



**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2016**

Members Present: Mina Liebert, Gary Feffer (departed at 9:56am), Charles Castle, Ron Ilgen, Scot Hume, Jason Rupinski, Hank Scarangella, Gary Bostrom, Carol Beckman

Members Absent: N/A

Alternates Present: Charlie Dunn (arrived at 9:16am)

Alternates Absent: N/A

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

Called to Order: Mina Liebert brought the meeting to order at 7:33am

Citizen Discussion

Nancy Strong – Shooks Run has had a great influx of campers and it has affected the parks in Shooks Run. The neighborhood has two clean up events a year; however the trash is an on-going issue that needs to be addressed. Please join us on Saturday, October 22nd for Clean the Creek from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Jim Coonradt (Cottonwood Disc Golf Club) A work and general clean-up day will be held on October 22nd at Cottonwood Disc Golf course. Jim spoke with Kurt Schroeder regarding maintenance issues on the course and is concerned the course will be closed for a week.

Susan Davies (Trails and Open Space Coalition) Governor Hickenlooper was in Colorado Springs to support Ring the Peak and many partners attended the event. Thank you to the Parks and Recreation Board and City Council for supporting the GOCO planning grant which will help the project. The majority of 2D projects are completed and are making a difference. Due to the recent increase of material costs some 2D projects are still in the queue to be completed.

Approval of Minutes –September 8, 2016

Motion – To approve the September 8, 2016 minutes.

1st – Scot Hume, 2nd – Carol Beckman, Approved, Unanimous

Action Item

1. GOCO School Play Yard Initiative Grant Sponsorship – Academy for Advanced and Creative Learning, John Adams and Will Rogers Elementary (Presented by Tilah Larson, Senior Grant Analyst)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: Grant application dates, schools seeking sponsorship and sponsorship requirements.

- The School Yard Initiative aims to create school grounds that inspire more active physical play and enhance learning about nature and the environment.
- The three schools seeking sponsorship for a grant are Thomas Edison Elementary, Will Rogers Elementary and the Academy for Advanced and Creative Learning.
- GOCO requires the school playground is open to the community beyond school hours.
- GOCO statutes state they can only give funding to municipalities and organizations that receive Conservation Trust Fund dollars.
- The school will manage the project and will submit invoices to GOCO for reimbursement. GOCO will send the money to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department and money will be transferred back to the school.

Motion – To support the City’s sponsorship of the three School Yard Initiative Grant applications to Great Outdoors Colorado on behalf of The Academy for Advanced and Creative Learning, Thomas Edison Elementary and Will Rogers Elementary.

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

2. Downtown Partnership Master Plan Approval (Presented by Susan Edmondson, President and CEO, Downtown Partnership)

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: a process update; schedule; community feedback; a range of ideas and input; study area and context; two plans and one vision; downtown Colorado Springs vision; action steps; plan of development; land use master plan; seven land use guiding principles; plan framework; parks; Legacy Loop; waterways; mobility; green street framework; transit; parking; streetscape and public space elements; summary, next steps, implementation and schedule.

The Downtown Partnership Master Plan includes a vision for downtown Colorado Springs that includes eight goals.

1. Economic and cultural heart of the region.
2. Diverse and inclusive place to live, integrated with adjacent neighborhoods.
3. Celebrating and connecting with outdoor recreation and exceptional natural setting
4. A place for healthy and active lifestyles.
5. A walkable and bike-friendly center connected through safe and accessible multimodal networks.
6. A leader in innovative urban design and sustainability.
7. Offering an unforgettable visitor experience.
8. A place for inspiration, honoring history and facing the future.

- The plan update was presented to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board during the September 2016 meeting. The Downtown Partnership is looking for approval today to take the plan forward to City Council.
- Special events can impact downtown businesses and focusing on the hours the event is planned, along with how many events are held, will create a good balance and be mindful of businesses.
- The Downtown Partnership has partnered with the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department to bring events to Acacia Park: Sunday farmers market; games; holiday ice skating, Uncle Wilbur fountain and the playground. The lower level playground can pose safety issues and will be addressed. The bandstand is great for performance venue; however the south side shuts out Bijou Street. A coffee house is now located on that side which has increased activity.
- The Downtown Partnership would like to increase the number of residents living downtown which includes looking at the dog situation as urban residents want to walk their dogs. The plan is designed to address this issue as the city continues to grow.
- People need shelter versus living on the streets and creeks and one of the action steps describes the need for shelters and transitional housing. The Downtown Partnership recently gave a grant to the Springs Rescue Mission Shelter to help address this situation.

Gary Feffer recused himself from voting on this action item.

Motion – A motion to recommend the Downtown Partnership Master Plan to City Council.

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

Presentations

Envision Shooks Run Facility Plan (Presented by Aaron Egbert, Senior Civil Engineer and Priscilla Marbaker, Principal and Owner, Tapis Associates)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: The importance of Envision Shooks Run for Public Works; project goals; corridor planning area and watershed boundary; planning process; infrastructure and transportation; drainage and hydrology; public workshops; unique corridor character segments; primary goals; corridor theme plan; drainage; greenway, parks and trails; character street designations; destination elements; corridor segments; widened channel; confluence segment – Fountain Creek to Las Vegas Street; urban canyon segment – Last Vegas Street to Costilla Street; urban waterway segment – Costilla Street to Pikes Peak Avenue; residential greenway segment – Pikes Peak Avenue to Patty Jewett Golf Course; creek section options - raised and realigned channel; headwaters segment – Caramillo Street to Constitution Avenue; implementation; approval process and next steps.

- Chris Lieber, Parks Development Manager, introduced Aaron Egbert and the Envision Shooks Run planning team. This plan will be an action item on the November Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting agenda.

- October 2016 the Facility Master Plan will be available.
- October – December 2016 the plan will be reviewed by Boards and Commissions.
- February 2017 the plan will be presented to City Council for approval.
- Public outreach has been a large focus.
- Many owners have been affected by flooding. The corridor has been planned to have different widths for different purposes to address this concern.
- The total amount to complete the project will be close to \$320 – \$350 million with involvement of many partners.
- Many options had been discussed regarding the infrastructure at Palmer High School which poses challenges and has been identified as a special attention area. One option could be to narrow the corridor on the eastern side of the playing field and then in the future widen the corridor with an open channel that could be accomplished in incremental steps.

Pikes Peak Pickleball Association Tournament (Presented by Steve and Ramona Boone, Sherry Fairchild, Pikes Peak Pickleball Association)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint included: USAPA regions; USAPA Great Plains Regional information; roles and responsibilities; tournament overview; player statistics; pickleball tournament comparison 2014-2016; sponsors; 2017 USAPA Great Plains Regional Tournament.

Karen Palus thanked the Association for their support and devotion to Pickleball and presented them with the “Proclamation of Pickleball Days” plaque.

Staff Reports

Plan COS Comprehensive Plan Update (Presented by Carl Schueler, Planning Manager and Chris Lieber, Park Development Manager)

- “Plan COS” cards were distributed to the Parks and Recreation and Advisory Board.
- The Steering Committee consists of 17-18 individuals including Susan Davies from TOSC.
- Karen Palus and Chris Lieber participated on the Technical Steering Team.
- On October 21st the next Steering Committee meeting will be held in which the stakeholder process will be planned.
- Several documents and master plans are critical in planning for the City including the 2014 Park System Master Plan. The focus will be on how these plans fit together and are used as a navigation tool.
- In 2017 a plan vision will be created and development will continue over the next two years.
- A Parks Board liaison to the COS Plan project might want to be identified in the future to assist with communication to the Board.
- The Steering Committee was appointed by the Mayor with input from City Council members.

Presentations

Wolf Ranch Development and Park Implementation Update (Presented by Chris Lieber, Park Development Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included a map of the Villages VI Development Plan and a map and pictures of the Neighborhood Park Open Space and Fitness Trail at Wolf Ranch.

Ralph Braden, Norwood Development Group Vice President presented the details of the neighborhood park project at Wolf Ranch to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

- Norwood Development Group is the developer of Wolf Ranch and the Wolf Ranch Master Plan at Research and Powers in Colorado Springs.
- A couple years ago a neighborhood park was proposed for a new location on the western side of Wolf Ranch. This project resulted in a much-contested hearing but eventually was approved by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Planning Commission and City Council.
- The community response to the neighborhood park has been generally positive and it is much larger than citizens anticipated and they appreciate the promise being fulfilled.
- Karen Palus thanked Norwood Development Group for the park as the community feedback has been positive.
- Issue 3A will be on the ballot this November. The funds would be for capital improvements for School District 20 and includes building a new elementary school in the south eastern part of Wolf Ranch. Please consider voting “yes” for this issue.

Ceremonial Items

Kaboom Recognition (Presented by Annette Proctor, Senior Volunteer Coordinator) Froncella Ware was recognized for her contribution to the Kaboom playground effort and ongoing support of the Cheyenne Meadows community.

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Springs in Bloom Judges Recognition (Presented by Donna Sanchez) Roseann Bennett, Doris Duckworth and Christi Mehew were recognized for their efforts in judging the flower medians in the City of Colorado Springs for the Springs in Bloom program.

Staff Reports

Gateway at Boulder Crescent (Michelson Property) (Presented by Sarah Bryarly, Landscape Architect II)

- Parks Board will not need to approve this project due to the similarities to the master plan in 2009.
- The Parks Department is working with the Greenway Fund and neighbors in the area to coordinate the project.
- The Parks Department has appropriated \$40,000 dollars and fundraising is currently underway.

- John Olson, Altitude Land Co., and Matt Mayberry, Cultural Services Manager, will be discussing the history of the Park to determine interpretive opportunities.
- Karen Palus announced Sarah Bryarly as the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department new full-time Landscape Architect II.

TOPS Policies and Procedures Alternate Position (Presented by Chris Lieber, Park Development Manager)

- The TOPS policy states alternate members will serve a three year term.
- Discussion has occurred to change it to one year as three years is a long time to be an alternate.
- The current alternate on the TOPS Working Committee, Jim Klever, is comfortable with annual renewal of the position.
- The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board alternate policy term length is one year.
- The TOPS Working Committee in their October meeting, did not come to a conclusion regarding the term length for alternates.
- The TOPS Working Committee will make a decision and then bring it to the Parks, and Recreation Advisory Board for approval.

Water Irrigation/Status of Funding (Presented by Kurt Schroeder, Park Operations and Development Manager)

- City Council took a “wait and see” approach and suggested to come back and address the issue if needed.
- The weather for 2016 has been relatively normal; however, the precipitation rate is behind and additional money is needed for 2016 due to the continued need for irrigation.
- Utilities has not had the anticipated revenues and are behind their projected revenues and cannot support the transfer of funds to the Parks Department.
- On September 26th a presentation was given to City Council at a work session and \$300,000 was requested for water for the remainder of 2016. City Council suggested to continue with the “wait and see” approach since the September bill has not been delivered.
- The September water bill was \$605,000 which raised the total expenditure for 2016 to \$2.3 million for water.
- City Council has been provided with a spreadsheet of expenses and invoices and discussion has included considering Conservation Trust Funds, TOPS funds and the Utilities rebate program.
- City Council moved to contribute \$100,000 from the CTF fund to bridge the gap; however, much more money is needed.
- Two Council members support the idea of considering TOPS funds for watering. The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department does not recommend this as it would push much needed TOPS projects backwards.
- The 2017 budget projection has been increased by \$218,000 due to rate increases. The Budget office has moved Utilities from all department budgets and centralized the management of Utilities under the City’s Office of Sustainability.

Deerfield Hills and Meadows Park Community Centers Update (Presented by Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager)

- The Deerfield Community Center Grand Reopening will be held on Friday, October 28th at 4:30pm and invitations will soon be sent to the Board.
- The roof will be replaced due to a recent hail storm.
- Meadows Park Community Center family restroom is completed along with concrete work outside to address needed ADA improvements. The remodeling of the restrooms in the main part of the building is underway. The work on the electrical and alarm system continues.
- The roof is still an outstanding item due to the expense of replacing the entire roof as it contains asbestos. The department is watching closely as other projects close out to see if any remaining funds can be considered for Meadows Park Community Center.

2017 Budget Update (Presented by Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director)

- Kurt Schroeder's watering budget has significant changes with just \$3 million to cover 200 facilities and 17,000 acres of park land.
- Please consider emailing Council members with your comments regarding the budget. Comments are also welcome on Facebook.
- The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department will present their budget to City Council on Monday, October 17th at 3:45 p.m.
- On Monday, October 17th the budget overview will begin at 9:00 a.m. and include presentations on the General Fund and Capital Improvement Projects.
- On Tuesday, October 18th Police and Fire will present their budgets to City Council.
- \$180,000 has been approved for 2017 for tussock moth spraying and if it's not needed it can be used for pruning and removal of hazardous trees.
- The Park staff is watering at the lowest level and at a significant deficit along with implementing many conservation strategies. A strong need exists to manage the properties beyond watering, community parks are not being constructed, restrooms desperately need renovation and the need for playgrounds still exists.
- Susan Davies (TOSC) – Articles start to appear in the newspaper at this time and focus on the lack of money and are very strategic. The Parks Department is for the community and this is an opportunity to come forward. Ms. Davies article for the Gazette will be telling the Parks story and your comments are welcome. The number one theme the Parks Solution Team in 2011 identified was water. She received a letter at that time stating "we will not be using TOPS funds for water "and now in 2016 that has been suggested. Please get involved and make comments to Council.
- The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board agreed unanimously to write a group letter to City Council with a focus on the need for more funding for the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department.

Venezia GOCO Application (Presented by Sarah Bryarly, Landscape Architect II)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint included: grant application details and dates; Venezia Park map – Briargate Boulevard and Union Boulevard; Homestead map; Corral playground map and the Range playground.

- Great Outdoors Colorado invests a portion of Colorado Lottery proceeds to help preserve and enhance the state's parks, trails, wildlife, rivers and open space.
- The local Park and Outdoor Recreation Grant (LPOR) supports new park development.
- The grant request is for \$350,000 in support of playground development in Venezia Park.
- The application is due on November 17, 2016 and the grant will be awarded in April 2017.
- The Corral Pavilion roof has been installed and next Wednesday the sprayground will be completed.
- The Corral playground has a ranch theme and was selected by Park Board members, parents and children within the community. The playground has several access points, a sand area with wheel chair access and three different swing components.
- The Range playground is smaller and is ADA compliant.
- A wheelchair accessible swing was not installed due to weight and safety reasons.
- The Lifetime Executive Committee has now responded regarding the proposed tennis court development with a different perspective than their representative and the Parks Department could not accommodate their requests and has severed ties. Other options are being explored for funding.

Legacy Loop State Trails Application (Presented by Sarah Bryarly, Landscape Architect II)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint included: grant application dates and information and a map of the Legacy Loop Uintah underpass.

- The Colorado State Recreational Trails Grant Program funds projects for large recreational trail grants, small recreational trail grants, trail planning, and trail support grants.
- This program is a partnership among:
 - CPW
 - GOCO
 - Colorado Lottery
 - Federal Recreational Trails Program
 - The Land and Water Conservation Fund
- The grant request is for \$250,000 in support of the Legacy Loop – Uintah Underpass (Westside).
- The application is due on November 1, 2016 and will be awarded in April 2017.
- This grant does not need to go to City Council for approval.

Board Business

Karen Palus – The Parks Board Liaison information was reviewed for clarification. The Land Exchange with The Broadmoor continues to progress with title work, surveys, contracts and conservation easement work conducted by the Palmer Land Trust. Due to the legal situation with this project, along with the ballot initiative, please be careful with communication and remember you speak as a citizen not as board member in regards to this project.

Jason Rupinski – The TOPS Working Committee meeting last week was well attended and the discussion included electing a Chair and Vice Chair, Ring the Peak and the TOPS alternate position.

Ron Ilgen – The Pikes Peak Summit House presentation will be held Tuesday, October 28th at the Parks Department with a public meeting held in the evening at the City Auditorium. On another note, the homeless issue continues to be a topic in presentations. The police department is doing the best they can and shelter construction is underway. Mayor Suthers stated the Springs Rescue Mission Shelter will reopen in November and the Marion House will then shift their lunch time meal and services over to families.

Hank Scarangella

The Camp Creek Mitigation project continues to progress. Four Council members visited the Garden of the Gods and took a trolley ride and tour of the park. The Garden of the Gods Foundation presented the Great Garden Grant to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department in the amount of \$512,958 to help fund projects and benefit Garden of the Gods Park. The Trails and Open Space Coalition, along with the Friends of Garden of the Gods, plan to sponsor the Annual Full Moon hike in December; however dates of the event are still to be determined.

Mina Liebert – The LART Retreat will be held on November 3rd.

Charles Castle – Meadows Park Community Center had a Children's Responsibility Walk yesterday. This Saturday, October 15th, they have a smoke alarm program taking place in conjunction with the Fire Department.

Gary Bostrom – Aimee Cox, Housing and Community Initiatives Manager, had a hearing last Thursday regarding the homeless issue and this information will be presented to providers today at 2:00 p.m. at the Marion House.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 12:24 p.m.