



**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 10, 2022**

Members Present: David Siegel, Larry Bogue, Steve Harris, Greg Thornton, Dr. Daniel Bowan, Julia Sands de Melendez, Abby Simpson, Andrea Perry

Members Absent: Sarah Bryarly

Alternates Present: Steve Lenzo

Staff Present: Britt Haley, Kim King, Eric Becker, Anna White, Melody Horbach, Gillian Rossi, Dan Allen, Sara Arfmann

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

Citizen Discussion

Jim Ciletti, citizen, presented the Board with an idea for a community-wide project to install bird houses throughout City parks. Mr. Ciletti said the project could be supported by various citizens, artists, groups such as Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts, and birdwatching groups. Mr. Ciletti is working towards a plan of action and implementation. Board Chair David Siegel thanked Jim for coming to the meeting.

Cory Sutela, Executive Director for Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, gave the Board a quick update on the partnerships supporting the Cresta Pump Track. Mr. Sutela stated his gratitude for the partnerships and mentioned a recent maintenance day between his organization and staff. He did note that dirt pump tracks can be difficult to maintain and said he would like to help explore the possibility of a paved pump track at the future Coleman Park, or at least an increase in maintenance resources for staff for those pump tracks.

Susan Davies, Executive Director for the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), was elated to share that the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) III had passed in Tuesday's election. She said her organization had supported it wholeheartedly and were eager to see some of the support that will go to trails. Ms. Davies also announced that Douglas County had passed their version of the Trails, Open Space, and Parks (TOPS) tax for a 0.17% increase with a whopping 88% approval rating and hopes that Colorado Springs will be as successful when they vote to extend our TOPS tax in April.

Approval of Minutes – October 13, 2022 meeting minutes.

Motion – To approve the October 13, 2022 meeting minutes with proposed changes.

1st – Greg Thornton, 2nd – Steve Harris, Approved, Unanimously with Board members Abby Simpson and Andrea Perry abstaining.

Partner/Community Update

City Auditorium Update (Presented by Linda Weise, President and CEO of the Community Cultural Collective)

Linda Weise, President and CEO of the Community Cultural Collective, presented the Board with an update on the City Auditorium. Britt Haley, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, gave some background on the steps taken to get to the current phase of this project. Linda was joined by Ryan Trujillo, Deputy Chief of Staff for the City, and Chris Wineman, Principal for Semple Brown Design PC. This presentation included the current status of the Memorandum of Understanding and Due Diligence Period; background on the Community Cultural Collective; project leadership; pillars; community cultural stakeholders; sustainable business model; creative workforce development; partners and stakeholders; Illuminate City Auditorium; design and engineering; design models; project funding overview; and finally, support levels with a list of supporters thus far.

Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here

Main takeaways from the presentation and discussion following:

- Board members requested to see an updated business plan and review the programming use.
- Board members were happy to see activation of the space.
- One main concern of Board members was if the building would someday be transferred into private ownership. Multiple Board members stated on record that they would like to see a long-term lease or similar agreement so the building could remain under City ownership.
- Board members were appreciative of Ms. Weise’s diligence and passion for this project and thanked her for presenting to the Board.

Action Items

There were no actions items on this agenda.

Presentations

There were no presentation items on this agenda.

Staff Updates

BioBlitz Update (Presented by Gillian Rossi, Park Ranger Supervisor)

Gillian Rossi, Park Ranger Supervisor, presented the Board with the BioBlitz update. This presentation included what a BioBlitz is; the history of BioBlitzes; the 2022 BioBlitz at Blodgett Open Space; 2022 BioBlitz statistics; various citizen science tablers; staff support; a mushroom spore diagram; moth backlighting; Blodgett BioBlitz partners; and finally, moving forward.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

Trails Symposium Overview (Presented by Dan Allen, Trail Project Specialist)

Dan Allen, Trail Project Specialist, presented the Board with the Trails Symposium Overview. This presentation included the mission of the Colorado Trails Symposium; steering committee members; a special thanks to multiple organizations for their support; a nod to financial supporters; panel discussions and presentations; the winners of the Golden McLeod award, Headwaters Trail Alliance; breakout sessions; field trips; and finally, the 2022 Colorado Trails Symposium at a glance.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

Election Results (Presented by Britt Haley, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services)

Britt Haley, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, gave a quick update on the results of the November 2022 election. She was pleased to reiterate from citizen comments, that PPRTA III had passed, which had some trail funding elements. Britt also stated that at the TOPS 25th event, Mayor John Suthers did announce his plans to seek an extension of the TOPS program in 2023.

Board Business

Appointment of TOPS (Trails, Open Space and Parks Program) Working Committee Members

With the departure of TOPS (Trails, Open Space and Parks Program) Working Committee Vice Chair Nancy Hobbs due to term limits, there has been a vacancy on the TOPS Working Committee with no alternates to fill the position. Britt Haley gave a brief overview of the interview process, which involved TOPS Working Committee Chair Bob Falcone and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board Chair David Siegel. At the end of the process, Britt, Mr. Falcone and Mr. Siegel made one selection to fill the regular member vacancy and a selection of two alternates. Wendy Howe has been recommended to fill the vacant position on

the Committee, with Chelsea Gondeck and Ellen Senf to serve as alternates. All three have accepted the offer.

Motion: Staff recommends approval of the appointments of Wendy Howe as a TOPS Working Committee member and of Chelsea Gondeck and Ellen Senf as alternate members to the TOPS Working Committee as presented.

1st – Andrea Perry, 2nd – Greg Thornton, Approved, Unanimously.

Appointment of Westside Community Center Working Committee Members

Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager, gave a brief overview of the process and decision making related to the new operational status of the Westside Community Center, which included the recommendation for an advisory committee. This committee will report to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board and operate similar to the TOPS Working Committee. During its October 13, 2022, meeting, the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board unanimously approved the formation of the Westside Community Center Working Committee. The application process to serve on the Working Committee opened on October 14, 2022. Representatives from the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board, Julia Sands De Melendez and Greg Thornton, and staff members Felicia Barnhart, Kim King, and Mark Snow, completed an interview process on November 3, 2022. The following Westside Community Center Working Committee members have been proposed: Rebecca Fredell, Robin Hinsdale, Christine Jelinek, Elizabeth (Liz) Lopez Vaughan, Judith (Judy) McKay-Harbert, Kathleen (Kathy) Perry, Barry Spaeth, Mary Tauras, and Justin Trudeau.

Motion: Staff recommends approval of the slate of appointments to the Westside Community Center Working Committee as presented in Exhibit A.

1st – Steve Harris, 2nd – Larry Bogue, Approved, Unanimously.

Selection of a Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board Liaison to the Westside Community Center Working Committee

Similar to the TOPS Working Committee, the Westside Community Center Working Committee will need a Board liaison. Board member Greg Thornton offered to be the liaison, though he mentioned he will be absent for the first meeting on November 17, 2022.

Open Meetings Law Training (Presented by Sara Arfmann, Attorney)

Sara Arfmann, Attorney for the City Attorney's Office, presented the Board with the Open Meetings Law Training. This presentation included what the Open Meetings Law is; notice

requirements; minutes requirements; Executive Sessions; and finally, violations and possible repercussions.

Link to PowerPoint Presentation

Larry Bogue – Mr. Bogue mentioned there had been a survey provided by City Council's administration to all Board and Commission members and wondered if there were results from that. Britt Haley responded that she had received a brief update but hadn't received the Board's specific feedback but will look into that.

Adjournment

Motion: Move to adjourn the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board meeting at 9:45 a.m.

1st – Greg Thornton, 2nd – Andrea Perry, Approved, Unanimously.