



**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes - FINAL  
Thursday, August 8, 2019**

**Members Present:** Jason Rupinski, Carol Beckman, David Siegel, Daniel Bowan, Michael Phan, Abby Simpson, Greg Thornton

**Members Absent:** Sarah Bryarly, Ron Ilgen

**Alternates Absent:** Lisa Wieland

**Staff Present:** Karen Palus, Britt Haley, Kim King, Christi Mehew, Connie Perry, Carly Kobasiar, Eric Becker, Matt Mayberry

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**Called to Order:** Board Vice Chair David Siegel brought the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m.

**Citizen Discussion**

Chella DeMenza – Colorado Springs Horticultural Arts Society (HAS) representative, presented a PowerPoint that gave an overview of HAS and distributed an invitation to the Dedication of the Children’s Garden on Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC) Executive Director, stated at the TOSC July board meeting they voted on the POPS initiative. They agreed with the Parks Advisory Board’s recommendation to City Council which was the option that required a super-majority vote of City Council 6 to 3. In addition, they voted unanimously to approve the TABOR retention to go on the November ballot. TOSC will feature the TABOR projects in their newsletter up until the November election. The TABOR refund represents \$32.00 per household.

Board Vice Chair David Siegel introduced two new board members, Abby Simpson and Greg Thornton.

**Approval of Minutes** – July 11, 2019

Board member Carol Beckman stated the minutes from the second meeting that was held on July 11<sup>th</sup> for the Parks Advisory Board had not been posted. Christi Mehew replied she will follow up with the Web Team to have them posted.

**Motion** – To approve the July 11, 2019 minutes with spelling corrections provided by board member Jason Rupinski and percentage number corrections submitted by board member Carol Beckman.

**Motion by Carol Beckman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Greg Thornton, Approved 6 to 0, Jason Rupinski abstained.**

**Action Items**

**Recommendation to City Council the reappointment of Lisa Wieland as a Parks Board alternate for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board**

(Presented by Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director)

Karen Palus stated that the city code for Parks Board alternate terms have changed and is now three years instead of one year.

Board member Carol Beckman inquired about term limits for alternates and the City's website member list and format. Karen Palus responded she did not believe there were limits and the goal is to have alternates move up to be regular members. Christi Mehew stated she would follow up with City Council Administration in regards to updating the member list on the City's website and would see if the format can be changed to be more user friendly.

**Motion: Move approval of the reappointment of Lisa Wieland as an alternate to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term from 10/10/19 to 10/10/22.**

**Motion by Carol Beckman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jason Rupinski, Approved, Unanimous**

**Presentations**

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

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

**Enclaves at Mountain Vista Neighborhood Park Master Plan** (Presented by Connie Perry, Landscape Architect and Jon Romero, NES Consultants Project Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

**Special Events Update** (Presented by Carly Kobasiar, Special Events Supervisor)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

**SIMD (Special Improvement Maintenance District) Update** (Presented by Eric Becker, SIMD Administrator)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Karen Palus explained to the board the need to increase the service level in the Briargate SIMD area and some of the challenges going forward.

**Cultural Services Update** (Presented by Matt Mayberry, Cultural Services Manager)

Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC) Executive Director, asked if it is typical to

have the Arts under the Parks Department. Matt Mayberry stated that it is not unusual for the Arts to be under “parks” because this is the land where Art is exhibited; however, it is very unusual to have a lack of public funding for the Arts.

Board Vice Chair David Siegel stated Colorado Springs spends 6 cents for the Arts per capita and the City of Denver spends \$5.00 per capita for the Arts. The Lodgers and Rental Tax (LART) Advisory Committee is having conversations about supporting the Arts which is critical.

Matt Mayberry and Karen Palus both stated there are some different options to fund the Arts in Colorado Springs in the future. Karen Palus said that she has seen cities have 1% of all development projects go towards the Arts and this would be a way to bring our public art to a different level.

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

### **Board Business**

Carol Beckman provided an update on the August TOPS Working Committee meeting.

Michael Phan said the next Downtown Historic Parks master plan meeting will be on Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at the Pioneers Museum education room.

David Siegel stated that the Lodgers and Automobile Rental Tax (LART) committee finished allocations for 2020, which still needs to be approved by City Council. The meeting consisted of an interesting conversation about the Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance and if it should merge with Visit Colorado Springs and he believes this is not a good idea and more discussion will continue. He received an email about off-road bike tours in Garden of the Gods Park and doing e-bike tours. He feels this conflicts with the Garden of the Gods master plan, which specifically prohibits off-road bike tours and asked for a staff update. Karen Palus said the department is doing a pilot program to study e-bikes on trails. We implemented the program in response to the Foothills Trail being closed which limited our contractors already scheduled tours. We wanted to give them another option and evaluate the guided tours in the garden. We worked with the Visitor and Nature Center and Amp’d Adventures on this effort. These are monitored and controlled to assess user conflicts and potential damage/lack of damage produced by e-bikes so they can make good decisions and bring recommendations to the board. The City is also working with the legal department on new policies for e-bikes and e-scooters.

Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC) Executive Director, stated TOSC is also receiving questions in regards to this situation. A real concern is when residents have e-bikes and cannot use them on trails; however, people can join a paid bike program/tour and use them on trails. This portrays a double standard and presents problems. Karen Palus said she anticipates a recommendation within two months once the data is received.

Karen Palus stated there are many groups with strong opinions regarding e-bikes being allowed on trails. The department is in the process of checking with other areas and inquiring about

their policies. We are doing the pilot program because it is something we can monitor and control for good data.

Lisa O'Boyle, City Attorney assigned to Parks, said many people are interested in getting some answers soon on e-bikes and e-scooters; however, it is hard to promise a timeline.

Board member Daniel Bowan expressed concern that this is the first time he has heard about this situation and he's surprised that it didn't come to the board to receive feedback. He thought there was a policy that e-bikes were not allowed on trails and it doesn't seem valid to him to go against the master plan. Karen Palus stated they were adapting to a situation that came up very quickly due to the Foothills Trail being closed. They worked with the Visitor and Nature Center and put a pilot program in place to get information to make good decisions.

Board Vice Chair David Siegel stated this illustrates the opportunity to find a way to adapt the master plan because things change and our master plan needs to be adaptable. He wishes there was a way this decision could come to the board rather than having a pilot program that contradicts the master plan.

#### Karen Palus

- Distributed a PowerPoint that will be presented to City Council next week on the Protect Our Parks (POPS) initiative. She gave an update on the last City Council meeting in regards to this initiative. City Council brought forward two additional options for consideration. The first option is that any land exchange transaction beyond the park exception list would require a vote of the people. Option two would require a super majority vote of 6 to 3 by City Council of any land exchange transaction beyond the park exception list. Option three is a select number of regional parks that would require the vote of the people and the other parks would be subject to a super majority vote of 6 to 3 by City Council. One of these options, if City Council chooses, could move forward as a ballot item for the November election. She encouraged board members to attend the August 12<sup>th</sup> City Council work session to express their concerns/opinions and asked for their feedback.
  - Board member Jason Rupinski stated he has concerns about option one "vote of the people" when Parks Board and City Council serves the public and separate boards should be enough to think through what is in the best interest of the City. He is concerned about the financial aspect, the time involved and that this option can bind the hands of people who are trying to make a transaction happen.
  - Board member Daniel Bowan said he does not support option 2 or 3. The Save Cheyenne group drafted this initiative and now its been changed and steered in a different direction. This was not the intent of Save Cheyenne and it doesn't seem right for it to move forward.
  - Board Vice Chair David Siegel stated he feels Daniel Bowan's comments are valid and he should address City Council.

Karen Palus announced that on Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup> the City Council meeting will include: Sertich Ice Center and more discussion on the POPS initiative. On Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> the City Council will vote on POPS, the TABOR revenue retention and 2C. She will share the board's comments on the POPS initiative with City Council.

She encouraged board members to attend the meeting and/or email City Council with their thoughts on these items.

### **Adjournment**

**Motion: Move to adjourn the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services meeting at 10:45 a.m..**

**Motion by Carol Beckman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michael Phan, Approved, Unanimous**

### **Closed Executive Session**

*In accord with the City Charter Art. III, §3-60(d) and the Colorado Open Meetings Act, C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4) (a, and e), the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board, in Open Session, is to determine whether it will hold a Closed Executive Session. The issues to be discussed involve receipt of legal advice and determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations and instructing negotiators regarding a land acquisition matter. The Chair shall poll the Park and Recreation Advisory Board members, and, upon consent of two-thirds of the members present, may hold a closed executive session. If consent to the closed executive session is not given, the item may be discussed in open session or withdrawn from consideration.*

Presenter: Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager

David Siegel, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board Vice Chair, stated that In accord with the City Charter Art. III, §3-60(d) and the Colorado Open Meetings Act, C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4) (a, and e), the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board, in Open Session, is to determine whether it will hold a Closed Executive Session. The issues to be discussed involve receipt of legal advice and determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations and instructing negotiators regarding a land acquisition matter. The Chair shall poll the Park and Recreation Advisory Board members, and, upon consent of two-thirds of the members present, may hold a closed executive session. If consent to the closed executive session is not given, the item may be discussed in open session or withdrawn from consideration.

David Siegel, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board Vice Chair polled the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board regarding the desire to proceed with a Closed Executive Session. At least two-thirds of the Board agreed to proceed in Closed Executive Session.