



**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 13, 2020**

Members Present: Ron Ilgen, Carol Beckman, Dr. Daniel Bowan, Abby Simpson, Michael Phan, David Siegel, Greg Thornton, Jason Rupinski

Members Absent: Sarah Bryarly

Alternates Present: Larry Bogue, Andrea Perry

Alternates Absent: Lisa Wieland

Staff Present: Karen Palus, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Britt Haley, Anna White, Connie Schmeisser, Dennis Will, Eric Becker, Jarod Clayton

Called to Order: Board Chair Ron Ilgen brought the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

Citizen Discussion

Jesse Collette, citizen, updated the Board about his project “Planet Walk.” He gave the Board a brief description of the project, which would display the relative distance between planets using measurements on the Santa Fe Trail. He hoped that the Board would support some additional funding for the project and distributed a flyer about their most recent event.

Hank Scarangella, a representative of Friends of Garden of the Gods (FOGG), invited the Board to join FOGG for the upcoming Big Horn Sheep Day taking place at the Visitors Center on Saturday, February 15 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Susan Davies, Executive Director at the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), informed the Board about TOSC’s recent co-sponsored event with Colorado Springs Police Department, Coffee with a Cop, which took place at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. She said there were over 100 participants with questions about trail safety, trail connectivity, and how to protect your items from theft at trailheads.

Cory Sutela, from Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, thanked the Board and staff for their continued support of trail maintenance and restoration. He gave the Board a quick update about the continuing conversation in the community surrounding e-bikes. He said Medicine Wheel had plans to begin surveying members of the community to see their opinions on e-bikes.

Approval of Minutes – January 9, 2019

Motion – To approve the January 9, 2020 minutes.

1st – Carol Beckman, 2nd – Michael Phan, Approved, Unanimously

Presentation Items

Pikes Peak-America’s Mountain Annual Report Update (Presented by Jack Glavan, Manager at Pikes Peak – America’s Mountain)

Jack Glavan, Manager at Pikes Peak – America’s Mountain, presented the Board with Pikes Peak – America’s Mountain annual report, as well as introduced two new staff members, Kate Saling and Kurt Trujillo, who will co-manage operations on the South Slope. His presentation included operations reports about the North Slope, South Slope, and Pikes Peak – America’s Mountain; guiding documents for each area; changes for each area and results of changes; budgets; visitor statistics; revenue and expenses; marketing and advertising strategies; 2019 completed projects; 2020 planned projects; pictures of improvements to different areas on the Pikes Peak Highway; and finally an update on the new Summit Complex construction, funding, and fundraising efforts.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Water Conservation and Usage Update (Presented by Eric Becker, SIMD Unit Administrator, and Jarod Clayton, Water Conservation Specialist)

Eric Becker, Special Improvement Maintenance District (SIMD) Unit Administrator, distributed the 2019 Water Conservation and Annual Report to the Board and presented the 2019 Water Conservation Update. This presentation included information about how water conservation in Colorado Springs came to be what it is now; where our water comes from relative to the different watersheds in the state; our water rates among other cities on the Front Range; a look at the 12 year daily service charge history; the 2019 annual water budget versus the actual budget used; a snapshot of programs that go into comprehensive irrigation water management; allocation and usage reports; turf management; staff training; ongoing systems maintenance and replacement; alternative water solutions; new park design and development features to reduce water footprint; and finally, water wise rules for the upcoming summer season.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Forestry Annual Report & Master/Management Plan (Presented by Dennis Will, City Forester)

Dennis Will, City Forester, informed the Board about the Forestry Annual Report and Master/Management Plan. This update included information about City Forestry responsibilities between our urban forestry, forest management, and native right-of-way mowing; a quick look into Forestry personnel; contracted services; urban forestry accomplishments; an overview of storm damage and cleanup from two storms in March and May 2019; other programs and accomplishments including Tree City USA and the TreeCycle Program; and finally an invitation to the March 16 meeting unveiling the results from the PlanetGeo Urban Forestry Assessment and Management Plan, along with the next steps for the plan.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Code Revision for Metal Detecting (Presented by Kurt Schroeder, Park Operations Manager)

Kurt Schroeder, Park Operations Manager, informed the Board about a potential City Code revision for metal detecting in the parks. Kurt gave a quick overview of the 2018 code revision that prohibited metal detecting and the reasons behind the revision. However, after discussions with members of the Pikes Peak Adventure League about reconsidering the revision, Kurt was able to re-write language for the City Code that considered metal detecting to be an appropriate recreational hobby for many. A main reason behind this was the added community enhancement, such as finding lost items, support for law-enforcement through metal detecting and removing unwanted, sub-surface debris and litter. Kurt included the stance on metal detecting from Colorado's ten largest cities, with Colorado Springs being the only city that prohibited metal detecting. After reviewing the existing ordinance, Kurt provided the proposed ordinance. Andy Rourke, a member of the Pikes Peak Adventure League displayed to the Board how the members of the club are encouraged to examine the ground if they find something, which does not displace or destroy turf. He added that the Pikes Peak Adventure League fully supported the proposed revision.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Boulder Park Master Plan (Presented by Connie Schmeisser, Landscape Architect II)

Connie Schmeisser, Landscape Architect II, presented the Board with the new Boulder Park Master Plan. Her presentation included the project purpose; process and outreach; initial feedback; a variety of existing conditions of different features of the park; a summary of key improvements as provided by findings from community meetings; the proposed Master Plan visual; Master Plan elements; a summary of costs and funding; and the proposed options for changes to the right-of-way area between the park and Memorial Hospital. Connie also informed the Board about the feedback from various community meetings.

Connie was joined by multiple members of the Friends of Boulder Park who offered support of the plan.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation](#)

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

Guardians of Palmer Park Recognition of Regional Park Staff

John Hawk, a member of the Guardians of Palmer Park, presented members of the Regional Park staff with a plaque for their continued support of the Guardians of Palmer Park in regards to park maintenance. He specifically mentioned the regional park staff for their phenomenal help with the group's Black Friday Clean-Up Event by arriving early to clear snow and remove trash. He also informed the Board about 2020 clean-up projects and continued partnerships.

Staff Reports

There were no staff reports at this time.

Board Business

Carol Beckman – Carol reiterated information from the TOPS Working Committee about two grants that the Department had been awarded. The first grant, in the amount of \$750,000, was awarded to the Department by State Trails Committee with Land and Water Conservation Funds to secure the northern connection of the Legacy Loop up to the Legacy Loop trailhead parking lot. The Department's application for soft surface trails at Daniel's Pass was also approved by the State Trails Committee in the amount of \$250,000.

Carol attended the public meeting about the bridge replacement in North Cheyenne Cañon, gave a brief description about the design selection.

Carol also informed the Board and staff about the most recent Re-Imagine Waldo Canyon public meeting, and noted that more trails were added to the plan.

Ron Ilgen – Ron also attended the Re-Imagine Waldo Canyon meeting and said attendance was good and was pleased with how the meeting went.

David Siegel – David attended the Downtown Historic Parks Master Plan public meeting and said there was a good response to the plan from the community. He asked when the plan would be presented to the Board, to which Karen Palus replied that it would likely be presented in April after the current survey for the Historic Parks closes on February 16.

David added that an amount of \$40,000.00 from the 202 LART Budget had been reallocated from the Pioneer's Museum to the upcoming Sesquicentennial Tree Projects by City Council. He said at the last LART meeting, the committee voted to allocate and additional \$40,000.00 back to the museum. He was planning to attend the LART meeting later that afternoon.

Adjournment

Motion: Move to adjourn the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board meeting at 12:20 p.m.

1st – David Siegel, 2nd – Jason Rupinski, Approved, Unanimously

Closed Executive Session

Britt Haley

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 the potential acquisition of real property interest 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: To move into closed executive session.

1st – Jason Rupinski, 2nd – Greg Thornton, Approved, Unanimously

Motion: To exit closed executive session.

1st – Carol Beckman, 2nd – Greg Thornton, Approved, Unanimously