



**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes - FINAL
July 13, 2017**

Members Present: Gary Feffer, Jason Rupinski, Carol Beckman, Gary Bostrom, Ron Ilgen, Hank Scarangella, Mina Liebert

Members Absent: David Siegel, Daniel Bowman

Alternates Present: Brandon Dyett

Alternates Absent: Brooks Williams, Michael Phan

Staff Present: Karen Palus, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Sarah Bryarly, Christi Mehew, Matt Mayberry

Called to Order: Board Chair Mina Liebert brought the meeting to order at 7:44 a.m.

Citizen Discussion

Cathe Bailie, Boulder Park Friends Group Chair stated the smoking in Boulder Park is still an ongoing issue. The group spoke to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in March and distributed flyers at that time. There has been no progress to date and Memorial Hospital has refused to talk to concerned neighbors. Kurt Schroeder, Parks Maintenance and Operations Manager, showed the location of the designated smoking area at the northeast corner of the park and Karen Palus spoke with City Council about ordinance revisions related to smoking in Boulder Park. Parks Board Chair Mina Liebert and Vice Chair Gary Feffer stated they will work to find solutions to this problem.

Debra Ackley, Boulder Park Friends Group Secretary stated that the smoking issue at Boulder Park had been on the docket for twenty years. She asked for protection of recreational spaces for health reasons and distributed pictures of the park to the Board for consideration.

Amy Porter, Boulder Park Friends Group Co-Chair, distributed a paper announcing their status as an official organized Friends Group. The group requests inclusion in conversations on Boulder Park as it affects the neighborhood and would like to be part of the Boulder Park Master Plan process. She stated they have identified needs for the park which include: improved crosswalks, lighting and the prevention of transients in the park.

Micky Simpson, Pikes Peak Ascent and Marathon, announced the Garden of the Gods 10 Mile and 10K Race this year was one of the best in history and Rockledge Ranch hosted a great celebration afterwards. Thank you to Garden of the Gods, Rocky Mountain Field Institute,

Garden of the Gods Foundation and Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services department. A donation will be made to the Garden of the Gods Foundation in the amount of \$5,000 (\$1,000 from the runner's registration and \$4,000 from the Pikes Peak Marathon Organization).

Tim Bergsten, PikesPeakSports.us, thanked the Garden of the Gods 10 Mile and 10K race event supporters as well as the bear that arrived during the race and helped publicize the race around the world. He hopes to continue to have the quality of the race match the quality of Garden of the Gods Park. Linda Carter, Director of Operations at Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center and Jan Martin received the \$5,000 check from the race organization.

Jan Martin, Garden of the Gods Foundation Trustee, stated the Garden of the Gods 10 Mile and 10K event was spectacular and the revenue will go towards the care of Garden of the Gods Park.

Ron Ilgen, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board member, thanked everyone who was a part of the Garden of the Gods 10 Mile and 10K Race event.

Susan Davies, Trails and Open Spaces Coalition (TOSC) Executive Director, stated that the Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center was used for the TOSC Starlight Spectacular event and thanked them for their partnership. The Venezia Community Park opening event was amazing and a great time to see the community come together. She thanked the Board for supporting the project. TOSC supports the Mayor in his efforts to get the stormwater initiative passed and asked the Board to encourage City Council members to do the same. She welcomed the newly formed Boulder Park Friends Group.

Approval of Minutes – June 7, 2017

Motion: A motion to approve the June 7, 2017 minutes.

1st – Ron Ilgen, 2nd – Gary Bostrom, Approved, Unanimous

Announcements

Mina Liebert, Board Chair, introduced the new Parks and Recreation Board members: David Siegel, Daniel Bowman, and alternate Brandon Dyell. She announced the Park Land Dedication Ordinance item on the agenda will not be presented today. The Parks department will be conducting a workshop in the near future to address this topic.

Mina Liebert and Karen Palus introduced Britt Haley as the new Design and Development Manager. A "meet and greet" will be held for Britt on Friday, July 14th at the Parks Department.

Britt Haley stated she is thrilled to be a part of the Parks team and thanked her supporters. She shared with the Committee her background, education and work history. She received a Bachelor's degree in International Affairs as well as a law degree at the University of Colorado

Boulder. Her work history includes: legislative aide for Senator Wayne Allard, Federal and Interstate Water Rights Unit under the Colorado Attorney General, Deputy and later Chief Legal Counsel for Governor Bill Owens, Director of the State Land Board and Division Chief with the City of Colorado Springs Attorney's office.

Sarah Bryarly, Parks Design and Development Interim Manager, thanked the Board for their time and commitment to the Parks Department.

Mina Liebert stated Sarah Bryarly has been an integral part of the Parks team, and especially her work on Venezia Community Park. The Board thanked her for 14 years of dedication and presented her with flowers.

Action Items

Peace Officers' Memorial (Presented by Sarah Bryarly, Chris Lieber, NES and Lt. David Edmundson)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: Memorial Park Master Plan amendment; proposed Peace Officers Memorial map/location within the park; map of memorial; map of proposed horseshoe venue relocation within the park; commitment for long term care and maintenance; and the project timeline.

The Memorial Park Master Plan identifies specific areas for the development of future memorials within Memorial Park. The City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department have been working with the Police Department on the Peace Officers Memorial for several years. Originally approved to be placed in America the Beautiful Park, the location of the memorial was moved to Memorial Park in 2015. In order to facilitate the construction of the Peace Officers Memorial in Memorial Park, the horseshoe courts will need to be located to a new location, still within Memorial Park.

The Peace Officers Memorial Team is seeking approval to relocate the horseshoe courts, in order to allow for construction of their memorial. The Peace Officers Memorial Team has met with the Colorado Horseshoe Pitch Association to gather input on a new site location. It has been determined by Staff, the Peace Officers Memorial Team and the Association the best location to relocate the courts is adjacent to the three pavilions and playground on the west side of the park, just south of the Rose Bowl. This site provides parking, restroom facilities, shade, enough room for the courts to be constructed, and a relatively flat area to minimize the amount of grading. The Peace Officers Memorial Team will be responsible for the design and construction of these horseshoe courts, with guidance from the Association. In order to allow for the relocation of the horseshoe courts, Staff is seeking the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to approve a minor amendment to the Memorial Park Master Plan.

David Edmondson stated that the El Pomar Foundation gave a \$175,000 matching grant on July 12th to help fund this project. The matching funds will need to be raised by December 31, 2017.

Motion: A motion to approve the minor amendment to the Memorial Park Master Plan to relocate the horseshoe courts.

1st – Jason Rupinski, 2nd – Hank Scarangella, Approved, Unanimous

Motion: A motion to approve the Peace Officers Memorial within Memorial Park.

1st – Jason Rupinski, 2nd – Hank Scarangella, unanimous

Larry Ochs Sports Complex Master Plan (Presented by Sarah Bryarly, Interim Parks Development Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: givens; need for fields; program details; design considerations; operation plan; aerial map with both site locations; and a map of Victory Ridge.

In 2015 the Parks Department, in conjunction with the Scott Hall Foundation engaged the public in a master plan process for the Larry Ochs Sports Complex. After several meetings, the process was put on hold until the Parks Department could address issues raised by the public. During this break in the master plan process, the Parks Department, Scott Hall Foundation and Westside LLC, were able to come to an agreement on exchanging the existing Larry Ochs Sports Complex with property located within the former Colorado Crossing, now known as Victory Ridge. This land exchange was presented to the public and City Council and with unanimous consent the Parks Department was encouraged to work with the various organizations to exchange the properties. Approval of the Larry Ochs Master Plan is contingent upon the land exchange being completed. However, to allow the Scott Hall Foundation the ability to go out and fundraise for the initial construction, an approved master plan is necessary.

The Board will be considering today the site plan for Phases 1 and 2 of the Master Plan. Phase 3 will be brought before the Board at a later date based on funding.

Board member Carol Beckman inquired about concessionaires, restroom hours and park hours. Karen Palus responded that concessionaires are planned and she anticipates typical park hours that the department has for other fields which are open until 10:00 p.m. in the evening. Sarah Bryarly stated the restrooms will not be open all the time as they are in a locked area; however, they will be open during sporting events.

Board member Gary Bostrom inquired when the Aquatic Center will be completed. Sarah Bryarly responded this would be a part of Phase 3 of the project which will be after the completion of Phases 1 and 2.

Board Chair Gary Feffer encouraged the need to have a maintenance contribution from the developer to maintain the facility. He also expressed concern that when a game ends people would walk to nearby restaurants and the space for parking would be an issue. Sarah Bryarly stated the design team had discussed this and believes once participants get all their equipment in the car they will most likely drive out of the parking area. Eighty parking spots are planned per field and planning with the concessionaire will be needed with emphasis on games being started at the appropriate time. Also, there are some areas near this facility that could be rented out for parking; however, those conversations have not taken place yet.

Karen Palus stated there is a high need to at least replace the six fields and future conversations regarding financial assistance for this project may occur as some organizations have not been able to get projects completely funded.

Board member Ron Ilgen inquired about the Aquatic Center. Sarah Bryarly stated the pool was planned due to deficiencies of pools in the area. School District 20 only has two pools in this vicinity and more are needed. Karen Palus stated that School District 20 has strong recreational swim teams so this pool will help them meet their needs.

Board member Jason Rupinski asked for clarification on parts of the project. He stated the three land components to the design include: the land exchange on Powers; the 8.25 acres to satisfy the PLDO requirement; and the Scott Hall Foundation's interest in buying additional property. He asked if there is a commitment from the developer on the 8.25 acres that is needed to meet the PLDO requirement. Sarah Bryarly stated they are working with the developer closely on the Park Land Dedication Ordinance (PLDO) component of this project and they have agreed to the 8.25 acres number. The Parks Department has not been privy to the discussions that the Scott Hall Foundation has had in regards to purchasing the additional property; however, Victory Ridge has given the Scott Hall Foundation a timeline and an aggressive schedule they have to meet.

Board member Gary Feffer stated the only thing the Board should be potentially aware of is to move forward with the assumption that plans may not happen, and if the pool does not get constructed the board needs to be sure the zoning is correct. Sarah Bryarly stated that once the land exchange is approved the area will be zoned PK.

Board member Hank Scarangella asked if the PLDO portion of this project has been finalized. Sarah Bryarly stated the City has been working on this for seven months and they are comfortable that the 8.25 acres number will be met for the PLDO requirement. If the exchange does not occur they are still required by the PLDO ordinance to meet this requirement. In addition, she stated this will be brought before the Parks and Recreation Advisory board before it moves onto the Planning Department for approval. If the PLDO portion is approved it will be contingent upon the land exchange being approved.

Karen Palus stated that any changes to the master plan require approval of the Parks and Recreation Advisory board although she does not expect the organization to change their plans.

Motion: A motion to approve the proposed master plan for the Larry Ochs Sports Complex; contingent upon the land exchange being finalized.

1st – Carol Beckman, 2nd – Jason Rupinski, Approved, Unanimous

Corral Bluffs Expansion Property (Presented by Sarah Bryarly, Interim Parks Development Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: key discussion points; natural resources target area; history of partnership; map of location; current status; financial implications of the acquisition; TOPS funding category (maintenance and operations); and the timeline/approval process.

The TOPS Working Committee has identified the 85.61 acres Corral Bluffs Expansion property, located adjacent to Corral Bluffs Open Space as having open space values that merit preservation. Acquisition of the property would serve as an extension of the Corral Bluffs Open Space/Jimmy Camp Creek area.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) recently approached the property owners to determine the interest level of selling the property for public use. TPL has facilitated the discussions regarding the sale of the property to the City for open space purposes. TPL desires to partner with the TOPS program in fulfilling the City's Open Space Master Plan to acquire the property for open space. To facilitate the City's acquisition of the property, TPL has obtained a letter of intent from the sellers to sell the approximately 85.61 acre property in September, 2017. TPL has agreed to sell the property to the City in one phase for \$570,000 through the Open Space Category.

A map was shown of the entire area to include Jimmy Camp Creek, Colorado Springs Utilities property, and the Corral Bluffs Open Space.

The average cost of maintaining the open space at the current service level is \$44/per acre. The largest expense after the acquisition will be access point improvements.

The project timeline:

- July 12th – TOPS Working Committee approval
- July 13th – Parks and Recreation Advisory Board approval
- July 10th – City Council work session presentation
- July 25th and August 7th – City Council approval
- August 23rd – Trust for Public Land Board of Directors approval
- September 2017 – Closing

Sarah Bryarly introduced Justin Spring, Director of Land Protection for TPL who has been the Parks Department's partner on this project. TPL has obtained an appraisal and will acquire the

property from the owner and sell it to the City for \$570,000 within one phase. TPL has agreed to share in the cost of the due diligence work.

Justin Spring thanked Sarah Bryarly, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and City Staff for their work on this project and appreciates the partnership. He stated this property is a great addition and the Smithsonian and Denver Museum of Nature and Science are very interested in this property.

Karen Palus thanked Justin Spring and Jackie Hilaire, President of Corral Bluffs Alliance, who has spent ten years working on this effort.

Board member Jason Rupinski stated that this is a very unique property for study and will have a certain focus. If it becomes open to the public, it will be with control and to educate citizens.

Board member Ron Ilgen inquired if there has been any opposition to the acquisition. Sarah Bryarly stated all comments have been positive.

Board member Carol Beckman asked when will access to the property be given and who is the contact person. Karen Palus responded that she cannot commit to public access at this time. There are still acquisitions that are being considered for this area and the department is researching other models around the country which have similar cultural and natural resources. The design needs to be very thoughtful due to this significance and more research is needed before a timeframe for access is established. This project has been discussed with Mayor Suthers. She announced that the Jimmy Camp Creek BioBlitz is this weekend and the public will be able to see the importance of this property.

Jackie Hilaire stated that the Corral Bluffs Alliance mission is to preserve this area due to its immense historical value. She distributed her business cards and offered members a guided hike of the area. She will be at the Jimmy Camp Creek BioBlitz with signup sheets for hikes as well.

Motion: A motion to approve the acquisition of the Corral Bluffs Expansion property from the Trust for Public Land for \$570,000, plus \$10,000 for associated costs.

1st – Jason Rupinski, 2nd – Ron Ilgen, Approved, Unanimous

Board Chair and Vice Chair Elections

Carol Beckman nominated Mina Liebert for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Chair position. Gary Bostrom 2nd, and the board approved the nomination unanimously.

Gary Bostrom nominated Gary Feffer for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Vice Chair position. Hank Scarangella 2nd, and the board approved the nomination unanimously.

Amendment to the 2018 CIP Budget (Presented by Sarah Bryarly, Interim Parks Development Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: estimated 2018 revenue by fund; TOPS Open Space Category; and the amendment.

During the April Parks Board meeting 2018 Capital Improvement Projects presentation, staff presented \$757,000 within the Open Space Category for continued implementation of the Red Rock Canyon Master Plan. Through citizen discussion during the April TOPS Working Committee Meeting, citizens asked the Parks Department to revisit how the Forest Management was addressed within the open spaces. Due to this request, Staff relooked at the budget to add additional funding to the Stewardship fund (within the Open Space Category), to conduct a lighter Forest Management touch within the open spaces. As part of adding additional money to the Stewardship fund, the overall amount of funding for Red Rock Canyon was reduced to \$300,000. The additional funding for the Forest Management work was denied by both the TOPS Working Committee and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

At the June TOPS Working Committee meeting, Committee member Lee Milner asked since the additional funding within the Stewardship Category was denied, could the Red Rock Canyon project be increased back to what was presented during the April presentation.

As a result, Staff requests approval for an amendment to the proposed 2018 Capital Improvement Budget (CIP). Staff requests an additional \$457,000 to be added to the budget within the Open Space Category for implementation of the Red Rock Canyon Master Plan. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommendation will be added to the overall 2018 Capital Improvement Project recommendations and carried forward to City Council for consideration as part of the 2018 Budget process.

The areas to be addressed at Red Rock Canyon include: construction of a small section of trails in the Section 16 area, the White Acres pavilion and the special events area; develop an interpretative plan; and complete signage.

Motion: A motion to approve the additional funding for Red Rock Canyon in the proposed 2018 CIP Budget in the amount of \$457,000.

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

Presentations

Cultural Services Update (Presented by Matt Mayberry, Cultural Service Division Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: Cultural Services Division mission; core services and operations; expenses = \$1.77 million; public-private partnership; statistics; program participation; Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum; Garden of the Gods facts; North Cheyenne

Cañon facts; Rockledge Ranch Historic Site; public art collection; archaeology; and looking ahead.

Special Improvement Maintenance District (SIMD) Update (Presented by Jon Carlson, Special Improvement Maintenance District Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: a map of 7 special improvement maintenance districts; SIMD background and purpose; ordinance description; management of districts; Colorado Avenue gateway; Platte Avenue; Woodstone; Old Colorado City; Stetson Hills; Norwood; Briargate; funding comparison; and Briargate budget shortfall solutions.

Staff Reports

Larry Ochs Sports Complex Land Exchange Update (Presented by Sarah Bryarly, Interim Parks Development Manager)

The Parks Department is meeting regularly with Otis Moore, Victory Ridge developer, and NES, the consultants on this project. NES and the Parks Department are working on developing a concept plan and rezoning the area, which will create a minor amendment to the Briargate Master Plan. NES submitted the concept plan to the Planning Commission a week and half ago and will be presented to the Commission for approval in August. City Council will consider the plan in September. The Parks department is working on the Victory Ridge site to get the overall grading plan completed as well as learn what underground facilities and utilities exist.

The concept plan was presented at a recent neighborhood meeting. The plan includes having low density residential areas at the top and bottom and higher density residential areas in the middle of the area. This idea was well received by the community.

An application has been submitted to the Colorado Fish and Wildlife department for approval of encroachment on the mouse habitat for a road from the access lot to the Sports Complex.

Board Business

Sarah Bryarly

- The Olympic Training Center is seeing a great response to the Velodrome at Memorial Park and many athletes are training at the site. They are interested in making the Velodrome covering permanent as there are many challenges to putting up the structure as well as taking it down. Sarah Bryarly recommends keeping it up permanently. Athletes have the ability to train in a controlled environment all year, there is an increase in para athletes who have interest in high-altitude training and use will increase with the Olympics being held in a few years. The Regional Building Department needs to provide input for making the structure permanent and contractors need to be contacted before more is invested in the process. A public meeting was held and one citizen attended. The Board did not have any opposition to this idea. Sarah

stated a modification to the agreement would be needed to include it as a permanent structure.

Karen Palus

- Please RSVP for the TOPS 20th Anniversary Celebration event that will be held on Wednesday, July 26th at the Penrose Garden Pavilion.
- The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board alternates term will be reviewed every year in July.

Mina Liebert

- The Venezia Community Park Grand Opening was a great event and thank you to Parks staff for their work.
- The new liaisons to the TOPS Working Committee are: Jason Rupinski – Parks, Carol Beckman – Trails, Gary Bostrom – Open Space.
- The next BioBlitz will be at Jimmy Camp Creek on Friday, July 14th and Saturday, July 15th.
- Sarah Bryarly's last day is Friday, July 14th and her going away party will be held on Tuesday, July 18th at Venezia Community Park at 4:00 p.m.
- The "Meet and Greet" for Britt Haley is on Friday, July 14th from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Britt's first day is Monday, July 17th.
- The Pioneers Museum Breakfast will be held on August 23rd.
- She inquired about the City Auditorium RFP status. Kim King stated the RFP closed on Friday, July 7th.

Hank Scarangella

- The stakeholder meeting for the 30th Street Development Plan was two weeks ago and there will be more meetings in the future. There was universal agreement on the core design concepts and no disagreement about any specific suggestion made by a stakeholder. There is only funding to modify the road from Fontmore to Mesa but the design will include Fontmore to Garden of the Gods Road, assuming funding will eventually become available to complete the entire project.
- The City has asked the Garden of the Gods Foundation to fund a transportation study and focus on traffic and congestion due to visitation numbers being off the chart. The study has just started. Shuttles will be discussed as part of the solution and other options will be looked at as well. The Department of Transportation's Volpe Center is the study consultant. They will produce various alternative shuttle options for consideration.

Ron Ilgen stated the same organization that conducted the Pikes Peak-America's Mountain Study will conduct the Garden of the Gods Park Traffic Study.

Jason Rupinski stated that interviews will be conducted soon for the TOPS Working Committee reappointments and vacancy.

Kurt Schroeder announced the Colorado Classic will be held on Thursday, August 10th. Areas of Cascade Street and Tejon Street downtown will be closed. Colorado Avenue will be closed.

[Link to handouts distributed during meeting](#)

Adjournment

Motion: Move to adjourn at 11:39 a.m.

1st – Hank Scarangella, 2nd – Carol Beckman, Approved, Unanimous