



**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes - FINAL
March 8, 2018**

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

Members Absent: Hank Scarangella

Alternates Present:

Alternates Absent: Brooks Williams

Staff Present: Karen Palus, Britt Haley, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Christi Mehew, Connie Perry, David Deitemeyer, Tilah Larson, Jay Hein, Pat Gentile, Jody Sanchez, Jack Glavan

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

Citizen Discussion

Jim Coonradt, member of Cottonwood Disc Golf Club, provided an update on the club and upcoming events.

Al Gonzalez, citizen, requested that the Parks Department find money in the budget for maintenance at Valley Hi and Patty Jewett golf courses. He would like to see a long-term fund established for the future. Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager, explained due to deed restrictions each golf course is restricted to the revenues received from their respective course.

Cory Sutela, President of Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, thanked the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and Park Staff for their support and interest in E-Bikes.

Approval of Minutes – February 8, 2018

Motion – To approve the February 8, 2018 minutes.

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

Action Items

Medal of Honor Memorial (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

- The Memorial Park Master Plan identifies specific areas for the development of future memorials within Memorial Park. The City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and

Cultural Services Department has received a request from the American Legion Post 5 to erect a memorial to recognize the Medal of Honor recipients from El Paso County Colorado. To date there are three individuals from El Paso County Colorado who have received the distinguished Medal of Honor.

- The American Legion Post 5 has completed the conceptual design and successfully fundraised \$10,000 for the proposed memorial. The American Legion Post 5 has committed to the maintenance and care for the memorial.
- A dedication will be held on Sunday, May 27th at 1:00 p.m. at the War Memorial at Memorial Park.

Motion: Approval of the addition of the Medal of Honor Memorial at the Memorial Park War Memorial.

1st – Carol Beckman, 2nd – Jason Rupinski, Approved, Unanimous

Rock Creek Canyon Parcels (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

- The TOPS Working Committee has identified the 40-acre Watkins property and the 31.22-acre Snell property, located adjacent to Cheyenne Mountain State Park and along Rock Creek, as having open space values that merit preservation. Acquisition of the properties would serve as an extension of Cheyenne Mountain State Park, provide future trail access for the Cheyenne Mountain Heritage Trail, and connect Cheyenne Mountain State Park to Rock Creek.
- The acquisition of the Watkins property and the Snell property will require funding of \$281,500 from the TOPS Open Space Category.
- This area has been identified on the Parks System Master Plan as a candidate for Open Space.
- The Colorado Parks and Wildlife will be responsible for management, operations and maintenance of the property.
- Public access will be via Cheyenne Mountain State Park.
- Management and maintenance access will be via the existing Rock Creek Corridor easement.
- An additional easement will be conveyed to the City for maintenance and management purposes on an adjacent property.

Board member Ron Ilgen asked how far the Canyon Trail is open in this area. David Deitemeyer explained it's a public roadway up to a certain point and showed the trail on a map. He also stated that easements are provided up to this area for maintenance staff.

Vice Chair Gary Feffer shared concern that the project is still being negotiated so elements of this deal could change; however, staff is asking for approval now. Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager stated she felt strongly about this parcel and the fair market value of the property. She would not bring the project to the board if it was not

consistent with other projects and felt the owner would not go beyond the parameters outlined.

Susan Davies, Executive Director of the Trails and Open Space Coalition, stated this is a great opportunity and a great example as to why the TOPS program exists. She thanked the Board for their support.

Cory Sutela, President of Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, stated he supports this project and is happy to work with the City and Cheyenne Mountain State Park.

Motion: A motion to recommend approval on the acquisition of the 40-acre Watkins property and the approximately 31.22-acre Snell property and the road easement as an extension of Cheyenne Mountain State Park in the amount of \$281,500 from the TOPS Open Space Category.

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

Dixon Trail Easement (Presented by Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

- This project seeks approval for the TOPS Program to acquire a trail easement of approximately 7.04 acres valued at \$16,270. The purchase price will be divided equally between the TOPS Program and the Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park.
- This project provides a trail connection to complete the Dixon Trail.
- Without the easement this area poses a tremendous challenge due to it being very steep and rugged.

Cory Sutela, President of Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, supports this partnership and shared Medicine Wheel Trail Advocate’s position that bicycles should be able to ride on this trail. Mr. Sutela stated that Senator Mike Merrifield agrees with this position. Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates would contribute \$10,000 to the maintenance of the Dixon Trail if bikes are allowed.

Pat Cooper, President of Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park, stated she is thrilled with this trail connection. The Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park held a fundraising event called the “Cheyenne Mountain Run” to help build the Dixon Trail and raised \$28,000. She thanked the Board for their support.

Susan Davies, Executive Director of the Trails and Open Space Coalition, stated trail easements in the past haven’t been used to make these connections. This is a great new tool to use to accomplish goals.

- Britt Haley commended and thanked Cory Sutela for his comments and stated without this easement acquisition trail use conversations would not be able to take place. The

procedure to decide the uses of the trail have two components. The Parks Department has a management and operation agreement with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the State Park manages the property. In 2013 a Cheyenne Mountain State Park Management Plan was prepared and Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates were a part of this discussion. The management plan states that this area would be considered a high risk level for mountain bikes and equestrian use and would not be sustainable in the long term. The management plan is set; however, there are opportunities to work with the State regarding the management plan and to work through this process.

- Vice Chair Gary Feffer asked what is the process to decide the type of trail users for the trail. Britt Haley stated there is a process similar to the City's Bike Master Plan process that identifies the trail uses which includes a public process with public involvement and input. The management plan and the maintenance and operations agreement governs the property.
- Parks Board member Carol Beckman inquired about the 80% valuation for the trail easement. Britt Haley replied that it is a state standard.

Motion: Move to approve the acquisition of an approximately 7.04 acre trail easement for the Dixon Trail with financial support from the Friends of Cheyenne Mountain Park for half of the easement purchase and the associated closing costs from the TOPS Trails Category.

1st – Carol Beckman, 2nd – Michael Phan, Approved, Unanimous

Presentations

Great Outdoors Colorado Inspire Grant Update (Presented by Tilah Larson, Senior Analyst Grants)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Colorado Springs Health Foundation Grant – Memorial Park (Presented by Tilah Larson, Senior Analyst Grants)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Forestry Annual Report (Presented by Jay Hein, City Forester)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

- Kurt Schroeder, Parks Maintenance and Operations Manager, announced Jay Hein's departure on March 9th. Several board members expressed their thanks and gratitude for Jay Hein's work.

Golf Annual Report Update (Presented by Pat Gentile, Golf Course Superintendent)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Ceremonial Items

- Recognition of Cliff Howe (Presented by Jody Krisko, Marketing Specialist). He was honored for his 63 years of service with the City of Colorado Springs.
- New Staff Introductions
 - Andrew Rummel, Sertich Ice Center Parks Operations Administrator
 - Kierstein Anderson, Senior Office Specialist at Meadows Park Community Center
 - Eric Becker, Special Improvement Maintenance District Administrator
 - Kiev Andrassy, Special Improvement Maintenance District Skilled Supervisor
 - Bobby Moehring, Central Maintenance District Skilled Supervisor
 - Matt Zeiger, Pikes Peak - America's Mountain, Senior Equipment Operator

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

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Pikes Peak - America's Mountain Annual Report Update (Presented by Jack Glavan, Pikes Peak America's Mountain Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

- Board Member Daniel Bowan asked staff to revisit the methodologies for the fees for Pikes Peak America's Mountain

Staff Reports

North Cheyenne Canon Master Plan and Management Plan Update (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Board Business

Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director

- She requested that board members please read the North Cheyenne Canon Master Plan and Management Plan and submit questions to David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect.
- Staffs' goal is to keep the April board meeting agenda as brief as possible with possibly just two items listed, North Cheyenne Canon Master Plan and Management Plan and Strawberry Hill Master Plan.
- Wednesday, March 14th at 11:30 a.m. the City/County Parks Board meeting will be held at Bear Creek Nature Center.
- Monday, March 15th the Code Scrub revisions will be presented to City Council. The only section that will not be presented will be the appeals section which is still under review.

Carol Beckman

- She announced the Garden of the Gods Transportation Study Public Meeting will be held on Monday, March 12th at 5:30 p.m. at the Westside Community Center.
- Kurt Schroeder, Parks Maintenance and Operations Manager, provided an update on the Manitou Incline to the TOPS Working Committee during their last meeting.

David Siegel stated that Kate Perdoni will no longer continue with the Public Art Commission which is a real loss. He thanked Matt Mayberry, Cultural Services Division Manager, and said the Downtown Partnership had an event recently and several times it was mentioned that the City was fortunate to have Matt Mayberry who is an incredible historian.

Daniel Bowan asked when the Board will have a presentation about the Garden of the Gods Transportation Study and the possible fees and shuttle information. Karen Palus stated the Garden of the Gods Transportation information will be presented at the public meeting this Monday evening, March 12th. The Garden of the Gods Foundation has full rights to run a shuttle and all commercial activity within the Garden. If the Foundation chooses not to run a shuttle, it will come back to the City for consideration. The Board will not be involved in the shuttle decision.

Gary Feffer displayed the Park Land Dedication Ordinance (PLDO) binder and stated the PLDO revisions will be presented to the Board soon.

Jason Rupinski announced the TOPS Working Committee site tour this month will be to the Corral Bluffs Expansion area.

Mina Liebert

- She stated the Lodging and Automobile Rental Tax Advisory Committee (LART) had a retreat last month.
- The Colorado Visitors Bureau (CVB) receives two thirds of the revenue that's received from the LART tax. The LART Advisory Committee would like to increase these fees and it could be on the ballot in the future. Park representation on this Committee is important. The Parks Department has a role in the revenue that is generated and can impact projects and programs.
- She announced the State of the Outdoors event will be held on Thursday, March 15th at the City Auditorium at 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion: Move to adjourn at 12:11p.m.

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