



**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, December 12, 2019**

**Members Present:** Ron Ilgen, Carol Beckman, Daniel Bowan, Abby Simpson, Sarah Bryarly, Greg Thornton, Jason Rupinski, David Siegel

**Members Absent:** Michael Phan

**Alternates Present:** Larry Bogue, Andrea Perry

**Alternates Absent:** Lisa Wieland

**Staff Present:** Karen Palus, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Britt Haley, Anna White, David Deitemeyer, Scott Abbott

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**Called to Order:** Board Chair Ron Ilgen brought the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**Citizen Discussion**

Cory Sutela of Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates thanked the Board and staff for another year of fantastic cooperation, including opening the Chutes Trail in North Cheyenne Cañon. The Chutes Trail work was the corner stone of Medicine Wheel Trail Advocate's IndyGive campaign. He also touched briefly on the organization's involvement with the Austin Bluffs Open Space Master and Management plan. Board member Daniel Bowan asked if Cory had any comments on the master plan, and Cory said the responses to questions, concerns, and suggestions had been very positive.

Susan Davies, Executive Director of the Trails and Open Space Coalition, thanked the Board and staff for a great year of partnership and projects. She highlighted the work with the Friends of Boulder Park and the progress in that park, including walks through the park and clean-up projects.

**Approval of Minutes – November 14, 2019**

**Motion – To approve the November 14, 2019 minutes with additional changes.**

**Motion by Carol Beckman, 2<sup>nd</sup> David Siegel, Approved, Unanimously with Jason Rupinski abstaining.**

**Presentations**

**Downtown Creative District** (Claire Swinford, Director of Urban Engagement - Downtown Partnership)

Claire Swinford, gave an overview of Colorado Springs' Downtown Creative District, which included the breakdown of what the City's creative district looks like; the goals of the

Experience Downtown Master Plan; what the Creative District designation has helped accomplish; and discussed with board members different aspects of our unique downtown Creative District.

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

**PLDO Update** (Presented by Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director and Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager)

Britt Haley and Karen Palus gave an update about the Parkland Dedication Ordinance since the November workshop. This overview included taskforce principles; points of agreement from previous meetings; questions remaining concerning different aspects of the ordinance; and further direction the Board can take.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation](#)

After much discussion, the Board came to consensus that points of agreement included:

- Taskforce principles
- Burification or separation of the park land dedication provisions from the school land dedication provisions in the City Code
  - A recommendation from the 2014 Park System Master Plan
- General agreement that the parkland dedications fees need to be updated, as they were last updated in 2007
  - A recommendation from the 2014 Park System Master Plan
- Agreement that the census data (upon which the parkland dedication formula relies) needs to be updated to modern standards
  - A recommendation from the 2014 Park System Master Plan
- Philosophical agreement that the parkland dedication fees should be adjusted up or down regularly to match market conditions
  - Questions remain about the best methods to do so.

Questions remaining between the Board and park staff include:

- Aligning the ordinance with the Park System Master Plan considering PLDO requirements
  - The Parks System Master Plan has identified the level of service at 5.5 acres of parkland/1000 for the last 19 years
  - A City Audit finding in 2018 determined they should be aligned and has been a goal to adopt the Park System Master Plan's version
- Flexibility demonstrated through Alternative Compliance
  - Interest in flexibility for the Parks Department
  - Question regarding how to capture it in terms of a number of acres/1000 residents as a level of service indicator. This included a question of capturing the benefit to

parks achieved through the alternative compliance as a level of service being provided.

- Concerns about how the use of flexibility afforded by proposed alternative compliance would affect (or erode) the levels of service over time
- Fee questions
  - Should they be collected into services areas and kept “at home” for neighborhood park service areas?
  - Should the fee be an averaged sum that applies across the entire city as it does now or specialized for each service area identified for the city?
- Parkland dedication credits
  - Concept to recognize credits for land dedication in excess of the requirement. This includes concerns about administration of credits, unintended consequences, and who should approve the acceptance of “over dedication” or land and issuance of credits
- Will the proposed ordinance dis-incentivize infill projects and downtown development where the development project effectively has no land to dedicate and available land in those areas is comparatively high cost?
- Will the proposed ordinance be disadvantageous for affordable housing projects?
- What does this mean for the potential development of the City of Colorado Springs to the north and to the east?
- What does this mean for the future capacity of the Department to maintain and operate additional City parks in the future?

Board member Daniel Bowan expressed his strong opposition to the possibility of decreasing parkland dedication acreage requirements from 7.5 acres per thousand residents to 5.5 acres per thousand residents in order to align the parkland dedication ordinance requirements with the 2014 Park System Master Plan’s stated level of service. He felt decreasing the acreage for the level of service left more to be desired and that we should strive to raise that level rather than decrease it.

Karen Palus added that there would be no PLDO resolution in January and that dialogue will continue between park staff and the Board.

**Austin Bluffs Open Space Master and Management Plan** (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect)

David Deitemeyer and Julie Gamec with THK Associates gave an overview of the upcoming Austin Bluffs Open Space Master and Management Plan. This overview included a timeline of dates of meetings and work up until this Board meeting; an inventory of the site and conditions throughout; results from a public input survey; an overview of the trail system development and restrictions; trail system recommendations and ratings; key concepts being considered in the trail system; resource management and implementation priorities; and final timeline for this Master Plan approval.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation](#)

**TOPS Wayfinding Update** (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect)

David Deitemeyer and Lesanne Dominquez with Architerra Group presented the new Colorado Springs TOPS Open Space Wayfinding signage. This presentation included an overview and design guidelines for the sign package; project goals; an up-to-date timeline about public meetings and process; how design guidelines work; the three different concepts for the sign package (America the Beautiful, Come Play Here, and The Scenic Route) as well as feedback about each concept; the preliminary concept presented to the public; the public's preferred alternative with examples of each type of signage; and the next steps towards implementing the signage.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation](#)

**Regional Parks, Trails, and Open Space Annual Review** (Presented by Scott Abbott, Regional Parks, Trails and Open Space Supervisor)

Scott Abbott presented the Regional Parks, Trails, and Open Space annual report for 2019, which included a map detailing which rangers work in the different areas of the City; major projects completed in 2019 by each ranger district; a division breakdown of acreage and staff; major challenges faced in 2019; volunteer projects and partners, including highlighting the Rocky Mountain Field Institute; and finally, noxious weed management.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation](#)

**Ceremonial Item (time certain 10:00 a.m.)**

**Garden of the Gods 10-Mile Run/Pikes Peak Marathon and Ascent** (Presented by Ron Ilgen)

Ron Ilgen gave an overview about the successes of the Garden of the Gods 10-Mile Run in June and the Pikes Peak Marathon and Ascent in August. He thanked various Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services staff members for their support in hosting these two events. He said that Pikes Peak Marathon, Inc. would be donating money to the Garden of the Gods Foundation, Rockledge Ranch, and Pikes Peak – America's Mountain for all their support.

**Board Business**

Britt Haley – Britt informed the Board that the department had received the appraisals for the Coleman Park Land Exchange, and that these appraisals would be brought in front of the Board in January's meeting as an action item. This action item will include a general picture of the site and initial plans. She also announced that the upcoming Corral Bluffs guided tour scheduled for December 15 would be cancelled due to inclement weather.

Karen Palus – Informed the Board members who had signed up to tour the construction site on Pikes Peak – America’s Mountain would receive an email invitation.

Sarah Bryarly – Mentioned the Acacia Park Tree Lighting and how the event went very well. She did request that some site tours be scheduled for weekends. Britt said that could be a possibility or that she could personally take members out to sites at different times than just the tours.

David Siegel – Said the Public Art Master Plan is in an early draft stage but that the committee is very happy with it so far. He said there will likely be a big project in conjunction with the upcoming sesquicentennial. The committee is also discussing putting art in the upcoming round-a-bout being built on 30th Street in front of the Garden of the Gods, but that more public input is needed.

Carol Beckman - Attended the TOPS Working Committee meeting which reviewed the policies and procedures of the TOPS Working Committee. She informed the other Board members that for TOPS Working Committee members to vote on open spaces, the members are supposed to have visited the property prior to the vote.

Greg Thornton - Also attended the TOPS Working Committee meeting and said he enjoyed the presentations.

**Motion: Move to Closed Executive Session at 1:58 p.m.**

**Motion - David Siegel, 2<sup>nd</sup> Carol Beckman, Approved, Unanimously**

**Closed Executive Session** (Presented by Britt Haley, TOPS Program Manager)

*In accord with the City Charter Art. III, §3-60(d) and the Colorado Open Meetings Act, C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4) (a, and e), the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, in Open Session, is to determine whether it will hold a Closed Executive Session. The issues to be discussed involve receipt of legal advice and determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations and instructing negotiators regarding a land acquisition matter. The Chair shall poll the Park and Recreation Advisory Board members, and, upon consent of two-thirds of the members present, may hold a closed executive session. If consent to the closed executive session is not given, the item may be discussed in open session or withdrawn from consideration.*

**Motion: Move to end executive session at 2:40 p.m.**

**Motion - Carol Beckman, 2<sup>nd</sup> David Siegel, Approved, Unanimously**