



**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 12, 2020**

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

Alternates Present: Larry Bogue, Lisa Wieland

Alternates Absent: Andrea Perry

Staff Present: Karen Palus, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Britt Haley, Anna White, Connie Schmeisser, Tilah Larson, Andrew Rummel, Pat Gentile, David Deitemeyer

Called to Order: Board Chair Ron Ilgen brought the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m.

Citizen Discussion

Cory Sutela, of Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, offered his support of the Austin Bluffs Open Space Master and Management Plan. He also updated the Board on Medicine Wheel's online survey concerning e-bikes, which would be closing the following day. He said there were around 650 responses, and added that there is a lot of misinformation in the community surrounding e-bikes.

Christine Thomas, from Friends of Ute Valley, wanted to recognize park ranger Mark Tatro's work in Ute Valley for the Board, as well as highlight statistics from multiple volunteer workdays in 2019. Regional Parks Supervisor Scott Abbott echoed her sentiments about park ranger Mark Tatro, adding that he has been recognized many times as a stand out employee.

Susan Davies, Executive Director of the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), said TOSC was checking in with other Friends groups regarding the changes implemented throughout the COVID-19 crisis. She thanked staff for keeping parks open, clean, and safe for use during this time.

Ron Ramsey, citizen, informed the Board about an incident in Red Rock Canyon Open Space where he and his wife were forced off the trails for riding e-bikes. He explained that his wife's ADA needs permit her to use an e-bike on our trails. He said he hoped to see the City readdress the use of e-bikes in parks and on trails in the future. Park Operations Manager Kurt Schroeder responded that there was going to be a preliminary discussion with stakeholders throughout the biking community concerning e-bikes to take a more measured approach to the topic.

Approval of Minutes – February 13, 2020

Motion – To approve the February 13, 2020 minutes with proposed changes.

1st – Carol Beckman, 2nd – Greg Thornton, Approved, 8 to 0 with Sarah Bryarly abstaining.

Action Items

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

Connie Schmeisser, Landscape Architect II, reviewed the Boulder Park Master Plan for the Board with minor changes from the February presentation. The presentation included the project purpose; process and outreach; initial feedback; existing conditions of the park; a community key improvement summary; a visual of the master plan; master plan elements; and pictures of the 20-foot right-of-way and trees that had been proposed for removal. In the removal, the fence would be replaced with planters to discourage visitors from smoking around the tennis area. Connie added that she had spoken to Dennis Will, City Forester, about removing the trees in the right-of-way, and potentially relocating them or replanting different trees.

[Link to Agenda Packet with Presentations](#)

Board member Abby Simpson mentioned that during the presentation from the prior month, Connie had said a member of the Friends of Boulder Park reached out to her last minute about their support to leave the right-of-way as it is currently. Abby asked if this person had reached out again, to which Connie responded there were no additional comments following the presentation.

Board member Sarah Bryarly commended Connie for the plan, but expressed concerns that the smoking issue will still exist. Parks Director Karen Palus explained that there are opportunities to promote fitness training in the tennis courts and potential sport court that would discourage people from smoking near those areas.

Board member Dr. Daniel Bowan felt that removing the fence and adding planters to the right-of-way area did not solve the problem of people smoking in that area. He added he would like to see the courts moved as far over to the fence line as possible. Board member Carol Beckman echoed this statement. Connie responded that this could be an option moving forward.

Board member Greg Thornton asked how many trees would be planted. Connie replied that at least as many trees would be planted as had been removed, if not more. She added that Dennis Will had made suggestions for other planting areas in the park.

Cathy Bailie, from the Friends of Boulder Park, spoke on behalf of the Friends group in support of the master plan.

Motion: To approve the Boulder Park Master Plan as presented.

1st - David Siegel, 2nd - Carol Beckman, Approved, Unanimously

Presentation Items

2019 Rocky Mountain Field Institute Year in Review (Presented by Joe Lavorini, Program Director at Rocky Mountain Field Institute)

Joe Lavorini, Program Director at Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI), provided a presentation of RMFI's 2019 Year in Review which highlighted their main 2019 City projects; background on the TOPS stewardship contract; 2019 work objectives and statistics; pictures and descriptions of various projects throughout different parks; information about different partnership programs; and lastly, 2020 work plans.

[Link to Agenda Packet with Presentations](#)

North Cheyenne Cañon Bridge Replacement (Presented by Priscilla Marbaker, Landscape Architect at Tapis Associates)

Priscilla Marbaker, Landscape Architect at Tapis Associates, gave the Board an update about the upcoming bridge replacements in North Cheyenne Cañon. This update included information about the project focus; an overview of public meetings and responses; bridge design, critical issues, proposed improvements, and benefits; the hydraulic design; roadway design; the environmental process of the bridge design; and finally, the next steps in the project and the timeline.

[Link to Agenda Packet with Presentations](#)

Public Works 30th Street Project Update (Presented by Robin Allen, Project Engineer at City Engineering)

Robin Allen, Project Engineer for City Engineering, presented the Board with an update about the 30th Street Corridor Improvements, specifically from Mesa to Fontanero. This update included information about the project team; the project purpose and issues addressed through the project; visuals and information about the recommended features; storm water elements of the project; and finally, an example of the executive agreement between Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services and City Engineering for the project.

[Link to Agenda Packet with Presentations](#)

Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department Annual Review (Presented by Tilah Larson, Senior Analyst)

Tilah Larson, Senior Analyst, gave a brief overview of the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department's Annual Review. This booklet contains information about the overall

department vision; support for the 2014 Park System Master Plan; promotes the various recreation opportunities; highlights different department statistics; and includes information about our partnerships.

Acacia Ice Rink – End of Season Update (Presented by Andrew Rummel, Park Operations Administrator at Sertich Ice Center)

Andrew Rummel, Park Operations Administrator at Sertich Ice Center, presented the end of season update for the skating rink at Acacia Park. This presentation included some new facets of the rink, which included an extended season and new programming; visitation statistics and revenue; season highlights; pictures of the many different events at the rink; and finally, future plans for the rink.

[Link to Agenda Packet with Presentations](#)

Golf Annual Report (Presented by Pat Gentile, Golf Division Superintendent)

Pat Gentile, Golf Division Superintendent, presented the 2019 Golf Annual Report. This summary included 2019 financials and rounds data; revenues; data showing days closed; the golf courses rounds versus weather impacts; the 2020 budget; community outreach; information about challenges at each course, one being nematodes affecting the grass at Valley Hi; programming at each course; different renovation and restoration projects at both courses; and finally, 2020 plans for each course.

[Link to Agenda Packet with Presentations](#)

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

David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect, presented an overview of the updated Austin Bluffs Open Space Master and Management Plan. The overview covered the open space's need for a master plan; the project team; the planning process; an overview of the open space which included a map of the area; project goals and givens; feedback on what citizens like about the open space; issues and concerns that had been identified; master plan recommendations to different facets of the open space; and finally, the current funding for the project.

[Link to Agenda Packet with Presentations](#)

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

David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect, along with Lesanne Dominguez from Architerra Group, updated the Board on the Open Space Wayfinding Design Guidelines. This presentation gave an overview of current open space wayfinding signage; project goals; preferred design from the public process; a thorough description of the design for each type of sign that would

be implemented in the park; a closer look at the maps and information panels on the signs; and lastly, a look at what the wayfinding signs would look like.

[Link to Agenda Packet with Presentations](#)

Staff Reports

Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Director, gave the following updates to the Board:

- COVID-19 Update
 - The Saint Patty's Day Parade has been cancelled at this time.
 - The Urban Forest Management Plan public meeting was going to be cancelled as well.
 - Parks will remain open as long as we are not directed otherwise.
- The Protect Our Parks initiative has been reaching out to City Council
 - There may be a potential item on the November 2020 ballot.
- A PLDO update would be presented to the Board in the coming months.
- An advertisement for new TOPS Working Committee members will be put out to the public shortly.

Kurt Schroeder, Park Operations Manager, gave the following update to the Board:

- Bridge replacement in America the Beautiful Park
 - Will impact the park a small amount.
 - 25 trees to be removed and replanted.
 - The park is essentially closed for 2020 season.
 - The project should be completed by 2021.

Scott Abbott, Regional Parks Supervisor, provided more information about the upcoming e-bike stakeholders meeting:

- Intention of starting the discussion surrounding e-bikes, not a public meeting.
- Want to gauge reaction from a cross section of individuals
 - People who have bought/are interested in buying e-bikes, companies selling e-bikes, and other users who may observe people on them in parks
 - Looking for two representatives from multiple groups of individuals
- The meeting will be March 31, 2020 at the Gold Hills station from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm.
- Carol Beckman and Greg Thornton offered to be Parks Advisory Board representatives.

Board Business

Carol Beckman – Carol updated the Board about the changes to the TOPS Working Committee, as Chair Joe Lavorini was leaving and Vice Chair Lily Weissgold had stepped into the role of Chair. Bob Falcone is the new Vice Chair.

Ron Ilgen – Ron stated that the joint City/County Parks Board meeting went well.

David Siegel – David was a part of a conversation with Sarah Bryarly, Britt Haley, and Karen about PLDO as it moves forward.

He also stated there was a LART meeting that afternoon, in which the committee would be reviewing five or six supplemental requests.

Sarah Bryarly – Sarah mentioned the PLDO conversation as well.

She also said that while she loved the new fencing in the Norwood special improvement maintenance district, quite a bit of the grass in front of the fence was still torn up. Kurt Schroeder said he would look into it.

Adjournment

Motion: Move to adjourn the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board meeting at 1:45 p.m.

1st – Carol Beckman, 2nd – Greg Thornton, 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 at 1:47 p.m.

1st – Carol Beckman, 2nd – David Siegel, Approved, Unanimously

Motion: To exit closed executive session at 2:15 p.m.

1st – Greg Thornton, 2nd – Michael Phan, Approved, Unanimously