



**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes - FINAL
June 14, 2018**

Members Present: Jason Rupinski, Carol Beckman, Daniel Bowan, David Siegel, Ron Ilgen, Michael Phan, Hank Scarangella, Mina Liebert

Members Absent: Gary Feffer

Alternates Present: Brooks Williams

Alternates Absent:

Staff Present: Karen Palus, Britt Haley, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Christi Mehew, David Deitemeyer, Matt Mayberry, Kelly Rajab

Called to Order: Board Vice Chair Gary Feffer brought the meeting to order at 7: 33 a.m.

Citizen Discussion

Rebecca MacNamee, President of Friends of Cheyenne Canon (FOCC), stated that the FOCC agreement with the Parks Department in regards to the North Cheyenne Canon Master and Management plan is a part of the legislative record. The last Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting was great and hopes on items of interest regarding the master plan that everyone can learn from this experience. FOCC will continue to meet and move forward with the City of Colorado Springs.

Cathie Bailie, Co-Chair of the Friends of Boulder Park thanked the Board and especially Gary Feffer for his help with researching the no smoking policy. Also, thank you to Kurt Schroeder, Karen Palus, Britt Haley, Christi Mehew and Susan Davies. A meeting was held between Amy Porter, Britt Haley, Kim King and herself in regards to partnering to make improvements in Boulder Park and they look forward to more meetings in the future.

Ron Essex, a Friends of Boulder Park member stated the park has gone through some hard times and improvements have been made. The trees in the park are a problem and vulnerable due to the drought. He would like to see the park have sustainable trees in the future and is asking the Board for their support. Mina Liebert encouraged him to keep in contact with Kurt Schroeder and Britt Haley.

John Graves, citizen representing the Neighborhood Watch of 36th street said High Point is a problem due to trash, smoking, drinking and after hours use. He is asking the Board to enforce the “no smoking” policy in the park, put signs where people can see them, enforce closing time and close the gates. Safety is a large concern. Please take action now and not in future.

Hank Scarangella stated he has gone to a neighborhood watching meeting. Neighbors are afraid to walk from this neighborhood to the overlook due to the drugs, drinking and general bad behavior. They do not feel safe to enter the area even during the day. Kurt Schroeder was in this meeting and solutions were discussed. These are legitimate concerns that are being addressed.

Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC) Executive Director, stated they are concerned about the trail connections into our parks and safety. This evening a Town Hall meeting will be held at City Hall from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. regarding the Creekside Camping Ordinance. The proposed ordinance would restrict camping within 100 feet of a public stream. TOSC Board has not taken a stance yet on this issue but will after further discussion. They are concerned about the safety of trails that are along the creeks. Also, the public needs to be attentive when smelling smoke due to fire concerns.

Approval of Minutes – May 10, 2018

Motion – To approve the May 10, 2018 minutes.

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

Action Items

Colorado College Proposed Modifications to Historic Medians (Presented by Katie Whiteford, NES Landscape Architects)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

- Chris Lieber, NES Principal made a presentation to the Board last month and that she is here today to provide an overview of the project, answer questions and ask for your approval.
- The project will be completed based on the City's approval process and they hope to start this summer on the project.
- They are trying to restrict the locations where students walk by having fewer crosswalks and installing intentional landscape to make it safer. Visibility has been an issue in regards to safety and fewer crosswalks will be a big improvement and traffic engineering has made these recommendations as well.

Motion: Move to approve the proposal submitted on behalf of Colorado College, as part of its pedestrian safety improvement plan, to modify the historic medians at Cascade Avenue and Nevada Avenue between Uintah Street and Cache La Poudre Street.

1st – David Siegel, 2nd – Michael Phan, Approved, Unanimous

2019 Capital Improvement Project Recommendations (Presented by Kelly Rajab, Park Financial Analyst)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Britt Haley said due to the discussion during the TOPS Working Committee meeting staff proposed the following alternatives:

- Alternative 1 – Open Space stewardship rangers 4 additional TOPS Rangers
- Alternative 2 = Open Space Wayfinding installation, additional funding

The TOPS Working Committee moved to approve the proposed 2019 TOPS funded projects on June 6, 2018 with the modification of an additional \$100,000.00 to be added to the Open Space Wayfinding Installation project.

Board member Michael Phan asked Karen Palus to share the discussion that took place during the last TOPS Working Committee in regards to balancing acquisitions and maintenance. Karen Palus stated some members focus on the acquisitions. The department has not funded the acquisitions that have taken place for maintenance. Several things have changed over the last twenty years and the master plan goal is to take care of the properties acquired. As a Director she finds this difficult as the department needs more money and many City Council members have stated if the department cannot take care of it do not acquire additional property.

Board member Daniel Bowan asked board member Jason Rupinski to summarize the TOPS Working Committee meeting. Jason stated members debated the merits of stewardship and a key concern was park rangers having boots on the ground and taking care of the properties. Some panic was alleviated as significant revenue is still coming in and dedicated to purchase land; however, it was felt that the department can do both after getting over the initial sticker shock. The Committee majority was in support of the budget overall and saw the benefits and value. Kurt Schroeder provided a great chart showing how many rangers the department currently has and what properties they cover and it was shocking to see the lack of coverage.

Board member Carol Beckman said the Parks Department recommendation was 4 additional rangers and a motion was made to add 2 instead of 4 and increase the wayfinding package by \$100,000. This motion failed 2 to 6. Another motion was made to add 8 rangers and increase the wayfinding package to \$100,000 and it failed 2 to 6. The last motion was a balance of both which was to accept the departments recommendation of 4 additional rangers and to increase the wayfinding package by \$100,000. This motion passed 7 to 1.

Board member Hank Scarangella asked is their standards. Kurt Schroeder stated the open space properties have different prescriptions that need to be applied. What the department needs to do is very different with each property and some receive more visitation than others. Karen Palus said there are benchmarks that exist from the Master Plan.

Board member Hank Scarangella suggested that the department have some benchmarks to determine how much money it takes to maintain these properties and a stated requirement that needs to be achieved. Karen Palus replied they are working on a proposal to have an organization assess all of the department's assets and what is needed to bring everything to an

appropriate level to be sustainable. This will aid in the renewal of the TOPS sales tax in the future. Hank Scarangella said this would be helpful.

Board member Daniel Bowan shared concern that the Forestry budget might be too low. Karen Palus replied that Dennis Will, interim City Forester will use this money towards receiving matching grant dollars. She has spoken with him and it is a capacity issue right now and he felt comfortable with the funds allocated for his division in 2019.

Board member David Siegel asked for clarification of the maintenance portion of the sculpture budget. Kelly Rajab replied the department does an assessment every other year and when maintenance is needed the Conservation Trust Fund is used. Matt Mayberry, Cultural Services Division Manager stated that when the City is donated public art they are required to contribute to a fund for maintenance. The department asks for 10 percent of the value of the piece. This money goes into a trust fund and is held there. He considers the gift trust as an emergency fund for major structural problems. Over time those dollars accrue and are attached to each specific sculpture. The \$15,000 CIP budget is for on-going routine maintenance. David Siegel stated he would like to have a benchmark. Matt Mayberry replied a master plan will be coming in the near future and he hopes funding mechanisms will be covered.

Board member Hank Scarangella said there is a practical perspective to this and who will the rangers report to and can they handle the additional staff. Kurt Schroeder replied that the Park Ranger Supervisor is John Stark. He has an incredible background and can handle the extra staff and the quality and background of the rangers is impressive as well.

Board member Michael Phan stated it seems like the department is way behind in staffing for rangers and how can the department be promoted to show they are using all their resources. Karen Palus replied that is why the conversations have gone from having 4 rangers to 8. Garden of the Gods has 2 rangers currently. The department is on its third year of producing an annual report which shows all the department accomplishments. They are distributed to our friends groups and advocacy groups and on the City's website. The report has been successful with donors and shows what the department has put into action.

Karen Palus stated the Leadership Team just had a meeting off site to work through the department's strategic plan and what has been achieved. The report is being finalized and she will bring it to the Board in August with the action plan that was implemented and an update.

Board member Carol Beckman inquired about the Sand Creek Trail bridge project and the coordination with other departments. Britt Haley said she has kept an eye on this one to make sure traffic engineering designed tall enough infrastructure to accommodate a trail bench underneath. This process worked out well and resulted in meetings with Water Resources and instituted some cross departmental coordination. She also meets with the City's Bike Planner once a month to keep the communication on-going between departments.

Susan Davies ,TOSC Executive Director said to keep in mind you heard from Boulder Park today and how the Parks Department has helped them. Maybe a small fund could be created that friends groups and neighborhoods could contribute to for improvements. Also, groups can be encouraged to come forward with project ideas. Projects that are underway or completed need to be highlighted. What isn't getting completed? Increasing the number of rangers will help; however, what will be accomplished with the additional 4 to 8 rangers? She would like to know the total dollars needed to complete the Legacy Loop project.

Motion to accept the CIP budget as presented and to add both alternative 1 and 2.

1st – Michael Phan, 2nd – Ron Ilgen

Board member Ron Ilgen stated that possibly the ranger staff should be increased to 6 instead of 8.

Board member Michael Phan stated it's important to recognize that park staff has said there is a need and many discussions have taken place about maintaining our properties.

Board Chair Mina Liebert asked if 6 rangers are considered can the department overlap staff to cover weekends. Kurt Schroeder said the overlap would happen with 4 rangers and with 6 there would be even more coverage. These are valuable properties that need boots on the ground and need a presence. This is a fiduciary responsibility.

Board member David Siegel stated he philosophically agrees with Michael Phan but it is important to look at the TOPS Working Committee recommendation and would the Board be setting a precedent if they changed the recommendation. Board member Carol Beckman said conversations at the TOPS meeting was in regards to this balance and members had split feelings. Some focused on maintaining the properties and others focused on saving money for acquisition purposes.

Motion to approve the CIP Budget as presented to include alternatives 1 and 2. Motion failed with a vote of 1 to 6

Yays – Michael Phan

Nays – Ron Ilgen, Hank Scarangella, Mina Liebert, Daniel Bowan, David Siegel, Carol Beckman

Motion to approve the CIP Budget as presented with modifying alternative 1 to add 2 additional park rangers instead of 4 and add alternative 2.

1st – Ron Ilgen, 2nd – Michael Phan, motion passed 6 to 1.

Yays - Ron Ilgen, Michael Phan, Hank Scarangella, Mina Liebert, David Siegel, Carol Beckman
Nays - Daniel Bowan

Supplemental Appropriation for Bancroft Park Restrooms (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The Parks Department is seeking approval of a supplemental appropriation of \$300,000 from the Park Land Dedication Ordinance (PLDO) funds to fund the construction of the new restrooms and new playground in Bancroft Park, as identified in the 2017 approved Bancroft Park Master Plan. The current available PLDO fund balance totals \$830,901.

Motion: Move approval of a supplemental appropriation from the Park Land Dedication Ordinance (PLDO) fund balance in the amount of \$300,000 for Bancroft Park.

1st – David Siegel, 2nd – Carol Beckman, Approved, Unanimous

Ceremonial Items

Pikes Peak Greenway Trail - Colorado Springs Utilities (Presented by Jake Butterfield, Construction Project Specialist)

Special recognition was given to Kyle Hinton from Colorado Springs Utilities for the new trail they installed on the Pikes Peak Greenway.

Presentations

Lizard Leap Park Master Plan Update (Presented by Connie Perry, Landscape Architect II and John Maynard, Classic Homes Representative)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Classic Communities requests approval of the proposed amended Lizard Leap (10.0 Acre) Neighborhood Park Master Plan design. The park is located southwest of Hwy 83 and Flying Horse Club Drive and will sit just west of the planned Powers Blvd extension. The park was first presented and approved in March 2015.

Lizard Leap Neighborhood Park is to be developed in conjunction with the single family lot construction associated with Parcels 3, 4, 5A, and 5B, now known as Milan, Torino and Palermo.

Patrick Rafferty, citizen who lives in the area, said Flying Horse does a great job with maintenance and the changes put forth today are what the community expects. This comes down to keeping the natural landscape which is part of the plan.

Susan Davies, TOSC Executive Director stated knowing that trails are important to the community and the focus is on improving the quality of the park, consideration should be taken into account to push the trail up in priority for construction sooner rather than later.

The Farm (Presented by Connie Perry, Landscape Architect II and Cody Humphries, La Plata

Communities)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The Farm consists of approximately 475 acres of land between Interstate 25 and Voyager Parkway, located on the west side of Voyager Pkwy at Ridgeline Drive. The Farm Land Use Master Plan was originally approved in 2004 with annexation of the property. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board last took action on this Master Plan in December 2017. This last Master Plan maintained the original 50 foot trail corridor along Black Squirrel Creek (approx. 14.57 ac) with multiple park sites creating a linear park concept totaling 17.80 acres.

Staff will come before the Board next month asking for approval of the three parks presented today.

Corral Bluffs Expansion Acquisition (Presented by Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

This item provides the opportunity for the TOPS program to acquire, manage and protect over 220 acres of property located in the heart of the existing horseshoe shaped Corral Bluffs Open Space. Additionally, it offers access from the existing Corral Bluffs property to State Highway 94.

The City is under contract to acquire Parcel 1 and Parcel 2, contingent on City Council approval, for the appraised value of \$1,046,000. Acquisition of the property requires an appropriation in the amount of up to \$1,078,000 from TOPS Open Space Category revenue to purchase the property, provide fencing to secure it and to pay for real estate transaction costs such as the ALTA survey, property appraisal, closing costs and recording fees.

Staff recommends approval at the July meeting of acquisition of up to 223.25 acres of property identified by tax schedule numbers 44000 00 016 and 44000 00 506 and approval to expend up to \$1,078,000 for the land acquisition and transaction costs from the TOPS Open Space Category revenue.

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

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Board member David Siegel asked why the Board is called the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board versus the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board. Karen Palus confirmed that the name has been changed and Christi Mehew, Administrative Technician will look into changing the name on agenda's and the City's website.

2019 Fees & Charges (Presented by Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department is recommending fees and charges for the 2019 calendar year that pertain to the Department's programs and services. Proposed changes to General Fund fees and charges are highlighted in yellow in the attached Exhibit A.

The proposed fee schedule will generate an estimated \$69,452 in fee revenue. The proposed 2019 fees and charges are necessary to support Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services programs, facilities and services at the level identified in the 2019 budget.

Board member Carol Beckman inquired about visitation numbers for the North and South Slope areas. Kim King stated Pikes Peak America's Mountain (PPAM) will be overseeing the North and South Slope operations for this summer. Sandy Elliott is working on an analysis and a report will be completed at the end of the season. A decision will then be made after the season if it will be a separate fund or part of the enterprise budget. Kim King will have Jody Krisko run a report in regards to visitation numbers of the South Slope area and provide it to Carol Beckman.

Board Business

Board Chair Mina Liebert stated there are two Parks and Recreation Advisory Board reappointments, Jason Rupinski as a member and Brooks Williams as an alternate.

Jason Rupinski – 2nd term for 3 years
Brooks Williams – 2nd term for 1 year

Motion to reappoint Jason Rupinski for a 2nd term for 3 years and Brooks Williams for a 2nd term for 1 year as an alternate to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

1st – Ron Ilgen, 2nd – Hank Scarangella, Approved, Unanimous

Mina Liebert shared that she currently has a list of candidates that have applied for alternate positions with the Board and they will be moving forward with the interview process.

Christi Mehew announced there are 2 TOPS Working Committee positions open and to please have candidates submit their applications by July 20th.

Michael Phan said he had to opportunity to explore the future Dixon Trail with Medicine Wheel and several Colorado Park and Wildlife representatives. Mitch Martin, from Cheyenne Mountain State Park, offered to take other members of the board and staff to tour the trail and park if desired.

Mina Liebert stated there is a LART meeting this afternoon and they will be reviewing multiple applications for 2019.

Adjournment

Motion: Move to adjourn at 12:54 p.m.

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