



**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes - FINAL
January 12, 2017**

Members Present: Mina Liebert, Gary Feffer, Ron Ilgen, Hank Scarangella, Carol Beckman, Charles Castle, Scot Hume, Gary Bostrom

Members Absent: Jason Rupinski

Alternates Present: Charlie Dunn

Alternates Absent:

Staff Present: Karen Palus, Chris Lieber, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Christi Mehew

Called to Order: Mina Liebert brought the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m.

Citizen Discussion

Andrew Van Der Wege – (GoWest Camps) Asked for the Board’s support for trails and safe connectivity for bikes. He had the opportunity to listen to a presentation by Chris Lieber, former Parks Development Manager, who had a forward view of how trails and bikes fit together. He hopes that the Rock Island Trail and Cottonwood Trail continue to be a priority as it is the only way to have an east to west connection within the City. He hopes to form an Active Transportation Biking Committee that will represent various city leaders and desire to have a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board member at meetings.

Susan Davies – Thanked board members for reaching out to City Council regarding a possible Park initiative on the ballot for the April 2017 election. The City of Colorado Springs had the Trust for Public Land research our current park system and identify needs. The result indicated that citizens would be willing to contribute approximately a little over a dollar per month towards Colorado Springs parks. City Council informed the Parks Department that infrastructure needs were more important at this time and an initiative will not go on the April ballot. Please continue to inform City Council of the need for financial support for our Parks.

John Maynard – He was present at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, January 10th. Council members are supportive of the Parks Department; however, not supportive of the funding mechanism that was presented to them. The discussion needs to continue regarding funding for the Parks Department and its importance to the Park System. He suggested that Park Board members include this topic while interviewing for reappointment with City Council. He hopes the Board makes a recommendation to City Council regarding increased funding during the

joint Park and Recreation Advisory Board/City Council annual meeting and during the budget planning process.

Approval of Minutes – December 8, 2016

Motion – To approve the December 8, 2016 minutes.

1st – Scot Hume, 2nd – Ron Ilgen, Approved, Unanimous

Action Items

2017 Prospect Lake Hour Changes (Presented by Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: current schedule – wakeless; current schedule – wake; current schedule at Quail Lake; number of permits sold; recommended 2017 schedule; changes in hours and plans for summer 2017.

- This information was previously presented at the December Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting.
- Users will be categorized as “motorized” and “non-motorized” watercraft for identification purposes rather than referring to “wake” and “wakeless” water.
- Both motorized and non-motorized users have weekend times scheduled on the lake for 2017.
- Due to user feedback at the meeting as well as responses to a recent survey, the majority voted to have the 2015 schedule reinstated for 2017.
- The change in hours will most likely cause negative impacts to the YMCA’s operation. The hours for 2016 were changed due to their concern for safety on the swim beach with motorized activity occurring at the same time.
- A new vendor for this summer will be working out of the boat house for non-motorized boats and will operate only on non-motorized days which will reduce the revenue opportunity for this site.
- The YMCA will operate the Swim Beach for summer 2017.
- Get Outdoors Day and Dragon Boat Races will return this summer.

Motion: A motion to approve the 2017 Prospect Lake schedule as presented.

1st - Gary Bostrom, 2nd - Scot Hume, Approved, Unanimous

Larry Ochs Sports Complex (Presented by Sarah Bryarly, Interim Parks Development Manager and Craig Ochs, Executive Director of the Scott Hall Field of Dreams Foundation)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: the project team; need for fields; process; the formation of the Scott Hall Field of Dreams Foundation; Board of Directors; program details; operation plan; current vision; community feedback; previous public comments; options explored; response to issues raised; aerial map with both site locations; site comparison; sports complex relocation process; planning process; 2003 Briargate master plan; 2004 Briargate master plan; recommended 2016 Briargate master plan; planning process and next steps.

- Sarah Bryarly introduced Darlene Kennedy, Real Estate Services Manager and Kellie Billingsley, Real Estate Specialist.
- This item was brought before the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board last month as a presentation item.
- The need for fields was identified in the 2014 Briargate Master Plan process based on citizen comments. The Four Diamonds Complex at UCCS and Academy Little League fields have closed so new fields are critical.
- Two community meetings were held on November 12, 2015 and January 20, 2016. During these meetings citizens expressed concern regarding access to the sports complex and lighting. Due to these concerns the process was put on hold to explore alternatives.
- Comments from the community regarding the original location included: the location is wrong; make the access on Interquest Parkway; neighborhoods should be cautious as it could be an apartment complex with thousands of units.
- The four options explored were: Access off Powers Boulevard; a bridge across Powers Boulevard; a bridge across Kettle Creek; and an alternative site location.
- A community meeting was held on November 17, 2016 to discuss a new alternative site with citizens. The numbers of potential residential units were displayed and citizens were supportive of residential development going into the current location versus a Sports Complex and wanted the Parks Department to move forward with the approval process.
- The Sports Complex will include: 8 multi-purpose fields (diamonds); 3 multi-purpose fields; 3 concession stand/restroom buildings; an average of 60 parking spaces per field; a passive recreation area and central gathering area.
- Industry experts in lighting recommended the most appropriate lighting for the complex.
- A third party organization will oversee the operations of the Sports Complex.
- Even though citizens are very supportive of the new location, the current location is still a very viable option.
- The Sports Complex relocation process includes presentations to both the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and City Council followed by a formal presentation to City Council for approval.
- If the choice is to approve the new location, more community meetings will be held and the area will need to be rezoned as well as approval obtained from the Planning Commission.
- Terms of the relocation:
 - What the City will provide: 57.82 acres of land at the existing Larry Ochs Sports Complex Site. 46.18 acres is developable land and 11.64 acres is encumbered

with Utility Easements and the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse, therefore undevelopable. The City will contribute up to \$60,000 for costs associated with the rezoning such as traffic and drainage studies. A supplemental appropriation from PLDO (Park Land Dedication Ordinance) funds will be required.

- What Interquest Westside LLC will provide: 36 acres of land at the existing Colorado Crossing Property with additional land dedicated through the PLDO process. They will continue to work with the Scott Hall Foundation to purchase additional acreage.
- Schedule:
 - January 12, 2017 –Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting for approval and a recommendation to City Council.
 - January 23, 2017 – Present at the City Council Work Session.
 - February 14, 2017 – Present to City Council for approval.
- Information is available at <https://coloradosprings.gov/parks-recreation-and-cultural-services/page/larry-ochs-sports-complex>
- Scot Hume expressed concern about the original location being PK zoned and changing it to residential zoning as well as setting a precedent. He inquired about the steps required to put this on the April ballot for a vote of the people. Karen Palus responded that this is a trade and the Parks Department is not directly selling the property and it's not required to go before the public for a vote. The goal is to make this exchange work as the community will get a much better park and the Sports Complex will have a much better venue. Trades have been done since the 1960's and have always resulted in improving parks and the park system.
- Charlie Dunn – He spoke in favor of the Sports Complex and encouraged the Board to approve this project as well as continue good communication with the public.

Motion: A motion to recommend this land exchange between the City of Colorado Springs and New Crossings, Inc.

1st - Charles Castle, 2nd - Hank Scarangella, Approved, 7-1

Ayes: Charles Castle, Hank Scarangella, Ron Ilgen, Mina Liebert, Gary Feffer, Gary Bostrom, Carol Beckman

Nays: Scot Hume

John Venezia Community Park Supplemental Appropriation (Presented by Sarah Bryarly, Interim Parks Development Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: cost of John Venezia Community Park; construction; what still needs to be completed; hard surface courts and the cost breakdown.

- The overall cost of the project is \$13 million.

- What still needs to be completed: tennis/pickleball courts and lights; inline hockey rink; hay loft shade shelter; universally accessible playground; the Briargate Trail and finishing touches.
- Hard surface courts include six tennis courts; four pickleball courts; lights over 1 tennis court and pickleball courts; a hay loft shade shelter area and inline hockey/basketball court.
- Funding sources include PLDO, TOPS Trails Category and a Great Outdoors Colorado Grant. The Parks Department is seeking \$800,000 as a 2017 supplemental appropriation from the PLDO account to complete the project.
- June 2017 is the target completion date for this project.
- Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager, stated it is possible that the Memorial Park contractor could be interested in extending his contract to cover the programming for the Venezia courts. The programming piece of this project will be researched and decided once the number of courts is determined.
- Jeff Norton (Pikes Peak Pickleball Association). The association is committed to support Pickleball infrastructure, education, training and maintenance in venues throughout the City.

Motion: A motion to approve the supplemental appropriation for the John Venezia Community Park in the amount of \$800,000, with PLDO funds.

1st – Ron Ilgen, 2nd - Charles Castle, Approved, Unanimous

Presentations

Trust for Public Land Parks Economic Benefit Study (Presented by Jennifer Plowden, Trust for Public Land Senior Conservation Economist)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

[Link to Executive Summary](#)

[Link to full Report](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: recognition of sponsors; conservation economics; an overview – Colorado Springs; enhanced property value; tourism; recreation; health; economic development; stormwater infiltration; air pollution; summary and contact information.

- The Trust for Public Land examined the measurable economic benefits of parks and trails in Colorado Springs and translated the perceived values into dollars.
- The goal is to use this information as a tool to move forward.
- Parks and trails provide hundreds of millions in economic benefits each year to include: enhance property value; support tourism; enable recreation; increase public health; provide economic development, reduce the costs of stormwater management; and help improve air quality.

- The values provided in the study are lower than actuals as TPL tends to be conservative with their numbers.
- Statistics:
 - \$502 million enhanced property value
 - \$2.58 million in additional property tax revenue annually
 - \$1.49 billion in visitors spending annually and 9% of tourists come to visit the outdoors
 - \$135 million in visitor spending annually is attributable to parks
 - \$6.36 million in local tax revenue
 - \$23.5 million visits to parks and facilities annually
 - \$58.7 million in recreational use value
 - \$56.5 million in health care cost savings annually
 - Households spend an average of \$183 per year on sports, recreation and exercise equipment or \$32.4 million total. This contributes to 88 sporting goods stores, \$178 million in sales and 986 employees.
 - \$3.06 million stormwater infiltration value
 - \$201,000 total air pollution removal benefit annually
- The TPL event this evening will be held at the Broadmoor Little Theater and is hosted by the El Pomar Foundation. The event includes several speakers along with a panel of industry leaders followed by a question and answer session. A reception will take place at the Penrose Heritage Museum after the presentation.

Crest at Woodmen Land Exchange (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Park Planner)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: project location; project background; site photos; the proposed land exchange; existing trails; trail opportunities; proposed development and schedule.

- In 2002 a parcel (2.26 acres) was donated by American Furniture Warehouse to the City with a proposed use for the Cottonwood Creek Trailhead.
- In 2011-2016 the Vincent Drive project was completed which includes roadway realignment, Cottonwood Creek improvements, Cottonwood Creek Trail improvements, trail access and parking on Old Vincent Drive.
- The Crest at Woodmen would receive 1.489 acres and the City would receive 1.490 acres.
- If the exchange is approved, a new trail will be constructed and connect the Cottonwood Trail to the Pikes Peak Greenway.
- Schedule:
 - February 9, 2016 - Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting for approval.
 - February 13, 2016 – Present at the City Council Work Session.
 - February 28, 2016 – Present at the City Council meeting for approval.
 - Winter/Springs 2017 the real estate process will begin.
 - Spring/Summer 2017 the trail will be constructed.

Staff Reports

Switchback's Stadium Name Change (Presented by Kurt Schroeder, Parks Operations Manager and Nick Ragain, Switchbacks FC President)

- Ragain Sports LLC and the City entered into a joint use and lease agreement in 2014 in regards to the stadium.
- Last year the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board approved the stadium's name change from Sand Creek Stadium to Switchback Stadium.
- The Switchbacks have reached an agreement with Weidner Homes to rename Switchbacks Stadium to Weidner Stadium home of the Switchbacks.

American Numismatic Property – Rock Island Trail Corridor (Presented by Sarah Bryarly, Interim Parks Development Manager)

- This is part of the missing portion of the Rock Island Trail between the Shooks Run Trail and Ferguson Street which connects to the Pikes Peak Greenway.
- This was presented to the Board in November 2016 for approval of the purchase of the American Numismatic parcel.
- This item will be presented on February 14th to City Council for approval of the acquisition.
- The deed work is currently being cleaned up and title work is underway.
- The 65% trail construction drawings from Templeton Gap to the Pikes Peak Greenway will be received today.
- Options for the warehouse include leasing it or tearing it down; however, this decision will be independent of the project.

Conservation Finance Feasibility Status (Presented by Nissa Steinhour, Consultant)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: methodology; ballot proposals; what we did; reasons for voting yes and no; crafting the measure; top three rationales in support; bottom three rationales in support; opposition rationales and the bottom line.

- Karen Palus and Nissa Steinhour met with City Council members to discuss the survey. Good conversations occurred with a result of a split in support from Council members.
- City council has the desire to solve the Parks Department's financial problem; however, they did not approve the initiative to be on the April 2017 ballot.
- A survey was conducted from November 29 – December 3, 2016 of 300 registered Colorado Springs voters likely to participate in the April 2017 election. Interviews were conducted via landline and cellphone.
- Respondents were asked to consider one of two tax proposals for different amounts. They were asked "shall city taxes be increased by up to eight million/sixteen million dollars annually with a temporary one-tenth/two-tenths of one cent sales tax for

conserving water, protecting natural areas and expanding parks and outdoor recreation?”

- Both measures received a majority of support, but significant distinction existed based on the amount. 67% supported the \$8 million dollar proposal and 56% supported the \$16 million dollar proposal.
- The most important priorities are natural areas and maintaining neighborhood parks with active recreation and the arts receiving the least support.
- Bottom Line:
 - There is support for a proposal to fund parks and natural areas in the city, although there is a clear distinction in the amount of the package and some clear price sensitivity.
 - City voters prioritize restoring forests, and conserving natural areas, although regional iconic parks are also viewed as very important. Active recreation is deemed somewhat less important, which is a typical dynamic. Water conservation also stands out in the ballot language as a need.
 - Rationales that underscore the need to conserve natural areas, especially in light of future growth and the potential for fires, are very compelling.
 - A more modest measure has the strong potential to retain support after the give and take that could occur over the course of a campaign.

CIP Year-End Update (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Park Planner)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: Trails; Sand Creek Trail – Las Vegas to Hancock; 2D Trails; Legacy Loop; American Numismatic property trail acquisition; FEMA repairs; Manitou Incline Phase 2 construction; University Park Trail at UCCS; Cottonwood Creek Trail; Silver Cascade Trail; I25/Cimmaron Interchange; upcoming 2017 project highlights – trails; Open Space; Corral Bluffs Open Space Colorado Natural Areas Designation; Watkins Property Open Space acquisition; Open Space Management Plans; Red Rock Canyon Open Space master plan implementation; Ute Valley master plan implementation; Blodgett Peak Open Space trailhead improvements; volunteer projects; upcoming 2017 project highlights - Open Spaces; Parks; John Venezia Community Park; America the Beautiful Park Environmental Playground; Nancy Lewis Park improvements; Monument Valley Park Pickleball Courts; playground renovations; Inspire Grant; Harlan Wolfe; Rampart Park Disc Golf; Park Road Paving – 2C Funding; upcoming 2017 project highlights – parks; Facilities and other projects; Deerfield Community Center Phase 1 building renovations; City Auditorium restroom renovations; Valley High Golf Course First Tee short course; Evans Avenue bridge replacement and Design, Development and TOPS Staff.

- A GOCO grant was obtained for the Legacy Loop which will help with construction costs for Phase 1 projects.
- The American Numismatic Property acquisition will go to City Council this month for approval.

- All FEMA repairs due to the flood damage in 2015 have been completed except one which will be completed this Spring.
- Manitou Incline Phase 2 was completed in December.
- Corral Bluffs Open Space Colorado Natural Area Designation is waiting for the Governor's signature to be final.
- The John Venezia Community Park will open this Summer.
- Nancy Lewis Park improvements included benches, a meditation garden and new playground.
- Monument Valley Park had 13 pickleball courts constructed.
- Playground renovations occurred at Cheyenne Meadows Park, America the Beautiful Park and El Pomar Youth Sports Complex.
- Deerfield Community Center Phase 1 building renovations included a new preschool room and ADA access.
- John Venezia Community Park will include at a minimum one tennis court and four pickleball courts. A supplemental appropriation of Public Space and Development Fund (PLDO) dollars for Venezia was just approved by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to help complete this project and a GOCO grant application has been submitted for the playground.
- An alternate site has been presented and approved for the Larry Ochs Sports Complex at the Parks Board meeting today and on February 14th it will go before City Council for approval.

Wind Storm Update – (Presented by Kurt Schroeder, Parks Operations and Development Manager)

[Link to storm pictures](#)

- Damage reports came in on Monday and top priorities were opening up roads and sidewalks due to many closures. Next week parks will be addressed.
- The tree loss is immense. The Memorial Park Recreation Center (formerly Aquatic Fitness Center) lost part of its roof, Cottonwood Creek Recreation Center roof is damaged, the kiosk at the Memorial Park Sports Office was blown down and several fences have blown down. The cemetery lost 30 – 40 trees and several headstones were dislodged.
- Crews are working diligently and volunteer coordination is underway; however, it will take some time to clear all the debris.

Board Business

Charles Castle

- He requested an update on the Tejon/Platte project which is led by Kathleen Kraeger, Transportation Manager.
- Kim King stated the Meadows Park Community Center is waiting for new electrical equipment to arrive, restrooms are completed and the target date for the roof completion is February.

Mina Liebert - A GOCO meeting was held this morning and LART has a meeting this afternoon. The LART meetings have had similar dialogue regarding the proposed park ballot measure.

Scot Hume – The TOPS Working Committee had a great presentation at their meeting on the TOPS Stewardship Program.

Hank Scarangella

- Karen Palus met with Park Liaison Council members Tom Strand and Jill Gaebler regarding the Code Scrub revisions. Thank you to all board members that provided feedback. Code Scrub will continue to be fine-tuned with the help of the Legal Department and will be presented to the board as well as City Council as formal presentations.
- Expressed concern regarding City Council’s decision to not move forward on the proposed Parks ballot measure. Ideas need to be explored to generate funds for the Parks Department and possibly a board work session should be scheduled.

Ron Ilgen – He was invited to attend a focus group on the Pikes Peak Summit Complex feasibility studies regarding raising donations for the complex.

Adjournment

Motion: Move to adjourn at 12:37 p.m.

1st - Gary Bostrom, 2nd – Charles Castle, Approved, Unanimous

Motion: Move to enter into a closed executive session.

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, b and e), the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, in Open Session, is to determine whether it will hold a Closed Executive Session. The issues to be discussed involve receipt of legal advice and 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 Park and Recreation Advisory Board 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.

1st – Gary Bostrom, 2nd – Charles Castle, Approved, Unanimous

Closed Executive Session

Motion to adjourn at 12:54 p.m.

1st – Gary Bostrom , 2nd – Scot Hume, Approved, Unanimous