



**TOPS Working Committee Meeting  
Meeting Minutes - FINAL  
Wednesday, August 7, 2019**

**Members Present:** Lily Weissgold, Blaze Panariso, Nancy Hobbs, Paula Krantz, Bob Falcone, Jeff Mohrmann, Jason Alwine, Lee Milner

**Members Absent:** Joe Lavorini

**Parks Board Liaisons Present:** Carol Beckman, Jason Rupinski, Greg Thornton

**Youth Ambassadors Present:** Emma Hybl, William White

**Youth Ambassadors Absent:** Jack Keenan

**Staff Present:** Britt Haley, Karen Palus, Kim King, Christi Mehew, Anna Cordova, David Deitemeyer, Emily Duncan, Gillian Rossi, Scott Abbott

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TOPS Working Committee Chair Jason Alwine brought the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

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

**Announcements**

**Britt Haley**, Design & Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager

- Welcomed Greg Thornton as the new Parks Board liaison to the TOPS Working Committee.
- Announced that two new TOPS Working Committee members and one alternate have been selected and they will start in September. She introduced Ingrid Richter, one of the new members present at the meeting.
- Scott Abbott, Regional Parks, Trails and Open Space Manager introduced Gillian Rossi who has been promoted to Park Ranger Supervisor.
- Thanked Jason Alwine, TOPS Working Committee Chair and Jeff Mohrmann, TOPS Working Committee member for their work on the committee.

**Karen Palus**, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director

- Announced that the City is proposing to have a TABOR retention initiative on the November ballot. The proposed projects are tied to the City's Sesquicentennial (150<sup>th</sup>) birthday with emphasis on historic parks and downtown. The Parks Board approved the initiative during their last meeting and it will be discussed by City Council on August 12th and 13th.
- The City's sesquicentennial, (150<sup>th</sup>) birthday celebration kick-off was last week with the Mayor going into character as General Cameron. The 150<sup>th</sup> birthday will be in 2021. City Council President Richard Skorman spoke about the TABOR initiative and the projects that would be included. She listed the specific projects that are covered under the

TABOR initiative.

- The Protect Our Parks (POPS) initiative will be discussed by City Council on Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup> and voted on August 13<sup>th</sup>. A POPS committee was initiated by the Save Cheyenne group and several representatives throughout the city were involved. They came up with a plan that requires a vote of the people for park land transfers including exchanges with a list of exceptions. There was a handful of City Council members that did not feel comfortable with this initiative and other options were provided. A second option required a super majority vote, 6 to 3 by City Council with the list of park exceptions included. A third option is now currently being drawn up by the legal department which is a combination of the other two options. This option would require a vote of the people for a list of parks and the others would require a super majority vote by City Council. The Save Cheyenne group have said they want option one that requires the vote of the people or nothing.

### **Approval of Minutes** – June 5, 2019

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the June 5, 2019 TOPS Working Committee meeting.

1<sup>st</sup> – Lily Weissgold, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Bob Falcone, Approved, Unanimous

### **Citizen Discussion**

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

- TOSC members voted on the POPS initiative during their last meeting. They decided to support option two, the super majority option which is what the Parks Advisory Board recommended to City Council. They also voted on the TABOR initiative which received a unanimous vote of approval. They will be featuring TABOR projects in the TOSC newsletter until the November election.
- She read an article in the Denver Post that said land is being lost the size of two football fields per minute around the country.

Britt Haley stated she read the same article and Denver used to be a city of parks. Now at the rate land is being developed Denver is lacking green space. What the TOPS Working Committee accomplishes is very important.

TOPS Working Committee member Nancy Hobbs commended Brian Kates, Meadows Park Community Center Administrator for his work on the Blue Moon Trail Run Series. This event is a great opportunity for Parks to have a presence and share information.

### **Presentations**

**Rustic Hills Project Update** (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect and Emily Duncan, Trails Development Coordinator)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

**Susan Davies,** Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC) Executive Director stated she thinks there are lessons to be learned due to this project. The stormwater initiatives have provided trail

opportunities and this is a good thing. Britt Haley said the department has been attending quarterly meetings with the stormwater division and this project has been eye-opening to their division. The parks department has experienced a lot of support from them and now they are looking at new way of doing things and it's a positive partnership.

Britt Haley stated many of the trees in this project area were invasive species and the concept the department is following is; put the right tree in the right place. She said they might want to partner with the Homeowner's Association in this area regarding replacing trees. As a part of the sesquicentennial celebration 18,071 trees will be planted around the City.

**Bioblitz Highlights - Corral Bluffs & Red Rock Canyon Open Space** (Presented by Gillian Rossi, Park Ranger Supervisor)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

**TOPS Stewardship – Archaeological Updates** (Presented by Anna Cordova, Park Archaeologist)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

### **Adjournment**

**Motion:** To adjourn the TOPS Working Committee meeting at 8:59 a.m.

1<sup>st</sup> – Lily Weissgold, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Nancy Hobbs, Approved, Unanimous

**Motion:** To enter a closed executive session.

1<sup>st</sup> – Blaze Panariso, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Nancy Hobbs, Approved, Unanimous

**Executive Session** (Presented by Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager)

*In accord with the City Charter Art. III, §3-60(d) and the Colorado Open Meetings Act, C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(a), the TOPS Working Committee, in Open Session, is to determine whether it will hold a Closed Executive Session. The issues to be discussed involve determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations and instructing negotiators regarding a land acquisition matter. The Chair shall poll the TOPS Working Committee members, and, upon consent of two-thirds of the members present, may hold a closed executive session. If consent to the closed executive session is not given, the item may be discussed in open session or withdrawn from consideration.*

**Motion:** To adjourn the closed executive session.

1<sup>st</sup> – Blaze Panariso, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Bob Falcone, Approved, Unanimous

