

CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS

# TRAILS, OPEN SPACES AND PARKS (TOPS) WORKING COMMITTEE MINUTES

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Location: 1401 Recreation Way Colorado Springs, CO 80905

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Date: October 2, 2024

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Time: 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

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## I. MEETING ATTENDANCE

- a. Members Present: Wendy Howe, Paula Krantz, Jeff Davis, Bob Shafer, Chelsea Gondeck, Hank Scarangella, Emily Danti, Randy Courduff, David Bundrick
- b. Parks Board Liaisons Present: Abby Simpson, Larry Bogue, Amandla Atilano-Roque
- c. Staff Present: Britt Haley, Lonna Thelen, Eric Becker, Kim King, Anna Bingman, Scott Abbott, David Deitemeyer

## II. CALLED TO ORDER

Committee Vice Chair Wendy Howe brought the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

## III. AGENDA PREVIEW

Committee Vice Chair Wendy Howe announced the agenda for the meeting.

## IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Lonna Thelen, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager, made the following announcements:

1. There will not be a site visit this month.
2. The Department received a \$300,000 grant from the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Energy and Mineral Assistance Fund for support the reclamation of the Black Canyon Quarry.
3. There is a ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly completed segment of the Rock Island Trail this afternoon at 1:00 p.m. at the intersection of Weber and Lilac Street.
4. Connie Schmeisser has been promoted from a Landscape Architect II to a Senior Planner.
5. Lonna welcomed Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board member Amandla Atilano-Roque as the new Parks Board Liaison for Open Spaces.

b. Committee Vice Chair Wendy Howe welcomed Committee members Randy Courduff and David Bundrick in their new roles as regular members of the Committee. She thanked them both for their willingness to step on to the Committee.

c. Britt Haley, Director, announced that per the TOPS Policies and Procedures Manual, each October the Committee will vote for the Chair and Vice Chair roles. Britt suggested starting first with the Chair position, voting, and then moving to the Vice Chair position and vote.

1. Committee member Emily Danti nominated Vice Chair Wendy Howe for the role of Committee Chair. Committee member Randy Courduff seconded the nomination. Ms. Howe accepted the nomination, and after a vote of the Committee, was approved as the new Chair.
2. Committee Chair Wendy Howe nominated Committee member Jeff Davis for the role of Committee Vice Chair. Committee member Bob Shafer seconded the nomination. Mr. David accepted the nomination, and after a vote of the Committee, was approved as the new Vice Chair.

## **V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 4, 2024 MEETING MINUTES**

- a. Motion: To approve the minutes of the September 4, 2024 TOPS Working Committee meeting.
- b. First: Paula Krantz
- c. Second: Hank Scarangella
- d. Approved, Unanimously.

## **VI. CITIZEN DISCUSSION**

- a. Susan Davies, Executive Director for the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), invited staff and the Committee to attend the

annual TOSC Member Celebration at Bear Creek Nature Center on Tuesday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

## **VII. ACTION ITEMS**

- a. There were no action items on this agenda.

## **VIII. PRESENTATIONS**

- a. Fishers Canyon Open Space Master and Management Plan Update (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect, and Amanda Jeter, Principal for Studio Campo)
  1. David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect, and Amanda Jeter, Principal for Studio Campo, presented the Committee with the Fishers Canyon Open Space Master and Management Plan update. This presentation included an agenda; where are we now?; approach summary; engagement results; field work updates; and finally, next steps.
- b. E-Bike Policy (Presented by Lonna Thelen, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager, and Scott Abbott, Regional Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Manager)
  1. Lonna Thelen, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager, and Scott Abbott, Regional Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Manager, presented the Committee with the E-Bike Policy. This presentation included presentation topics; the e-bike policy; reasons for the approach; implementation of policy; implementation process; the draft ordinance; additional considerations; survey results recap; survey results detail; further reading, and finally, the implementation process again.
  2. Comments, questions and discussion from the Committee included:
    - Concerns that considering Class 3 e-bikes to be motorized, whereas Class 1 and 2 are considered to be non-motorized, is somewhat confusing and could be argued against at a later time. Staff said that the education component of the different classes of e-bikes will be critical to the success of the policy.
    - Caitlin Moldenhauer, Associate Attorney for the Corporate Division of the City Attorney's Office, explained some of the background on why the definitions for the ordinance were selected, and why they are permissible within the City Charter.

## **IX. CITIZEN DISCUSSION**

- a. Kent Obee, citizen, reminded the Committee that the TOPS Ordinance is a voter-approved ordinance, and any previous tweaks or changes to the Ordinance had gone to a vote of the people. Mr. Obee believed the proposed e-bike policy should be voted on by the citizens.

- b. Cory Sutela, Executive Director for Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, echoed Mr. Obee's comments.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Motion: To adjourn the TOPS Working Committee meeting at 9:18 a.m.
- b. First: Chelsea Gondeck
- c. Second: Jeff Davis
- d. Approved, Unanimously