



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

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

Members Absent:

Alternates Present: Brooks Williams

Alternates Absent:

Staff Present: Karen Palus, Britt Haley, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Christi Mehew, Matt Mayberry

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

Announcements

Toni Knapp, inquired about the Friends Group application process and the status of the Friends of Boulder Park application. Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager, stated Annette Proctor, Parks Senior Volunteer Coordinator is the contact person for establishing a Friends Group. Kim King said she will contact Amy Porter, the Co-Chair of the Friends of Boulder Park and send her Annette Proctor's contact information.

Deborah Ashley, Secretary of the Boulder Friends Group, stated she spoke at the July meeting and since then membership has increased. The group has three areas of concern: smoking in the park; improved lighting; and improvements to the basketball courts. On August 23rd the gate that borders the park and Memorial hospital was closed and locked. Although it did curtail citizens smoking in this area, smokers are now congregating on the southeast corner of the park. She is requesting that signs be placed in the park and asked if there is a designated smoking area. She thanked the Parks Department for their involvement and distributed a picture of the park to the board.

Eric Eaton, citizen/scientist, stated he lives in Eastborough along the west fork area of Sand Creek. He has submitted a TOPS application for funding for this area for consideration as Open Space. Eric is concerned about the 2A Initiative regarding Stormwater. There are seventy one projects planned from 2016 through 2036. A project planned for next Fall has him concerned that it will be too invasive to the wildlife in the area.

Approval of Minutes – September 14, 2017

Motion: A motion to approve the September 14, 2017 minutes.

1st – Hank Scarangella, 2nd – Carol Beckman, Approved, 8 yeas and 0 nays. David Siegel abstained from voting due to not being in attendance at the September meeting.

Action Items

Colorado College Monument Sign Project Proposal (Presented by Tim Siebert, NES Principal)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: existing median signs; Cascade Avenue proposed median signs; Nevada Avenue proposed median signs; proposed median sign design details; requested action; and questions/comments.

- Board member Carol Beckman inquired about what will happen with the old signs and why are some signs not centered in the median. Tim Siebert stated the intent is to remove the sign and foundation and patch it up with sod. Some signs are not centered due to the turn lane cut; however, they are centered in the median vertically running north to south.
- Board member David Siegel asked about the lighting for the signs. Tim Siebert stated they are currently lit with LED spotlights and powered by a solar panel. They are requesting that the revocable permit allows for the panel to remain lit and that solar lighting can still be an option.

Motion: Move to approve the proposed placement of four Colorado College signs to replace the existing signs subject to issuance of a revocable permit by the City of Colorado Springs Land Use Review Division.

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

Great Outdoors Colorado School Yard Initiative (Presented by Tilah Larson, Senior Grant Analyst)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO); the grant application; schools seeking sponsorship; and pictures.

- Board member Jason Rupinski asked when the application is due and if the Parks Department manages the proposal. Tilah Larson stated on January 8, the grant announcement will be made and implementation will begin in April. The schools manage their own projects; however, Jake Butterfield has helped by answering questions and concerns in regards to the playgrounds.
- Board member Ron Ilgen asked how many schools applied. Tilah Larson responded very few due to GOCO having a high threshold for grants and requiring schools and neighborhoods to be highly engaged and to submit a very strong application.

- Board member Hank Scarangella asked what school district is participating in this process. Tilah Larson stated District 49.
- Board member Daniel Bowan stated it is a great initiative and inquired if they are a part of the Schools in Outdoor Learning Environment (SOLE) program of Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Tilah Larson replied that GOCO requires the schools to be a part of this program.
- Board member Carol Beckman asked what is GOCO's required match amount and how many grants are awarded. Tilah Larson stated it is 25% overall which consists of 10% in-cash and 15% in-kind. GOCO usually awards approximately 10-15 grants and the requested amount is a determining factor.
- Board Chair Mina Liebert asked how is this project promoted locally. Tilah Larson responded that GOCO is responsible for promoting the project. District 11 has made the project aware to their schools; however, schools have not rushed forward with the desire to be involved due to the huge commitment that GOCO requires. They need to meet certain demographics and all grant information is due in January which is a short time for preparation when schools begin in August.

Motion: Move to support the City's sponsorship of a School Yard Initiatives Grant application to Great Outdoors Colorado on behalf of Stetson Elementary School.

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

TOPS Working Committee Member Appointment – Lily Weissgold (Presented by Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager)

- Britt Haley stated that one of the TOPS Working Committee members has resigned due to a change in work schedule. Lily Weissgold, the current TOPS Working Committee alternate, recently interviewed in July. Britt Haley asked for the Boards consideration of appointing Lily Weissgold to the TOPS Working Committee as a regular member.
- Board member Jason Rupinski inquired if the Parks Department will advertise for an alternate position if Lily Weissgold moves into this position. Britt Haley stated yes.

Motion: Move approval of the appointment of Lily Weissgold to the TOPS Working Committee as presented.

1st – David Siegel, 2nd – Hank Scarangella, Approved, Unanimous

Presentations

Urban Renewal Authority (URA) Overview (Presented by Jariah Walker, Executive Director for the Colorado Springs Urban Renewal Authority)

- Ten active renewal areas exist in Colorado Springs that run from north to south and a few are on the west side.

- The URA Board consists of thirteen members who consist of appointments by the Mayor, Special Districts, School Districts and El Paso County.
- Areas of focus are downtown, Ivywild and the South Nevada vicinity. Several businesses will be going into the Ivywild and south Nevada areas and improvements will be made to Cheyenne Creek.
- The City Auditorium block has been active and has created a lot of interest. A hotel project is being considered in the north portion of this area and Norwood is talking about a project for the property they own near the post office.
- A Request for Information (RFI) was put out on the City Auditorium with the goal to see improvements made to the Auditorium.
- They are currently interested in having a project in the southeast side of the community and Mina Liebert has been a great voice for this area.
- Board member David Siegel asked if it makes sense to renew the URA for the City Auditorium block. Jariah Walker stated yes as there is interest. Legislation does have new requirements and it's a longer process; however, things are aligning well for this area.
- Board Vice-Chair Gary Feffer emphasized urban renewal in Parks and the importance that these two entities have a strong partnership and continued conversation.
- Board Chair Mina Liebert asked if there is a timeframe for URA projects. Jariah Walker replied it is a 25 year clock. The developer runs the financials, then it goes before City Council and the main driver for these projects is sales tax. The projects can receive up to 2% of General Fund dollars and City Council determines the percentage.
- Jariah Walker stated that community dialogue is essential. The neighbors and community members of the Ivywild/South Nevada project are very supportive and have been showing up for many meetings. The ideal is to make the project community based with everyone having a seat at the table and to find a balance.
- Board Chair Mina Liebert inquired about how the URA projects are funded. Jariah Walker responded that it is solely by development itself and not paid by the City of Colorado Springs. The URA rents space from the City of Colorado Springs for offices. He is a City employee but leased to the URA and his position is not funded by tax payer dollars.
- Eric Eaton, citizen/scientist, stated he was concerned for local businesses in the South Nevada area and possible displacement. Jariah Walker said he understands and many of the businesses were thrilled with the area being developed. Businesses were not taken away; however, if they wanted to sell that was their decision and there was no pressure. Many are saying thank you because it will be safer and a more walkable area for the community. They are trying to make it a smooth adjustment and making sure there are affordable options in this area.
- Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager stated the City Auditorium is at a 60% cost recovery based on current expenses and revenues. The Department is working on closing the gap and to get the fees more in line with the current fee structure. The Parks Department would like to partner with an organization to take the City Auditorium to the next level.

BioBlitz Results (Presented by Sharon Milito and Eric Eaton, Scientists)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: what is a bioblitz; how did it all begin; why bioblitzes; science brought to you by; information brought to the public by; technology and data; bioblitz at Blodgett Peak Open Space; Blodgett Peak Open Space stats; Blodgett Peak Open Space - mammals; Blodgett Peak Open Space – birds; Blodgett Peak Open space – plants; Blodgett Peak Open Space – arthropods; Blodgett Peak Open Space – fungi; Blodgett Peak Open Space – reptiles and amphibians; Bioblitz at Jimmy Camp Creek; Jimmy Camp Creek Park stats; Jimmy Camp Creek Park – hikes; Jimmy Camp Creek Park – archaeology dig; Jimmy Camp Creek Park – mammals; Jimmy Camp Creek Park – birds; Jimmy Camp Creek Park – plants; Jimmy Camp Creek Park – arthropods; Jimmy Camp Creek Park – fungi; Jimmy Camp Creek Park – reptiles and amphibians; Bluestem Prairie Open Space; Bluestem Prairie Open Space – mammals; Bluestem Prairie Open Space – birds; Bluestem Prairie Open Space – plants; Bluestem Prairie Open Space – reptiles; Bluestem Prairie Open Space – arthropods; Bioblitz Ute Valley Park; Bioblitz Ute Valley Park – mammals; Bioblitz Ute Valley Park – birds; Bioblitz Ute Valley Park – plants; Bioblitz Ute Valley Park – arthropods; Bioblitz Ute Valley Park – fungi; Bioblitz Ute Valley Park – reptiles and amphibians; summary; conclusions; and an opportunity for kids to thrive.

- Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager, thanked Sharon Milito and all the scientists involved in the Bioblitzes. She would like to find a way to routinely gather this information to have a better understanding of the resources that exist in areas.
- Tilah Larson, Senior Grant Administrator presented Sharon Milito with a picture of Corral Bluffs as a thank you for all her work and efforts.

TOPS Stewardship Season-End Update (Presented by Scott Abbott, Regional Trails and Open Space Administrator, John Stark, Park Ranger, and Stewardship Staff)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: an overview of staff; where we work; seasonal training; Colorado College internship; volunteerism; Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI); RMFI projects; RMFI closures; park ranger duties; presence; law enforcement; park safety; interpretation and education; school programs; google trekker; Incline signage; High Chaparral archaeology; High Chaparral wayfinding and ordinance signs; High Chaparral interpretive sign and Red Rocks map; conservation tech duties; conservation; maintenance; improved climbing signage and Bluestem signage; wildlife; resource management; invasive species management; and thank you for your support.

- Scott Abbott thanked the stewardship staff, Parks management and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for their support of the program.

- Jennifer Peterson, RMFI Executive Director, stated certification classes are full for 2017 and efforts have been made to communicate with crew leaders and volunteers to see if they are interested in continuing next year. In 2018 crew leaders will need to register their project thru the City program. This will help track volunteers and projects that are implemented. Next year RMFI is hoping to offer more training to include advanced level training.
- Kurt Schroeder, Parks Maintenance and Operations Manager, Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, and Jason Rupinski, Board member, thanked the stewardship staff and praised them for their contribution.

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

Springs in Bloom Judges Recognition (Presented by Donna Sanchez, City Horticulturist)

Photos were presented to Karen Palus, Carol Beckman, Diane Brunjes and Jill Gaebler (not present) to thank them for judging the median flower beds.

USAPA Great Plains Regional Tournament (Presented by Steve and Ramona Boone, USAPA Great Plains Directors)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

- Steve and Ramona Boone presented Karen Palus with a check for \$1000.00 and Jeff Norton, Pikes Peak Pickleball Association, with a check for approximately \$11,000.00.

Presentations Continued

YMCA Partnership Update (Presented by Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager and Scott Christian, YMCA Chief Financial Officer)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: history of the aquatics program; operating concepts for partnership; benefits to the community; 2017 year-to-date summary of operations; summary of major facility improvements; looking ahead; and questions.

- Kim King introduced Scott Christian who provided an overview of the YMCA and its programs.

Staff Reports

Garden of the Gods Restrooms (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Park Planner)

- An analysis was conducted on the two existing facilities and the three additional locations that are being considered at this time.
- On October 24th the first public meeting was held and great feedback was received.
- The online survey will continue through October and can be found at coloradosprings.gov/gogrestrooms

- The draft master plan amendment will be finalized soon.
- A presentation will be given to the board in November and then come before the board as an action item in December.

Bancroft Park Update (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Park Planner)

- Michael Collins, Michael H. Collins Architects, has been selected to do the design for the restrooms at Bancroft Park.
- The restroom location is next to Colorado Avenue.
- The public meeting is scheduled in November for the public to provide feedback on three restroom designs.
- The projected completion date for the restroom improvements is late April which will be prior to the Territory Day's event.
- The department is waiting for the access ramp to be constructed for the Bandshell and in September utility issues were discovered; however, construction should be completed soon.

North Cheyenne Canon Park Master Plan

- The 2nd Community Workshop is next Tuesday, October 17th at 6:00 p.m. at Cheyenne Mountain high school.
- This has been an extensive process and the feedback has been very informative.

Board Business

- Board Chair Mina Liebert stated that Michael Phan will be moving from an alternate Parks and Recreation Advisory Board position to a regular board member position. City Council will make this appointment at the October 24th City Council meeting.
- Matt Mayberry, Cultural Services Division Manager, stated that the Historic Preservation Plan Steering Committee would like a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board representative to be on their Board. Gary Feffer and David Siegel volunteered to be representatives.
- Board Chair Mina Liebert stated that the TOPS Working Committee has an opening for a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board liaison to their Committee. Mina Liebert volunteered for this position.

Jason Rupinski stated that the TOPS Working Committee will be going on a site visit next week to Corral Bluffs and the Committee is actively looking at property acquisitions.

Ron Ilgen stated he attended the Public Art Commission meeting.

Hank Scarangella

- He inquired about the status of Code Scrub. Karen Palus stated they have revisited some areas that the City Attorney thought could be policy rather than code and it should be presented to City Council at the first meeting in January.

- He expressed concern about smoking in Boulder Park and thought the policy was no smoking in any of the Parks. Karen Palus stated there is no smoking in Parks unless there is a designated area. She is open to talking to City Council to undesignate some areas; however, the challenge is the right of way issue and people will still smoke with signs posted.
- He has been the recipient of comments from the community regarding E Bikes and asked if a discussion can occur about what is safe and establish some policies. Karen Palus replied the policy is that E Bikes can be on Tier 1 and Tier 2 trails. Chris Lieber, former Parks Design and Development Manager, had a meeting with bike advocates and they could not agree; however, they did establish a policy that they could ride on Tier 1 and 2 trails. In addition, a meeting was held with several departments and community organizations and representatives were leaning towards allowing them on Tier 1 and 2 trails as well.
- The Full Moon Hike event will be held on Saturday, November 4th at 6:30 p.m. Guided hikes will be offered throughout the Park and refreshments will be offered at the Visitor and Nature Center. Tickets are \$5.00 for an individual and \$10.00 for a family.

Mina Liebert stated the LART meeting will be held next week. The Mayor presented the budget and the LART recommendation appropriations have been made and organizations have been notified of their status; however, adjustments may be made and City Council will be providing feedback. The LART Committee has approved \$50,000 to go towards the renovations at Bancroft Park and \$180,000 to be appropriated for a trail along Gateway Road in Garden of the Gods Park.

Gary Feffer asked if a serious discussion can take place regarding full exemption of no smoking in our Parks and he is happy to champion this process. Karen Palus said she would like to think of the steps that need to be taken and pull recent information from communities in the area that have implemented a no smoking policy in their Parks.

Daniel Bowan inquired about the stormwater initiative and how it would affect the budget and budget process. Karen Palus said she will provide a budget update at the November meeting and will speak with Jeff Greene, Chief of Staff, so she can provide an update that includes where we're at, what gaps exist, the funding dollar amount and when and if funds become available and where would they be allocated. The last section of the Parks Board Orientation binder has a document titled "Community Vision" which covers a vast amount of this information.

David Siegel thanked the board for welcoming him. He and Matt Mayberry had a conversation regarding the Public Art Masterplan and he volunteered to be the Board representative for this project. He requested that Matt Mayberry keep the board informed as he completes the RFP for an outside consultant. Karen Palus thanked him and stated the department typically asks for a Parks Board member to be a representative on certain projects.

Carol Beckman

- She shared information about the Garden of the Gods Transportation plan meeting. They are looking at what is acceptable, possible routes for the shuttle, drop off points and parking options are being examined as well as the possibility of parking fees.
- The first public meeting for the North Cheyenne Cañon Master Plan had approximately fifty people in attendance and the consultant did a good job in containing the discussion. The next public meeting will be held on October 17th from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Cheyenne Mountain high school and an Open House will be held on January 25th next year.

Karen Palus

- The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department will be presenting to the 2018 Budget to City Council on Monday, October 16th between 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
- On Thursday, October 19th from 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. a budget public hearing will be held to receive citizen feedback.
- The Budget Committee will be making decisions regarding projected revenue changes, minimum wage increases and higher compensation for staff.
- Kurt Schroeder is working with Ryan Trujillo, Sustainability and Support Services Manager, regarding the water budget.
- The Parks Department’s major change in the 2018 Budget is an increase of \$900,000. These funds are from the cable franchise fee. These funds are projected to go towards the following: securing a past therapeutic recreation position; funding contracts that have mandates; a new maintenance crew for the downtown area; an additional position for Meadows Park Community Center; an environmental health and safety position; forestry and maintenance contracts; and a museum assistant.
- \$50,000 dollars was pulled from the TOPS Administrative category which is a portion of two positions which will free up operating dollars to fund operating expenses.

Board Photos

Board photos were taken by David Deitemeyer, Park Planner.

[Link to handouts distributed during meeting](#)

Adjournment

Motion: Move to adjourn at 12:06 p.m.

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