



**TOPS Working Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes - FINAL
Wednesday, June 7, 2017**

Members Present: Jason Alwine, Silas Musick, Becky Wegner, Cathy Grossman, Nancy Hobbs, Joe Lavorini, Lee Milner, Jim Klever

Members Absent: Jeff Mohrmann

Alternates Present:

Parks Board Liaisons Present: Charles Castle, Scot Hume, Jason Rupinski

Parks Board Liaisons Absent: N/A

Staff Present: Sarah Bryarly, Karen Palus, Christi Mehew, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Tilah Larson

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Jason Alwine brought the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

TOPS Board Picture (Taken by David Deitemeyer, Park Planner)

Agenda Preview

Announcements

Sarah Bryarly

- The July 5th TOPS Working Committee meeting will be rescheduled for July 12th at 7:30 a.m. due to the holiday.
- The site tour of the Kyle property will be on June 21st at 3:00 p.m. Please let Christi Mehew know if you can attend. Members can meet at the Parks Department at 3:00 p.m. or the Loaf 'N Jug near Corral Bluffs at 3:15 p.m. Christi Mehew will send a reminder email.
- The Legacy Loop trailhead is underway.
- The North Cheyenne Canon Master Plan kick-off meeting with internal staff is this afternoon and public meeting dates will be announced soon.
- The Parks Department is working closely with Medicine Wheel on the Lake Moraine Trail and an RFP is out and expected back on June 23rd. Rocky Mountain Field Institute will be doing vegetation removal in this area as a volunteer project.
- The Parks Department has \$125,000 budgeted from last year for the North Cheyenne Canon Master Plan. Due to contracting expenses increasing, this amount was insufficient; however, with Chris Lieber's departure and less salary expense, additional funds have been budgeted for this project.
- There are three classifications that legislation has approved for Ebikes: Class 1 can go 20mph with a 750 motor and is peddle assist; Class 2 can go 20 mph with a 750 motor

and the motor can run without peddling; Class 3 can go 25 mph with a 750 motor and requires the user to be at least 16 years old and wear a helmet. The Parks Department will only allow Class 1 EBikes on Tier 1 and 2 Trails which are hard surface trails. The Parks Department recommends a helmet to be worn while riding all EBikes.

Approval of Minutes – May 3, 2017

Motion: To approve the minutes of the May 3, 2017 TOPS Working Committee meeting.

1st – Nancy Hobbs, 2nd – Becky Wegner, Approved, Unanimous

Citizen Discussion

Nancy Hobbs, TOPS Working Committee member, announced a Pikes Peak Trekker Expedition will take place with the Google Trekker on the Barr Trail the Tuesday and Wednesday prior to the Pikes Peak Marathon. A grant was received by Google to fund this project. In addition, they requested to map the Incline as well as some trails in Garden of the Gods Park. Volunteers will be needed.

Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC) Executive Director, stated TOSC has acquired a Trekker and is working on Mt. Muscoco, the Legacy Loop and parts of Ring the Peak Trail.

The Bike Summit was held this past Saturday with 125 people in attendance. The Summit included great speakers and good conversation.

The Mayor rode an EBike along the greenway for the Mayors Bike Ride event which was held on Saturday, June 3rd. The bike shops could benefit with a brochure for customers indicating where EBikes can ride.

Presentations

Kyle Property (Presented by Sarah Bryarly, Interim Design and Development Manager)

[Link the PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: acquisition of approximately 85 acres for the expansion of Corral Bluffs Open Space; key discussion points; natural resource target areas; history of the partnership with TPL; current status; financial implications; accounts and Open Space balance; financial implications (maintenance and operations); and the timeline/approval process.

- This will be an action item at the July 12th TOPS Working Committee meeting.
- The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will have a presentation on the Kyle property tomorrow and it will be an action item at their July 13th meeting. Then it will proceed to City Council for approval.
- Please let Sarah Bryarly or Christi Mehew know if you cannot attend the July 12th meeting as a quorum is needed to vote on this item.
- Topics of discussion included: access point to Corral Bluffs; appraisal price; closing costs

will be funded through the TOPS Open Space category; master plan process; Kyle property will help connect Jimmy Camp Creek to Corral Bluffs; Corral Bluffs Colorado Natural Areas Designation status being implemented and active; and guided hikes being offered through Corral Bluffs Alliance.

Bill Koerner, citizen, stated this would be an outstanding property to acquire. There are items of importance and value all over this area and it's important the City really protects the property once it's acquired. The Committee needs to look beyond this and at the adjacent properties for acquisition. He asked if anything was happening with the acquired CSU properties that would not be used for the reservoir.

Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, stated that Colorado Springs Utilities Department is currently going through their due diligence process regarding these properties and has reached out to the Parks Department. The Parks Department has indicated their interest in these properties and has asked that the acquisition for Open Space be separate from the annexation agreement.

Sharon Milito, citizen, stated she has worked with the museum for eight years in regards to this area and the Kyle property is an important piece for the connection of Jimmy Camp Creek to Corral Bluffs.

Susan Davies, TOSC Executive Director, asked where the trail connection would be located. Sarah Bryarly showed the possible connection on the map between Jimmy Camp Creek to Corral Bluffs.

Bio Blitz Update (Presented by Tilah Larson, Senior Grant Administrator)

- Tilah Larson distributed the following handouts: #TOPS is 20 Activity Book; Blodgett Peak Bio Blitz announcement; and a sponsorship letter.
- The #TOPS is 20 activity book is for youth and families to encourage them to get outdoors and enjoy park properties. The TOPS Stewardship team is distributing them throughout District 11 schools and they can also be downloaded from the City's website.
- The Parks Department is seeking sponsorships in support of the TOPS 20th Celebration event as well as the Bio Blitz's.
- Citizens are asked to sign up for the Bio Blitz's and scientists will be on the properties working and coordinating the efforts.
- Bio Blitz dates and assigned TOPS Working Committee members:
 - 6/16 – 6/17 – Blodgett Peak Open Space – Joe Lavorini and Jason Alwine
 - 7/14-7/15 – Jimmy Camp Creek – Cathy Grossman and Lee Milner
 - 8/18 – 8/19 – Bluestem Prairie Open Space – Jim Klever and Scot Hume
 - 9/15 – 9/16 – Ute Valley Open Space – Becky Wegner
- Assigned TOPS Working Committee members are asked to attend the BioBlitz from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. for the results of the event. TOPS members role will include thanking citizens for their participation and informing them about the TOPS program.

- Sarah Bryarly stated that Sharon Milito has been a tremendous resource in coordinating the scientists and planning for these events.
- A reminder email will be sent to Committee members about the Bio Blitz which will include dates, times and any necessary information.
- An email will be sent to Committee members asking for names of organizations and representatives that could possibly sponsor the TOPS 20th Anniversary events.

Eric Eaton, citizen, stated a Bio Blitz is more about bringing awareness to citizens. They also help inform the City of what kind of organisms exist and how to accommodate them while doing land use planning. iNaturalist will be used as a resource for people in which they can capture and log their findings while exploring the properties.

Sharon Milito stated scientists are volunteering their time for the BioBlitz's and many community organizations are part of the event.

Budget Update (Presented by Sarah Bryarly, Interim Design and Development Manager)

- The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board voted on the 2018 Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) budget last month.
- The Board was presented with the TOPS Working Committee recommendations.
- They voted to approve the 2018 proposed TOPS CIP Budget with the following amendments:
 - To maintain the Open Space Stewardship dollars at the April presentation amount of \$738,900.
 - To add \$125,000 for Garden of the Gods transportation plan and restroom facility implementation to the Parks category from the fund balance.
 - To move the Chamberlain Trail to the Trails category instead of the Open Space category from the fund balance.
- Kelly Rajab, Parks Financial Analyst, stated the citywide budget process is moving along and currently focusing on the list of unfunded needs for operational dollars. They will be addressing the budget for expenses and revenue, CIP projects for the upcoming 2018 budget year and the CIP unfunded list.
- Charles Castle, TOPS Working Committee Liaison, stated the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board cares about the TOPS Working Committee's recommendations. This is his last meeting with the Committee and stated it's been fun and what the Committee does is very important for the future and it makes a difference.
- Sarah Bryarly thanked Charles Castle and Scot Hume for their service on both the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board as well as being liaisons to the TOPS Working Committee.
- Committee member Lee Milner suggested a supplemental appropriation for the Red Rock Canyon Master Plan implementation since the fund was reduced to allocate money for the stewardship fund. Karen Palus stated that if there is consensus from the Committee it could be submitted. She suggested that if a consensus exists, Jason Alwine (Committee Chair) should move forward with this proposal and present it at the July

meeting and the TOPS liaisons can bring the discussion before the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board during tomorrow's meeting.

- The Committee requested a supplemental appropriation in the approximate amount of \$400,000 for the Red Rock Canyon Master Plan.

Susan Davies, TOSC Executive Director, asked for a status update on the Garden of the Gods restroom project. Sarah Bryarly stated she hoped that the project will be out to bid by the end of the month.

Citizen Discussion

No citizens spoke at this time.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the TOPS Working Committee meeting at 9:00 a.m.

1st – Lee Milner, 2nd – Joe Lavorini, Approved, Unanimous