last Saturday. Volunteers are the most valuable resource and if trail building experiences are difficult for volunteers they might not come back.

Carl Schueler – stated he was here to give the board a quick update on the COS Plan comment process. The Planning Department has received a lot of comments on Chapter 7, Majestic

Landscapes. He will provide to the board a link so comments can be viewed. He will be back in September to ask for approval of the Parks Board.

Approval of Minutes – July 12, 2018

Motion – To approve the July 12, 2018 minutes.

1st – Hank Scarangella, 2nd – Jason Rupinski, Approved, Unanimous

Action Items

Blodgett Peak Open Space Acquisition (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The TOPS program, in coordination with the Trust for Public Land, seeks to acquire three parcels located directly south of the existing Blodgett Peak Open Space property for the TOPS program. These properties are identified by the 2014 Park System Master Plan as candidate open space properties. They offer beautiful mountain terrain with panoramic views of the City and would expand the Blodgett Peak Open Space property by just over one third of its current size. An acquisition through the TOPS program would further protect the City's mountain backdrop.

The City will enter into a contract to acquire the three parcels from the Trust for Public Land, contingent on the City's standard real estate due diligence review and City Council approval, for the updated appraised fair market value of \$768,500. Acquisition of the property requires an appropriation in the amount of the established fair market value plus \$10,000 from TOPS Open Space category revenue to purchase the property, and to pay for the City's portion of the costs associated with the ALTA survey, property appraisals, Phase I environmental survey, closing costs and recording fees.

The TOPS Working Committee considered this item at its July 11, 2018 meeting and recommended approval by unanimous vote.

Board member Jason Rupinski asked if the residual balance in the TOPS Open Space Category takes into account the recent acquisitions. David Deitemeyer replied this is the 2018 fund balance and is current as of the 2nd quarter, therefore the recent acquisitions are reflected in the balance.

Board member Hank Scarangella asked about parking in this area and stated a suggestion was made during the last meeting to consider the former horse barn area for parking. David Deitemeyer said this driveway is a great area and the most ideal location for access and parking; however, they still need to go through the master plan process to validate this location. He anticipates this to be completed early to mid-Fall.

Motion: Staff recommends approval of acquisition of up to 64 acres of property identified by tax schedule numbers 73000 00 481, 73000 00 483 and 73000 00 484 and approval to expend up to the established fair market value of the property of \$768,500 as updated along with the City's portion of the real estate transaction costs in the amount of \$10,000 from the TOPS Open Space category revenue.

1st – Jason Rupinski, 2nd – Hank Scarangella, Approved, Unanimous

Great Outdoors Colorado Grant Resolution – Panorama Park (Presented by Tilah Larson, Senior Grants Analyst)

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department seeks to apply for a Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Local Park and Outdoor Recreation grant. The \$350,000 grant application will assist with supporting new and improved park elements at Panorama Park. As part of the grant's requirements the City will provide a match of approximately \$100,000 from funding allocated to Panorama Park in the 2019 budget. The GOCO grant application, due in November, requires a resolution from City Council supporting the project.

In partnership with the Trust for Public Land and the RISE Coalition, the Department is engaging in a public planning process to identify opportunities for Panorama Park. The Department anticipates having a master plan approved by the Board later this year and will start seeking funding for planned construction in 2019.

Board Chair Mina Liebert stated an event was held by the RISE Coalition in July at Deerfield Hills in which they collected hundreds of surveys regarding the renovation and distributed free backpacks. A community event will be held on September 22nd in which the elements of focus for Panorama Park will be announced based on results of the survey.

Motion: Move to support the City's grant application to Great Outdoors Colorado for Panorama Park improvements.

1st – Carol Beckman, 2nd – Ron Ilgen, Approved, Unanimous

A handout was distributed to the Board announcing an Open House at the Hillside Community Center on Tuesday, August 21st at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will cover projects in the Hillside community, Community Development Block Grant programs and applications, and a discussion with Council members on homelessness issues.

Presentations

Ethics Training (Presented by Lisa O'Boyle, Parks Attorney)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Garden of the Gods Transportation Study Update (Presented by Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager and Annie Engen, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Intern)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

August 26th is the last day for the shuttle to run this season; however, the shuttle will be back to run during Labor Day weekend.

A community meeting will be held in the Fall to give information to the public about the program and to gather feedback.

Board Business

Carol Beckman stated that North Slope was being considered for winter use in 2014 and is this still a possibility? Kurt Schroeder replied at that time the department had some inquiries; however, after discussion with Colorado Springs Utilities and their concerns it has been pursued.

Ron Ilgen said the Summit House construction is underway. He inquired about the Garden of the Gods gates being installed and closing the park. Kurt Schroeder stated all gates will be installed within the next two weeks and then staff will work on locking them. The physical act of locking them is challenging with making sure there are no cars left behind the locked gates. Closing the park will help reduce the mischevious behavior that goes on in the evening hours. The department is aware of numerous accidents in the park and graffiti is on the rise.

Jason Rupinski stated the TOPS Working Committee did not have a meeting in August.

Hank Scarangella inquired about the Park Land Dedication Ordinance Workshop and thought it was a good idea. Christi Mehew replied it is being scheduled in September.

Mina Liebert

- Announced the Gift of History Breakfast will be held on August 23rd and begins at 7:00 a.m. at the Antler's Hotel. Hank Scarangella and herself are table captains and she encouraged board members to attend.
- Two individuals have been selected for the TOPS Working Committee as well as one alternate. The Parks Board will be considering these individuals for approval in September.
- The LART Committee has allocated the funds for the various 2019 organizations and will go through the budget process with more details being provided in November.
- There is an article on the front page of the newspaper about the Leon Young Pavilion. The event on August 21st at the Hillside Community Center will address this and starts at 5:30 p.m.
- They are still working on selecting three alternates for the Parks Board and interviews will be scheduled soon.

Daniel Bowan

- Stated the Mayor mentioned Park issues in a recent article in the Independent weekly newspaper. He said if the LART tax is increased Parks should be a part of this situation.

Mina Liebert said multiple conversations have occurred in regards to this over many years. Gary Feffer, Hank Scarangella and herself have been a part of these conversations for the last 1 ½ years. The Stormwater initiative was put forward to be on the ballot last year rather than a Parks initiative. The Trust for Public Land assisted in this effort by conducting a poll; however, it was not strong enough to surpass the Stormwater initiative. Hank Scarangella stated there are two issues: will the LART tax be increased and what should be done with the increase. Conversations have occurred in regards to where the money should be allocated. One suggestion was that the Colorado Springs Visitors Bureau (CVB) would continue to get two-thirds and what the CVB didn't get would be earmarked for features that generate revenue for the City which is the Parks Department. Mina Liebert said currently the Parks Department has to go through the same process as other applicants to receive funds.

- Requested that all City Park Master Plans be available online.

Adjournment

Motion: Move to adjourn at 9:16 a.m.

1st – Carol Beckman, 2nd – Hank Scarangella, Approved, Unanimous