



**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes - FINAL
February 8, 2018**

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

Members Absent: N/A

Alternates Present: N/A

Alternates Absent: Brooks Williams

Staff Present: Karen Palus, Britt Haley, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Anna White, Connie Perry, Kate Brady, Kathleen Krager, David Deitemeyer, Scott Abbott, Pam Ingrassia, Shawn Riley

Called to Order: Board Chair Mina Liebert brought the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

Citizen Discussion

Sue Spengler, citizen, had concerns after the North Cheyenne Canon Master Plan public meeting and had sent an email with her concerns, including questions she wanted answered regarding the Broadmoor's involvement. Karen Palus responded that an email was drafted, but had not been sent and was able to send that email to Sue Spengler during the meeting.

John Spengler, citizen, had complaints about the public commenting process during the North Cheyenne Canon Master Plan meeting. He also had a few questions about closures in the Canon.

Bruce Hamilton, citizen, came to the Board worried about the privatization of public land, specifically in regard to North Cheyenne Canon and asked the Board to understand some of the public's concerns.

Cathy Mining, citizen, suggested that Master Plan items be put online before meetings so citizens can give better feedback. Karen Palus later explained that the information is put online ahead of time.

Matthew Cavanaugh, citizen, voiced concerns about rules being broken on the Manitou Incline and encouraged the Board and our staff to think of the Incline as a separate trail from how we view other trails in the city due to its high volume and usage.

Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC) Executive Director, gave information about recommendations from the TOSC Board of Directors on suggestions they had for the

Banning Lewis Ranch master plan. The TOSC Board of Directors asked the annexation agreement for Banning Lewis Ranch to not go forward until the master planned open space is settled or considered strongly. They also asked that there be language in future agreements that developers provide land, and also on how they will build and maintain parks and trails with the thought that TOPS cannot fund the maintenance.

Donna Strum, citizen, had concerns about closures in North Cheyenne Canon near Mesa Road and South Cheyenne Canon Road. She also was concerned about Seven Falls needing more than one entrance/exit.

Approval of Minutes – January 11, 2018

Motion – To approve the January 11, 2018 minutes.

1st – Ron Ilegn, 2nd – David Siegel, Approved, Unanimous with one abstaining with a modification on page 6 of January minutes. Change Mike Rigney’s organization to Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates and Andrew’s last name to Vanderwege.

Action Items

Bike Master Plan (Presented by Kate Brady, Senior Bike Planner, and Kathleen Krager, Transportation Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: final draft plan; chapter 1 introduction; why plan for bikes; bike plan vision; existing bicycle facilities; who are we planning for; why now; what needs to be done; how we developed the plan; public process; chapter 2 – creating greater support for biking; encouragement; education; enforcement; evaluation and planning; chapter 3 – building connections; vision network; chapter 4 – applying the best solutions; implementation approach; appendices; and questions.

Board member Ron Ilgen asked Kate Brady to summarize what this bike master plan would mean to the Parks. She stated it helps connect the park system as well as promote responsibility. He then asked if there would be any modifications to current trails or if the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department had made any recommendations. She responded no, and that the network was taken from the approved master plan.

Board member Hank Scarangella asked that, if approved, who would implement this bike master plan. Kate Brady responded that there were co-leads between the Parks Department and Public Works, as well as a few other non-profits involved.

Board member Daniel Bowan asked if there had been any changes made to the proposed bike master plan since the last meeting to which Kate Brady responded no. He also made a comment about wanting to make sure the Legacy Loop has more of a presence.

Board member David Siegel asked if implementing E-Bikes was part of this plan, to which Kate Brady responded that they will not be implemented as part of this plan. Kathleen Krager addressed E-Bikes and the legality of them on trails, stating that E-Bikes in relation to the Bike Master Plan would be considered later.

Board member Michael Phan asked if other users, like runners, would still be accommodated. Karen Palus replied that this Master Plan would only be implemented on our Tier 1 trails, and that they would still have breezed trails to the sides.

Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC) Executive Director, stated that BikeCOS! is a TOSC initiative. She supported the process, saying it was well done and that this Master Plan will help with connectivity and signage.

Motion: Move to recommend City Council approve BikeCOS!, the citywide bicycle master plan.
1st – Ron Ilgen, 2nd – Hank Scarangella, Approved, Unanimous

Banning Lewis Ranch Village 3 Neighborhood Park Design (Presented by Connie Perry, Landscape Architect)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: a location map; overview; neighborhood park; pavilion and playground; tot lot playground; multi-sport court; turf area and play fields; fitness area; picnic grove; native landscape areas; and summary.

Board member Carol Beckman asked if this recommendation was going through to City Council, to which Connie Perry replied that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was the approval board for this project.

Board member Ron Ilgen asked if the soccer fields would be built to a standard size, to which Connie Perry responded that they are only practice fields for kids.

Motion: A motion approving the Banning Lewis Ranch (Oakwood) Village 3 Neighborhood Park Design (5.2 acres).

1st – Carol Beckman, 2nd – Michael Phan, Approved, Unanimous

Mid Shooks Run Community Garden Amendment (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect)

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation](#)

The PowerPoint Presentation included: Dimensions and design of the new greenhouse; review of the current layout of the garden, including neighboring homes; public process and input; and

what had previously been approved before in the September 2017 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting. David also introduced Larry Stebbins from Pikes Peak Urban Gardens.

Board member Jason Rupinski asked what the benefits of the new greenhouse were, other than size. Larry Stebbins replied that this garden has a wait list for planting, so more size will allow for more planting and that the dome greenhouse will be a better teaching facility as it can house more people. Jason then asked where the greenhouse would be in a picture in the PowerPoint, and Larry pointed out the location and gave a description.

Board member Ron Ilgen asked what the security at the greenhouse would be. David Flasko, owner of Dome Creations LLC (the company that would create the dome), responded that there would be deadlocks and the windows are very resistant to damage. David Deitemeyer also stated that the greenhouse would be behind a fence.

Board member Hank Scarangella asked if Dome Creations LLC was donating the dome, to which Larry Stebbins replied that it would be donated for use through a partnership. Hank asked if this was a long-term agreement. Larry responded that it was a long-term agreement as of right now, but if Dome Creations wanted to remove the dome, a new agreed-upon greenhouse would be put in place. The agreement states that Pikes Peak Urban Gardens will maintain the greenhouse. Hank then asked what the principle reason for changing the greenhouse style was. David responded that the new greenhouse provides a more useable space and more room to teach.

Board member Gary Feffer inquired if the new interest in this garden was creating parking issues that could potentially bother neighbors. Larry Stebbins replied that they had been taking suggestions on mitigating parking.

Board member David Siegel asked if the fan inside the greenhouse made noise and would be bothersome to neighbors. Larry Stebbins replied that it doesn't make noise.

Board member Carol Beckman asked what the cost of the geodesic dome would be had the use of it not been donated. Larry Stebbins stated that it would be about \$2,000 for a dome. Carol asked if there was any loss of garden space in the footprint of the new dome, which Larry replied that there would be no loss in garden space, and more trees will actually be able to be planted. Carol then asked how the greenhouse would be accessed if there was a lock on it. Larry responded that there would be a padlock with a code, and that this method had been successful with the last greenhouse in place.

Board member Mina Liebert commented on the efficiency of the greenhouse and its renewed ability for educational purposes.

Joan O'Neill, citizen, is one of the neighbors whose home backs up to the garden. She appreciated David Deitemeyer and Larry Stebbins' help and understanding of public comment. Her main two concerns were: 1) that she wondered if there was a way to make the greenhouse fit in more with the aesthetic of the older neighborhood. Larry responded that they could

landscape around the dome to soften some of the hard lines and make it fit in better with the surrounding neighborhood. 2) She wondered who is responsible for maintaining the fence separating the park and their property, as the fence sits on their land. David responded that they are working to verify the property line. Larry responded that we are going to repair the damaged parts of the fence at no cost, but conversations are ongoing with the homeowners.

Chris Herbster, citizen, is also a neighbor immediately next to the park and had questions about the fencing, including materials to fix it. Larry Stebbins stated again that fence repairs could be done at no labor cost to Chris, if he could supply the materials. Chris suggested using fencing material from Dorchester Park, though David replied that the material from Dorchester is not salvageable to repair this fence. David said more negotiations concerning the fence would continue.

Board member Hank Scarangella had questions and confusion about the fence and the property line. David Deitemeyer responded that the survey crew had originally identified that the fence was on private property that has some skew onto park property.

Board member Gary Feffer asked if the fence was constructed by the property owners or the city. Kurt Schroeder responded that the fence predated any of our current staff, but that we don't typically build fences around parks.

Board member Mina Liebert asked if the fence is a city fence on private property, do we move the fence. Both Larry Stebbins and David Deitemeyer responded that we can repair the fence, but moving it would have to be looked into further.

There was more discussion about the current fencing, future implications, and property line issues that David Deitemeyer and Larry Stebbins said that they would look into, but did not have answers for at the moment. They agreed that they would work with the neighbors to find the best solution to fencing. David Siegel suggested that there be a later action item in the future that can address issues with fences.

Motion: A motion recommending approval of the 16' diameter geodesic dome greenhouse for the Mid Shooks Run Community Garden

1st – Carol Beckman, 2nd – Ron Ilgen, Approved, Unanimous

Rustic Hills Drainage Improvement at Rock Island Trail (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: The same information that was presented to the TOPS Working Committee in November for this project. This presentation included background information; project goals; existing conditions; conceptual plan; examples of proposed facilities; TOPS policy; project timeline; and questions. David Deitemeyer was joined by John Adair from the City's Water Resources Division. David also introduced the conditions for the

recommendation as well as the modified motion that the TOPS Working Committee had recommended (#5 on list of conditions in motion).

Board member Carol Beckman asked if the transportation corridor considered previously was motorized, to which David Deitemeyer responded yes. Carol then asked if the conditions presented would be binding. Britt Haley responded that conditions will try to be upheld, but not meeting one or more of the conditions would not stop the project. John Adair agreed that conditions would be upheld as much as possible. Carol asked if there was a cost increase to uphold conditions, to which John replied that Water Resources would cover those costs, but no design has begun since approval is still necessary. Carol's next question was if design elements could be added to the required conditions. John gave examples, but said since approval is still necessary, no design elements can be determined on yet. Carol asked what neighborhood access currently existed, to which David replied that there is no access, only social trails. Carol had concerns about trails dead-ending and public access. David and John replied that there is no public access and that if new social trails were formed, they could be cut off by fencing, but that couldn't be decided until a design is completed. Carol's last question was that if the project is not approved, would the erosion continue. John replied that the detention pond provides many benefits, but that there will still be an obligation for some sort of drainage regardless.

Board member Ron Ilgen asked where the pond will be. John Adair responded by showing him the location on an aerial image and then explained how the dry detention pond would work.

Board member Jason Rupinski asked if most if not all of the mitigation will improve current safety issues. John Adair responded that all erosion issues will be mitigated, while stable property will be left alone. Jason's next question was about the projected timeline. John answered that the timeline is short, but there are easement and encroachment issues that must be dealt with first; however, the hope is to have this project completed in the fall. Jason's final question was if the Parks Department would be involved in discussions involving the encroachments and easement issues. David responded that the Department would be involved.

Board member Daniel Bowan asked if colored concrete would cost more. John Adair replied that it does, and David Deitemeyer responded that it is typically three times as expensive.

Britt Haley then gave some cleaned-up verbiage for the motion, including the TOPS Working Committee's modified recommendation.

Motion: Approval of the Colorado Springs Water Resources Engineering Division's request for drainage improvements, including the water quality detention pond proposed on the 7.75 ac TOPS Open Space parcel along the Rock Island Trail Corridor, implementation, to the extent possible, of the following additional measures in the design to create a more natural and aesthetically pleasing design including but not limited to:

- (1) using cobble in the trickle channel instead of a concrete chase,
- (2) consideration of using colored concrete to blend structures into the open space,

- (3) consideration of creating undulations in the grading of the pond (eliminate straight line-grading) for enhanced natural aesthetics,
- (4) coordination with the Regional Parks, Trails and Open Space Natural Resource Specialist for selection of seed mix for onsite restoration, and
- (5) conduct a public process for the neighborhood in regard to new trail access and design

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board determines that in addition to providing water quality benefits, the proposed project enhances trail connectivity and protects the property from further erosion which protects its natural values.

1st – Carol Beckman, 2nd – David Siegel, Approved, Unanimous

Ceremonial Items (10:00 a.m. time certain)

Legacy Loop Signage – Springs Fabrication, Colorado Springs Leadership Institute (Presented by Scott Abbott, Park and Operations Administrator)

Scott Abbott introduced Dan Stuart from Colorado Springs Forward and thanked him for his help in the installation of trail markers.

Ice Rink – Downtown Partnership & Colorado Springs Utilities (Presented by Pam Ingrassia, Ice Rink Interim Operations Administrator and Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager)

Kim King gave statistics about the Acacia Park Ice Rink’s success over the Holiday season. She introduced Laurel Prudhomme from the Downtown Partnership, Tyrone Johnson from Colorado Springs Utilities, Pam Ingrassia from Sertich Ice Center, and Shawn Riley from the South Maintenance District and presented them with awards and a “thank you” for their combined efforts in the rink’s success.

Presentations

Rock Creek Canyon Parcels (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect)

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: information about the acquisition of the 72 acres for expansion in Cheyenne Mountain State Park; the details of the property; wildlife seen on the property; where public access would and would not be allowed; the breakdown of the two properties we would be acquiring; any special conditions from the owners of the properties. David stated there was already an agreement signed by the Watkins siblings, the owners of one of the properties. He also reminded the Committee that while the City would have ownership of the property, it would be maintained by State Parks. David was joined by Mitch Martin from Colorado Parks and Wildlife for this presentation.

Dixon Trail Easement (Presented by Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: An overview of the Cheyenne Mountain area; where the easement is located; cost of the easement; funding of the easement; where this project fits in the master plan; project goals and timeline.

E Bike Policy (Presented by Scott Abbott, Park and Operations Administrator)

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: Information on the three different classifications of E Bikes; the State's stance on E Bikes; gave examples from other studies of effects on trails; gave pros and cons of E Bikes in Parks; presented a proposed policy for E Bikes on trails in Colorado Springs.

Public Art Proposal for Bancroft Park (Presented by Matt Mayberry, Cultural Services Division Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation](#)

The PowerPoint Presentation included: An introduction to the concept of an art piece in Bancroft Park to honor Michael Garman; proposed location in park; maintenance of statue; donation of statue; and public process.

Medal of Honor Memorial (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect)

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation](#)

The PowerPoint Presentation included: A Request for Proposal for a veterans Medal of Honor Memorial in Memorial Park; detailed design; detailed cost; and detailed maintenance.

Staff Reports

Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, announced that the Colorado Court of Appeals ruled that the City of Colorado Springs acted within its authority as a home rule city in the land exchange. However, it is still in litigation since the individuals who brought the suit still have the ability to appeal the decision.

Board Business

Jason Rupinski attended the TOPS Working Committee meeting the day before and appreciated feedback that was used in discussion today.

Ron Ilgen shared that he had been to the North Cheyenne Canon Master Plan Meeting.

Hank Scarangella had attended a Larry Ochs meeting as well as a meeting on the Garden of the Gods Transportation Study. Britt Haley responded that she had spoken with Chris Lieber concerning a status update for the preble's mouse study regarding the Sports Complex.

Gary Feffer – Attended a Historic Preservation Alliance meeting, as well as both of the North Cheyenne Canon Master Plan meetings and applauded how the two North Cheyenne Canon meetings were run.

Daniel Bowan – Went to one of the North Cheyenne Canon Master Plan meetings and agreed with the citizen comment that it would be helpful for information to be put out before the meetings to get better input from the public. He also said he would like to see more public comment. Karen Palus explained the process of distributing information before public meetings.

David Siegel said that he and Gary Feffer had attended a Historic Preservation Alliance meeting but that there was not much representation from Parks.

Carol Beckman attended the TOPS Meeting the day before and appreciated the feedback.

Mina Liebert stated that the afternoon's LART meeting was cancelled, but they have a retreat next week. She also stated that she attended the meetings for the Inspire Grant, awarded from Great Outdoors Colorado, and that the meeting was well attended.

Adjournment

Motion: Move to adjourn at 12:20 p.m.

1st – Carol Beckman, 2nd – Ron Ilgen, Approved, Unanimous