



**TOPS Working Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 1, 2015**

Members Present: ~~Jim Rees~~, Joe Lavorini, Becky Wegner, Jason Alwine, Lee Milner, Leslie Thomas

Members Absent: PJ Anderson, Jeff Morhmann, **Jim Rees**

Alternates Present: Cathy Grossman, Sarah Musick

Citizens Advisory Committee Members Present: Jackie Hilaire, Scot Hume

Citizens Advisory Committee Members Absent: John Maynard

Staff Present: Karen Palus, Chris Lieber, Julie Lafitte, Kurt Schroeder

~~As Jim Rees (Chair) had not arrived,~~ Leslie Thomas (Vice-Chair) brought the meeting to order at 7:34am.

Agenda Preview

There were no changes to the agenda as presented.

Announcements –Chris Lieber

Chris announced that the opening of Venezia Park bid documents would take place on April 2.

Approval of Minutes

Motion – to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2015 meeting.

- Jason Alwine/Becky Wegner Approved – Unanimous

Citizen Discussion

Bill Koerner (TOSC) — Bill congratulated the department on the Rock Island purchase—a great accomplishment for City. He suggested the TOPS Chair advocate for approval of the purchase at Council. (This is anticipated to come up on the Council agenda in September or October.)

Presentation Item

Brief Overview of 2016 Budget Process—Chris Lieber

- Accelerated schedule this year:
 - May 6 (Preliminary CIP Budget, May 14 for Parks Board
 - June 3 (Working Committee) and June 11 (Parks Board) for action
 - City Council in October and November

Chris noted the preparation for the previously proposed “SCIP” bond would be useful for determining the CIP budget priorities for 2016, and that work on the Ute Valley, Red Rock Canyon, and Parks System master plans would enable easy identification of projects. He anticipates a focus on stewardship, and noted the projected TOPS revenue for 2016 is expected to be approximately \$7.2 million. Added to the current fund balance, there will be about \$12 million altogether, with approximately \$8.3million available in the Open Space category.

TOPS Tour

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42am. Committee members and interested members of the public then visited a number of potential 2016 project locations, returning to Parks Headquarters at around 9:40. Tour stops included missing segments of the following trails:

Cottonwood Trail at Woodmen and Austin Bluffs

Cottonwood Trail at Vincent

University Park Trail at UCCS