



**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes - FINAL  
November 8, 2018**

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

**Members Absent:** Michael Phan

**Alternates Present:** Sarah Bryarly, Lisa Wieland, Abby Simpson

**Alternates Absent:** Brooks Williams, Gregory Thornton

**Staff Present:** Karen Palus, Britt Haley, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Christi Mehew, David Deitemeyer, Scott Abbott, Jack Glavan, Eric Becker

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**Called to Order:** Board Chair Mina Liebert brought the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m.

**Citizen Discussion**

Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC) Executive Director, stated Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, Denver passed a .25% sales tax for Denver Parks. The Trust for Public Lands helped bring this grassroots campaign forward. This money will go towards maintenance and building new parks. The Sand Creek project has been completed and a celebration will be held on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The Full Moon Hike will be on November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in Garden of the Gods Park. This event is sponsored by TOSC, Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center and the Garden of the Gods Foundation.

**Approval of Minutes** – October 11, 2018

Motion – To approve the October 11, 2018 minutes with proposed changes by Parks Board members Carol Beckman and Ron Ilgen.

1st – Carol Beckman, 2<sup>nd</sup> – David Siegel, Approved, Unanimous

**Ceremonial Items**

**Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates – Stephanie’s Trail Bridge and Lake Moraine Trail** (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect)

David Deitemeyer presented awards to the Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates for their work on Stephanie’s Bridge and the Lake Moraine Trail. Plaques were presented to Jim Schwerin, Harry Hamill, Doug Bursnall, Mike Rigney, Cory Sutela and Andrew Van Der Wege.

**Presentations**

**Strawberry Hill Master Plan Update** (Presented by Chris Lieber, N.E.S. Consultants)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Chris Lieber introduced Jack Damioli, CEO of The Broadmoor.

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board reviewed and approved a park development master plan submitted by N.E.S. on behalf of the Broadmoor Hotel for the Strawberry Hill property at its May 2018 meeting. The approved plan included a site design for the 8.5 acre building envelope on the property featuring a small equestrian facility. N.E.S. has submitted a modified site plan for the 8.5 acre building envelope.

In this modification, the cabin/stable is repositioned within the building envelope to the west end of the stable area to separate it from the tack room and paddock area which is located on the east end of the building envelope. The modifications will result in the equestrian facility being less visible from Mesa Avenue which responds to public comment received during the property's master plan process.

This results in a better sight line looking west toward the cabin to capture the view of Mount Muscoco directly behind the cabin. It produces a better experience for trail users on the South Canon/Chamberlain Trail by providing visual relief across the paddock area which was previously obstructed by the tack room and stable structure. The updated positioning of the cabin and tack room reduces site disturbance by better utilizing previously disturbed land and by reducing the number and height of retaining walls.

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

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

A BioBlitz is an intense period of biological surveying in an attempt to record all the living species within a designated area. Groups of scientists, naturalists and volunteers conduct an intensive field study over a continuous time period.

The recently acquired 80 acre parcel located at the Corral Bluffs Open Space was chosen for the event which was held on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. Sharon Milito and a group of scientists volunteered to participate in the BioBlitz. A total of 1250 species were observed by 18 scientists with 501 species documented on iNaturalist.

Board Chair Mina Liebert thanked Sharon Milito, BioBlitz Coordinator/Scientist for all her efforts and work on the Corral Bluffs BioBlitz.

### **Staff Reports**

**Regional Parks, Trails and Open Space Update** (Presented by Scott Abbott, Regional Parks, Trails and Open Space Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

**Pikes Peak Summit House Update** (Presented by Jack Glavan, Pikes Peak - America's Mountain Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

**Water Conservation and Usage Update** (Presented by Eric Becker, Special Improvement Maintenance District Administrator)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

**Prospect Lake Update** (Presented by Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager)

- The schedule for users on Prospect Lake is based on motorized and non- motorized use.
- At the end of October a meeting was held to receive feedback from users on operations and communication and approximately twenty people attended. The attendees were happy with the schedule and overall everyone is pleased and business has increased, thus there will be no changes in the lake schedule for 2019.
- There were some concerns in regards to the lake water level and the department is taking care of this issue.
- The beach house design has been completed and they expect construction to begin the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2019.

Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director

- Garden of the Gods will be receiving a donation of 2.4 acres. This will go to City Council for approval on Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Aaron Egbert will be here soon to address the Board on the Centennial Extension project. The department is working with them on some land encroachments and exchanges and Karen has asked for a full presentation to bring the Parks Board up to speed. The areas include Sonderman Park and Broadview Open Space.
- The United States Olympic Committee has gone through the steps with the Development Review Department to work on variances and is requesting to have the Velodrome stay up year round with some minor ADA improvements being addressed. They have asked the Parks Department to hold a public meeting which is scheduled for the end of November.
- Acacia Park is currently being transformed into an ice rink for the season. The VIP opening will be on Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.
- This Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup> the Acacia Tree Lighting ceremony will be held and the official lighting is at 5:30 p.m.
- The Parks Board and TOPS Working Committee Orientation Day is on Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>.
- The Boards and Commissions Volunteer Reception held by City Council will be on Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at the Pioneers Museum.

- The Parks Holiday Breakfast will be held on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. before the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board meeting which will begin at 9:00 a.m. that morning.

Britt Haley announced that she will be presenting a property acquisition that is along the Rampart Range for approval at the December meeting.

Kurt Schroeder introduced Desiree Bridgman, the new Administrative Technician for the Maintenance and Operations division.

### **Board Business**

Ron Ilgen asked about the Leon Young Pavilion public meeting that was held last Thursday. Gary Feffer said it went well. There are different points of views amongst the neighborhood and it seemed to settle down towards the end of the meeting. This is a catalyst for this area to create a partnership with this community going forward.

### **Hank Scarangella**

- The Full Moon Hike is on November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in Garden of the Gods Park. TOSC, Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center and the Garden of the Gods Foundation are sponsoring this event.
- Inquired if there are more Parkland Dedication Ordinance (PLDO) meetings scheduled. Karen Palus said they are currently having meetings with City Council members to receive their input and then a draft ordinance will be written.
- Inquired about the status of the 2019 proposed budget. Karen Palus replied that all of the department's requests are being considered and there was no mark-up session.

Gary Feffer asked if the department has extended the deadline on the submission of RFP's on the City Auditorium. Kim King stated they extended it by a week and they are due tomorrow at 3:00 p.m.

### **Daniel Bowan**

- Asked a procedural question in regards to the Red Rock Canyon minor master plan amendment and what is the process. Britt Haley stated that it will go to the TOPS Working Committee first because it's a TOPS acquired property and then come to the Parks Board for approval. The TOPS Working Committee decided to table the item and look at the site again so it probably will not be on the Parks Board agenda for a few months.
- Asked where the PLDO review process initiated. Karen Palus stated it originated on the planning side of the city. The planning staff works with Britt Haley and Connie Perry to determine the proper requirements. The Parks Board is the governing board for the master plan process of PK (Park) zone parcels.
- Stated this is his second year on the Board and feels he is sharing reactively rather than proactively. He suggested the board put together an annual report to cover their accomplishments, vision and goals. This could be presented to City Council. Gary Feffer stated they could consider a retreat to discuss their vision and goals. Hank Scarangella

stated this is a great idea as the board is here to advise Council and this could be a mechanism to talk about ideas. Gary Feffer stated this meeting will need to be noticed to the public. Hank stated the public can attend; however, this is the board's work session meeting like City Council's work session and they can observe. Mina Liebert said the board's first obligation is to advise City Council and also be a support and voice for residents. The strategic plan update that will be presented to the Board in December will be a way to transition into a strategic retreat for the board. Karen Palus stated possibly a workshop is the best way to address these topics and asked if the board would like to do this in January. She could talk to the department's strategic plan consultant, Jonathan Bartsche, to see if he is available to facilitate the meeting and it can be off site. David Siegel suggested the strategic plan session could be a precursor to a retreat.

#### David Siegel

- Stated the Art Commission is struggling but getting better from a governance stand point. A discussion occurred as to why public art is under the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services department when it is a planning issue. Karen Palus replied because most art work/pieces end up in park related sites and Matt Mayberry has the responsibility of the collection of art pieces.
- Asked how they can do a better job with public art such as the murals in Denver. Karen Palus stated having a funding source is a factor.
- Inquired about the department policy on Christmas decorations. Karen Palus said she did not know if there is a strict policy; however, the department tries to keep things neutral. The department has a tree lighting event which is common. David Siegel stated the invitation stated a "Christmas Tree Lighting". Karen Palus replied she thought it said holiday tree and would look into the matter.

#### Carol Beckman

- Tilah Larson and Connie Perry are doing a great job on the Leon Young Pavilion public meetings. They used poster boards listing various topics and then divided the topics by priority level. They facilitated the feedback well.
- The TOPS Working Committee meeting had an action item with a minor master plan amendment to the Red Rock Canyon master plan. The department would like to take a proposed trail off the master plan due to erosion, a nearby landfill and wildlife habitat. The Red Rock Canyon friends group would like the proposed trail to be built. A connector trail exists across the landfill. Carol explained the proposed trail location to the Board. The item was tabled to give everyone a chance to see if a sustainable trail option exists.
- Inquired about the status of the Pulpit Rock Regional Park/Austin Bluffs Open Space/University Park Open Space Master and Management Plan, the Triple A's (Acacia, Alamo and Antler's parks) Parks Master Plan and the Panorama Park project. Britt Haley replied they have selected a contractor for the Pulpit Rock Regional Park/Austin Bluffs Open Space/University Park Open Space Master and Management Plan and the department will have a kickoff meeting soon. She is currently reviewing the RFP draft for the Triple A's master plan and the planning process will begin in early

2019.

- Panorama is in the second round of surveying based on the two developed concepts.

#### Mina Liebert

- Stated she thinks in regards to the Leon Young Pavilion there needs to be a more focused dialogue with residents that truly want a family friendly site. Tilah Larson and Connie Perry are trying to coordinate an informal dialogue session with a smaller Hillside community group that meets regularly. The community has great intentions; however, there has been some information lost in translation. Connie Perry and Tilah Larson do a great job in gathering all the ideas and opportunities; however, realistically there is space and financial constraints that need to be considered and what actually can be accomplished. These constraints need to be clear so that people are not having false expectations and do not feel let down.

#### Hank Scarangella

- Stated he came away from the Leon Young Pavilion public meeting thinking there needs to be constraints on the discussion. The conversations were all over the place and boundaries are needed. Some people were very vocal and others were completely silent and didn't contribute to the conversation. He suggested it would be helpful to state the budget amount and give a cost amount of some of the ideas that are being proposed which will put some constraints on the discussion. Tilah Larson brought a poster that was very informative and he is not sure it received much attention. Basically it summarized the public comments from the meetings which were all over the place and contradictory. Karen Palus replied the department usually does have constraints during public meetings. The challenge is the department is in this box due to funding constraints. The department can approach this with a small vision and deal with a larger vision later if this is the community's desire. She would like to honor Mayor Young and do what his daughter envisions.

Abby Simpson stated in regards to the Leon Young Pavilion project that it is a matter of respecting who it is named for and preserving his legacy.

#### **Adjournment**

Motion: Move to adjourn at 12:24 p.m.

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