



**TOPS Working Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes - FINAL
Wednesday, April 3, 2019**

Members Present: Jason Alwine, Lily Weissgold, Lee Milner, Blaze Panariso, Joe Lavorini, Nancy Hobbs, Paula Krantz, Jeff Mohrmann

Members Absent: Bob Falcone

Parks Board Liaisons Present: Carol Beckman, Jason Rupinski, Mina Liebert

Youth Ambassadors Present: Emma Hybl, Jack Keenan, William White

Staff Present: Britt Haley, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Christi Mehew, Dennis Will, Steve Bodette

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Jason Alwine brought the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m.

Agenda Preview Committee Chair Jason Alwine announced the agenda for the meeting.

Announcements

Britt Haley, TOPS Program Manager

- Announced there will not be a site tour in April.
- Stated to the Committee to please plan for an executive session during the May meeting.

TOPS Working Committee member Nancy Hobbs asked for an update on the flea market property. Britt Haley stated that in the past Chris Lieber had discussions with School District 11 and they were not interested in selling the property and then they sold it to a developer. The developer is now talking with the City Planning department in regards to a possible land donation and enhanced trails. This area is where Public Works and the City Engineering department completed a stormwater project and the fat bike trail was constructed. Chris Lieber is the consultant to help the developer through the development process. The original open space opportunity put forth in the application is not possible and the applicant, Eric Eaton is up to speed on the project.

TOPS Working Committee member Lily Weissgold stated a community member in the past wanted to connect Austin Bluffs Open Space to Cottonwood Creek Trail and there is a small parcel that has been owned by the same family for years in this area. Britt Haley said there is a house that does not have open space or park qualities and is located on 1/3 acre near Woodmen Kennels. The house was demolished and the neighborhood complained to the City due to a large trailer now being on the property. Code enforcement ruled that the trailer was to be moved. The neighbors contacted the Parks Department about possibly acquiring the property. Britt Haley asked them to join the Austin Bluffs Open Space Master Plan process

because that would give them an opportunity to discuss some trail connectivity in this area and see if there was citizen support.

TOPS Working Committee member Blaze Panariso asked if the property was zoned as commercial property. Britt Haley replied she didn't think so as it would require a zone change.

TOPS Working Committee liaison Carol Beckman inquired about the bike incident in which a line was put up across a trail and a biker was severely injured. Britt Haley stated there is lots of consternation amongst the bicycling community as someone is trying to harm bicyclists and trail users.

Approval of Minutes – March 6, 2019

Motion: To approve the minutes of the March 6, 2019 TOPS Working Committee meeting.
1st – Lily Weissgold, 2nd – Blaze Panariso, Approved, Unanimous

Citizen Discussion

Bill Koerner, Manitou Springs Transportation and Parking Board Chair, stated the City of Manitou Springs, City of Colorado Springs and the Cog Railway are conducting a six month mobility study. The study will address improvements to enhance mobility and connections to areas and address the congestion issue. This will be an ongoing public process and if you're interested in this project please contact Bill Koerner.

Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC) Executive Director

- Stated the bicycle injury that happened last Thursday afternoon was not the first incident according to police. Two bikers went down the trail and 20 minutes later they went down again and the string was up. The police are investigating and asking citizens to keep their eyes open.
- Park staff did a great job at the Austin Bluffs Open Space Master Plan public meeting. There were approximately 250 people that attended. Please participate in the poll.
- TOSC sent 5000 individuals a questionnaire as to where scooters should be allowed. 67% think they should not be on trails and they belong on the road. The TOSC board feels the City should establish some rules and provide proper signage.

Shanti Toll, Friends of Red Rock Canyon (FoRRC) member, distributed a FoRRC newsletter to the TOPS Working Committee. He thanked the committee for visiting Red Rock Canyon and looking at the proposed trail location. The trail can be built; however, the question is should it be built and how do they proceed. They feel this is not a minor amendment but a major decision. Numerous months ago FoRRC sent a letter to staff and the TOPS Working Committee. The FoRRC feel enough information has been gathered to make a decision and they are ready to move forward and have a response to their letter. They hope if a trail is not built that the proposed trail is not taken out of the master plan.

Presentations

Forestry Update – TOPS Properties (Presented by Dennis Will, City Forester)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Red Rock Canyon Open Space Land Fill Update (Presented by Steve Bodette, Capital Projects Coordinator and Britt Haley, TOPS Program Manager/Design and Development Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Scott Abbott, Regional Parks, Trails and Open Space Manager stated that there is significant use on the landfill property in Red Rock Canyon and trails have been established and this should not have occurred. Now that the department is under state regulations to do repairs the department is requesting and posting that there be no recreational use on the landfill cap.

Citizen Discussion

Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC) Executive Director

- Stated there are 111 access points to the Austin Bluffs Open Space area. They are talking to UCCS students and Homeowner Associations to form a Friends group in this area.
- The election was held. This is a great start to move forward and let the discussions begin. TOSC is interested in future discussions concerning an increase to the TOPS Sales Tax.

Britt Haley, TOPS Program Manager

- Announced that a “Meet and Greet” with the new park rangers will be held on Tuesday, April 9th at 5:30 p.m. in the Parks Open Space room. Please come by to meet them and hear about their upcoming projects.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the TOPS Working Committee meeting at 9:31 a.m.

1st – Blaze Panariso, 2nd – Lily Weissgold, Approved, Unanimous

