



parks · recreation · cultural services

**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes – FINAL
October 11, 2018**

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

Members Absent: Daniel Bowan

Alternates Present: Brooks Williams, Sarah Bryarly, Lisa Wieland, Abby Simpson, Gregory Thornton

Alternates Absent:

Staff Present: Karen Palus, Britt Haley, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Christi Mehew, Tilah Larson, Kelly Rajab, Donna Sanchez

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

Citizen Discussion

Mia Ramirez, Colorado Trust Foundation, stated the Leon Young Pavilion project is a resident driven effort and a number of them are here today. Residents came to the Foundation in June to see if they needed to approach the Parks Board in regards to the Leon Young Pavilion and she said no only if it involves something that changes the master plan. The number one asset in the Hillside community is their park but also it's the number one challenge. They have had many events to encourage people to bring the neighborhood together. There is no animosity from this group and they have collaborated on many initiatives with the Parks Department and have been inclusive. The residents are not angry, they are passionate and committed.

Victoria Stone, citizen, has lived in the Hillside area for the past 14 years and has worked with the Colorado Trust. She asked how the project can move forward. They do not know the restrictions of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) process and are hoping to learn more as the process continues.

Josh Rafail, Hillside community resident, stated the neighborhood provided a list of what they wanted to do with the pavilion and were clear about their needs. He would like to know about the process moving forward. The Leon Young Pavilion is historical, important and they would like to see it renovated and preserved for the community. He inquired how much this project would cost.

June Waller, Hillside community resident for 55 years, stated the people in the community do not understand what is going on with the pavilion and want to understand and know how they

can fit in. They are not angry; they are passionate about what is best for their community. Please keep the community in the loop.

Mina Liebert, Board Chair, stated she has attended the Hillside meetings. Sometimes the process can be confusing. The location of the pavilion is not in good shape so the department can give some potential ideas while still preserving the legacy of Leon Young. Some of these ideas upset residents. Hillside residents want to preserve Leon Young's legacy and she believes there is an opportunity to keep the pavilion where it is based on the family's request. Factors that need to be considered are funding, timing and other projects that are aligning along the same corridor. The group needs to work together while preserving the needs of the residents, preserving Leon Young's legacy, and accommodating the needs of the Parks Department. The department does not want to keep anyone in the dark. The meeting on November 1st is an opportunity for everyone to work together. The board and department hear you.

Victoria Stone, citizen, asked if the Community Development Block Grant of \$150,000 that will be used for this project is enough money. What are some of the limitations and options that need to be considered?

Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, stated the department has put together an overview for the community so that they have information. 6.2 million dollars have been invested into the Hillside neighborhood and this will be discussed more at the November 1st meeting. The Hillside Community project and Leon Young Pavilion have been added to the department's work plan.

Tilah Larson, Senior Grants Analyst, distributed two flyers regarding the upcoming planning meeting on November 1st and a Hillside neighborhood project list to the board.

Board Chair Mina Liebert introduced the new Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board alternates: Sarah Bryarly, Lisa Wieland, Abby Simpson and Greg Thornton.

Approval of Minutes – September 13, 2018

Motion – To approve the September 13, 2018 minutes.

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

Action Items

Plan COS (Presented by Carl Schueler, Comprehensive Planning Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation](#)

If adopted by City Council, PlanCOS will replace the currently adopted City of Colorado Springs Comprehensive Plan which has been in place since 2001. The new plan is organized around themes rather than more traditional topical headings. In addition to containing more typical goals, policies, and strategies, PlanCOS also uses typologies which are graphic examples (mostly of existing areas) that are intended to recommend how the city would like to “move the needle” to support the vision. A full copy of the most recent draft of PlanCOS may be found at:

<https://coloradosprings.gov/plancos?mlid=10651>

Throughout the 2-year planning process, hundreds of meetings and other outreach efforts were used to gather community input to ensure stakeholder and resident input was heard and included in the plan. Survey and event input demonstrated broad community-wide values centered on the City's climate, natural beauty, parks, trails, open space and outdoor recreation focus.

The Plan is organized under six vision theme chapters Vibrant Neighborhoods (2), Unique Places (3), Thriving Economy (4), Strong Connections (5), Renowned Culture (6), and Majestic Landscapes (7). The core of each Chapter includes: Importance statements; several "Typologies"; Framework Maps; Goals, Policies, and Strategies; Key Trends and Assumptions; Relevant Plans; and Essential Questions.

Throughout the planning process, hundreds of meetings and other outreach efforts were used to gather community input to ensure resident input was heard and included.

53 Stakeholder Interviews
90 Co-Creators
259 Outreach Meetings
753 Draft Plan Comments
8,726 Participants
5,146 Survey Responses

PlanCOS Steering Committee endorsed the draft plan on September 27, 2018. The draft plan was endorsed by the Downtown Review Board and the Citizens Transportation Advisory Board on October 2, 2018. On October 3, 2018 the Commission on Aging endorsed the draft plan.

Board member Carol Beckman stated concerns about:

- The language regarding homelessness in the City. Carl Schueler agreed the document was not worded to send the message they were trying to get across. He said homelessness is a big problem and there are strategies in the plan to help the homeless, such as affordable housing. He stated the intent is not to dodge the subject; the intent is to keep an eye on this as a priority.
- Retention ponds and stormwater channels would be placed in neighborhood parks. Carl Schueler clarified this was not the intention; however, there is a need citywide for stormwater mitigation, including stream channels potentially in or near parks.
- There was more emphasis on composting, rather than encouraging people and businesses to recycle. Carl Schuler stated it had less emphasis due to all recycling and waste management is done privately, but the language could be changed to emphasize recycling.
- The conservation of water should be addressed more with residences and businesses and not just parks. Carl Schueler replied that the "Conservation of Majestic Landscape" typically falls on what they consider to be landscape, which is thought

more of as parks. He said there was a recommendation in the plan to update commercial landscaping codes in order to help conserve water. He stated some of the issues with conservation landscaping are dependent on covenants, which are very difficult to change through local government.

- Three of the nine elements were related to stormwater under the “Desired Park Elements” section of the document. She was concerned about detention ponds being placed in parks that were considered “unused.” Carl Schueler replied that they were planning to go back into the document and modify the language. Detention ponds make sense in some parks, but not all. There was no overall vision to put detention ponds in all parks. He detailed that the city requires multi-spectrum detention in stormwater implementation that it did not require in the past.

Board member Michael Phan inquired how the plan will be implemented. Carl Schueler replied it could be used in discretionary development when developing master plans or with annexations, they could look at this plan in conjunction with other plans to make good decisions. This plan could be used with the City’s strategic plan and the budget. As departments update their plans, PlanCOS could feed into these plans. And, possibly it can offer guidance with regards to financial decisions.

Board member David Siegel asked about recommendation 3D in the plan and the idea of pop up culture and to clarify what this means. Carl Schueler stated it is to acknowledge they are things that happen on a more temporary basis or less regular basis, such as Farmers Markets. David Siegel suggested that a clearer way to say this is “spontaneous culture” or “ad hoc culture”.

Board member Gary Feffer asked if the other stakeholders involved in the process who are not living and breathing parks everyday realize the importance of identifying permanent funding for the Parks Department. Carl Schueler responded that the majority of the stakeholders realize it and do have different perspectives. Some council members have opinions while others may object to some of the wording in the document; however, he does believe everyone understands the issue of funding. He stated there are recommendations about funding in the plan.

Board member Ron Ilgen asked how majestic landscapes have shaped our culture. Carl Schueler said they have tried to weave in this theory of pop-up culture, youth oriented culture and old culture. Matt Mayberry the City’s Historian has been a part of this process. Conrad Olmedo, Comprehensive Planner, stated the October Arts Month bookmark helps tie culture into the plan and accomplish this with an online platform of the plan. Photography and imagery will help showcase the plan, goals and strategies of the online platform, and celebrate successes. October Arts Month will be taking place along the riparian corridor in Downtown, Old Colorado City and Manitou Springs.

Motion: A motion by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board to endorse the draft of PlanCOS for the final adoption process as the new Comprehensive Plan for Colorado Springs.

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

The Farm – Final Park Sites and Amenities (Presented by Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager)

[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 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 (approximately 14.57 acres) with multiple park sites creating a linear park concept totaling 17.80 acres. The first set of park sites were approved by the Parks Advisory Board in July 2018.

La Plata Communities is bringing forward the second (and last) set of park sites: Foothills Farm Park with Cow Crossing Sculptures (1.5 acres), Little Nipper (0.13 acres), Fork in the Road trail sculpture, and Knoll Park (0.36 acres). The total park sites are in addition to the Tier 2 Black Squirrel Creek Trail Corridor (a continuous concrete trail and a creek side soft surface trail).

The consultant will start construction in 2019 on the remaining parks approved this year, with completion expected in 2020.

La Plata Communities have responded to board members inquiries and made the path to the natural play area at Foothill Farms Park to be a maximum 5% grade. An ADA picnic table and swing were added to the plan as well as bike racks.

Motion: A motion approving the design of the second set of The Farm park sites: Foothills Farm Park (1.5 acres) with Cow Crossing, Little Nipper (0.13 acres), Fork in the Road trail sculpture, and Knoll Park (0.36 acres).

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

Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition Executive Director, said thank you for making this plan visionary and planning ahead as it's part of a larger trail system.

Great Outdoors Colorado School Yard Grant Applications: Colorado Springs Charter Academy, Atlas Preparatory School, Colorado Early Colleges (Presented by Tilah Larson, Senior Grants Analyst)

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation](#)

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department propose to sponsor three Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) School Yard Initiative grant applications. The \$110,000 grant applications will assist with supporting the construction of play and outdoor learning facilities

for youth. Following the award of a grant, the City and the school will enter into an agreement to define the roles and the responsibilities of the parties.

In many cases, schools will replace aging metal play sets, fields of pea gravel and cracking concrete slabs with nature-inspired climbing structures, soft all-weather surfaces, play and learning areas featuring natural materials like four-season sensory gardens, outdoor classrooms, or water features that can simulate floods and erosion. Projects can also include traditional play equipment to complement natural components and provide a variety of play opportunities.

The three schools include: Colorado Springs Charter Academy, Atlas Preparatory School and Colorado Early Colleges. Each grant application will request \$110,000 from GOCO and the required matching dollars will be raised by each school.

The City has agreed to sponsor the partner schools as GOCO requires that a qualified government agency submit the application, and receive and disburse funds for this grant. City funds are neither needed nor requested as part of this sponsorship application.

Board member Carol Beckman asked the ages at each school. Tilah Larson replied: Atlas Preparatory School is middle school and high school, Colorado Springs Charter Academy is kindergarten through 8th grade and Colorado Early Colleges is high school.

Board member Carol Beckman asked what schools have received previous grants. Tilah Larson said all three schools have received grants and some in multiple rounds.

Board member Carol Beckman inquired about how much the space is used outside of school. Tilah Larson said they try to do activities outside of school hours to use the space when school is not in session so the community can participate.

Motion: Move to support the City's sponsorship of three School Yard Initiatives Grant applications to Great Outdoors Colorado on behalf of Colorado Springs Charter Academy, Atlas Preparatory School, and Colorado Early Colleges.

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

Amendment to Trails Capital Improvement Projects Budget for the Foothills and Gateway Trails at Garden of the Gods Park (Presented by Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services staff requests approval of an amendment to the approved TOPS Trails Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Budget to capture an opportunity to build additional trail at a good price. The request is to modify the funding for prior year trails CIP which have either stalled or are able to be deferred to a future year, to accommodate an

opportunity to complete the TOPS approved Foothills Trail and related portions of the new Gateway Trail at Garden of the Gods Park. The TOPS Working Committee and the Parks Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board approved \$295,000 for the Foothills Trail at Garden of the Gods. The request would reallocate up to \$400,000 from other TOPS trail projects to this trail project to capture excellent pricing.

The department received a great bid for concrete and wants to capitalize on this and are highly motivated to look at the budget to see if the project could be completed at this time. The recommendation is to take the remaining balance in four stalled project areas to fund this project.

Board member Jason Rupinski asked how soon would the project be completed. Britt Haley stated as quickly as possible and hopefully by November. They presented it at the City Council Budget session this past Tuesday and it was approved unanimously. The department hopes to have City Council's approval on October 23rd. The contractor is ready to go and wants to move quickly due to weather.

Board member Jason Rupinski inquired if one of these deferred projects is identified as an opportunity in the future how does the department proceed. Britt Haley replied there is a standard process to present it to the TOPS Working Committee, then to the Parks Board and on to City Council. If a supplemental appropriation ordinance is needed this requires two readings at City Council. If it is a transfer it would be one resolution presented to City Council.

Board member Hank Scarangella stated the Foothills Trails makes great sense particularly aligning it closer to 30th Street. He has had conversations with staff about the Gateway Trail and personally feels it is unnecessary; it's longer, and accessibility to the trailhead is not possible from any parking lot. There is a balance in making trails accessible to everyone. He believes it will be a great trail but his recommendation was to improve the existing trail and expand lot 4 on the west side by adding more parking spaces. One of the restrooms has an observation deck on the roof and this is unnecessary. He asked how do you accommodate growth and at the same time preserve resources. Projects are going on independently and it would be helpful to have a discussion on how to accommodate the desires of visitors and locals and finding a balance.

Ron Ilgen stated this area is under huge transition and what is the impact in the future.

Board member David Siegel stated from a conceptual standpoint he has a concern about perception and frequently pulling funds from projects to invest in the Garden. He wants to be aware of the perception of the community. Board member Gary Feffer stated it's a reality and unfortunately it is what the Parks Department needs to do to make projects move forward. This is a shining example to show the public the things the department needs to do to make ends meet. This is an example as to why permanent funding for Parks is so important. Board member David Siegel said pulling from other projects to invest in the Garden does not build trust; however, he agrees that a permanent funding mechanism would be great.

Karen Palus informed the board this is a sequencing issue and the department is not pulling projects. Once those deferred projects are ready to move forward they will be funded. This is sequencing and timing issue as these deferred projects have sat there for many years and are not ready. Britt Haley stated it is the department's full intention to not impact other projects.

Board member Carol Beckman wanted to confirm there will be a cut-through so they would not have to take a loop on the Gateway Trail. Britt Haley said the cut-through on the trail would remain.

Board member Hank Scarangella stated there will be a new trail coming from the existing one that will come directly to Gateway Road. People will not have to walk on the Foothills Trail north to get to the trail. People can veer south and bring people right to Gateway Road.

Susan Davies TOSC Executive Director, stated she appreciates the creativity and energy that has gone into this project and is glad that people can cross Hancock onto Sand Creek Trail to the Greenway. She asked in regards to the Land Exchange with the Broadmoor, if the Chamberlain Trail continues through Strawberry Fields would it create a catalyst for construction of new trails. Britt Haley replied yes; however, they want to complete this piece of construction with the money the department has for this section. Other segments may be completed before this construction is done but overall more segments will be completed in the future.

Board member Michael Phan stated the Chamberlain Trail was in Stratton Preserve and he sees signs that state do not enter here. Can they block off a trail? Britt Haley said it is due to the fact that the public trail goes through their community. Discussions are occurring with the Home Owners Association and progress has been made right up to this area and they are hoping for a breakthrough.

Motion: Move to approve the proposed amendment to the TOPS CIP Budget as presented.
1st – Hank Scarangella, 2nd – Michael Phan, Approved, Unanimous

Ceremonial Items

Springs in Bloom (Presented by Donna Sanchez, City Horticulturalist)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Donna Sanchez presented awards to Mina Liebert (Parks Board Chair), Jill Gaebler (City Council President Pro-Tem) and Brooks Williams (Parks Board Alternate) for volunteering to be judges for the "Springs in Bloom" program.

Jill Gaebler, City Council President Pro-Tem, thanked the board for all the work that they do and for all their efforts. This is the third year she has been a judge. She stated that the program just gets better and better and it's a great way to beautify the City.

Kurt Schroeder commended Donna Sanchez and her team for all their work that they do every year.

Pikes Peak Pickleball Association Update (Presented by Steve and Ramona Boone, Great Plains Regional Tournament Directors)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Steve and Ramona Boone thanked the Parks Department staff and the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board for their support. The USAPA Great Plains Regional Tournament was held on September 6th through September 9th. This is the 7th year the tournament has been held.

Recreation Services Update

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Budget Update

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Board Business

Carol Beckman stated the TOPS Working Committee voted last week for their Chair and Vice Chair. Jason Alwine will continue to be the Chair and Joe Lavorini will be the new Vice Chair.

Mina Liebert stated the TOPS Working Committee has three new members: Bob Falcone and Blaze Panariso are committee members and the new alternate is Paula Krantz.

David Siegel said a community member asked about conservation easements on TOPS properties and he didn't have a good answer. Britt Haley replied the TOPS ordinance embraces conservation easements as one of the controls to do TOPS activities. The specific question that was asked is once the TOPS program has purchased a property can a conservation easement then be put on the property. The answer is no, not without the vote of the people. The TOPS ordinance says any transfer or other conveyance can only be done after the vote of the people. The City Attorney's position is that after acquisition the only way to place a conservation easement is to go to the ballot and have voters approve it to move forward. Karen Palus stated that part of the property they are talking about is related to the Red Rock Canyon area and a conservation easement was required at the time of acquisition due to GOCO funding. Britt Haley said there are three parcels. Red Rock Canyon Open Space and Section 16 required a conservation easement at the time of acquisition due to GOCO funding. The White Acres property was not a part of this acquisition and did not require a conservation easement at the time of purchase.

Gary Feffer stated the PLDO meetings continue and they hope to have the process completed by January. Karen Palus stated they have started conversations with the Planning Commission to receive more feedback and will be taking it to the DDA and HBA.

Ron Ilgen stated thank you for the information regarding the Garden of the Gods gate closure which began last night. Congratulations to staff for getting the Land Exchange with the Broadmoor through the courts and completed. He was very impressed with the efforts and organization.

Brooks Williams asked when the gates at Black Canyon and Rampart Road will close. Kurt Schroeder said it is managed by the US Forest Service and it typically closes in November.

Mina Liebert

- Stated that Council member Donna Strom brought a letter this morning that was distributed to the Parks Board from Bruce Hamilton that states his opinion about the ruling on the Land Exchange with the Broadmoor.
- LART is not meeting this month due to working on a RFP to promote LART itself.
- Inquired about the Garden of the Gods Motorless Morning event. Kim King replied it went very well and the weather was brisk. The attendance was steady and there were approximately 1500 – 2000 participants. The shuttle was available to assist getting people to the Garden and helped due to the cooler weather. Participants included: long boarders, roller-skaters, inline skaters, runners and walkers.

Karen Palus

- The Ute Valley trailhead ribbon cutting is on Saturday, October 20th at 9:30 a.m.
- Leon Young Pavilion
 - Stated when discussions began and what the department was first hearing is this is a social equity issue and the department was treating the Hillside community poorly due to leaving the structure up as they asked for removal due to it being toxic. The area was tested and did not show levels of toxicity for public use.
 - The department was happy to add it to the list of projects and in the future when they master plan this area in conjunction with the Legacy Loop planning more discussion could occur.
 - CDBG has corrected their application and now a property owner does not have to be involved in the application process.
 - Community Development offered to set aside \$150,000 to fund the project; however, reassigned the \$150,000 to a pool due to the funds could not be committed by the end of 2018. They have expressed interest in making the funds available in 2019.
 - The department was unsure about funding and if \$150,000 would cover the costs.
 - The department does not have plans for the pavilion. They need to determine what the community wants to do with the area to move forward.
 - The next step is the meeting on November 1st and board members can attend. The department wants to hear from everyone and will present the feedback they

received at the first meeting at the November 1st meeting. Tilah Larson and Connie Perry will present this information.

Adjournment

Motion: Move to adjourn at 12:02 p.m.

1st – Hank Scarangella, 2nd – David Siegel, Ron Ilgen absent, Approved 8 to 0

Motion: To enter into an executive session at 12:03 p.m.

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

Motion: To close an executive session at 12:30 p.m.

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