



**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, July 8, 2021**

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

**Alternates Present:** Andrea Perry

**Staff Present:** Karen Palus, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Britt Haley, Anna White, Scott Abbott, Kelly Rajab, Lisa O'Boyle

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

**Citizen Discussion**

Susan Davies, Executive Director of the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), congratulated staff on the successful grand openings of both the Summit Complex on Pikes Peak – America's Mountain and the Park Union Bridge next to America the Beautiful Park. She encouraged that if extra revenue comes into the Department by way of TABOR or other funding sources, it be used to complete some of the 2B projects that have not been completed, like sport courts. Lastly, she asked if staff could provide an update about how the summer is going in parks.

Hank Scarangella, citizen, thanked both Board Chair Ron Ilgen and Board member Jason Rupinski for their outstanding service on the Board during their terms.

Cory Sutela, Executive Director for Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, thanked staff for continued collaboration on projects. He was happy to see a return to in-person meetings. Finally, Cory said he had a meeting with Kurt to discuss the e-Bike pilot program.

**Approval of Minutes** – June 10, 2021 meeting minutes with proposed changes.

**Motion** – To approve the June 10, 2021 minutes with proposed changes.

1<sup>st</sup> – Carol Beckman, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Greg Thornton, Approved, Unanimously.

**Ceremonial Items**

**Outgoing Parks Board Members**

On behalf of herself and staff, Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, extended her sincere thanks to Board Chair Ron Ilgen and Board member Jason Rupinski for their

tremendous service and dedication to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board as their terms come to an end. There will be a farewell celebration to celebrate their service at the Patty Jewett Clubhouse on July 9 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Board member Carol Beckman commended Ron for how he successfully managed virtual meetings due to COVID-19.

### **Park and Recreation Month**

July is National Parks and Recreation Month, which we are tying well into our Sesquicentennial Celebrations.

### **Retirement Announcements**

Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, informed the Board that Jack Glavan, Manager for Pikes Peak – America’s Mountain, will be retiring on July 22. She thanked Jack for his many years of service, culminating in the completion of the new Summit Complex. There will be a resolution read at the July 27 City Council meeting in his honor, as well as a retirement celebration at the Patty Jewett Clubhouse on July 20, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Following Jack’s departure, Sandy Elliot will be the interim manager.

### **Staff Updates**

**Sesquicentennial Update** (Presented by Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director)

Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, updated the Board on the latest happenings with the Sesquicentennial celebration. The “Then and Now” exhibit will open at the 21C Library tonight, July 8. The “Sesqui Soiree” is on the 17<sup>th</sup> at Boot Barn Hall. The July 31<sup>st</sup> Sesquicentennial Parade is moving along, and Karen invited the Board to volunteer and participate with the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services float, as well as the parade itself.

### **Recreation Plan Survey**

A comprehensive recreation plan survey has been posted online by the Department. This survey will allow the department to understand what services and spaces our communities truly value, what is prohibiting residents from participating in our facilities, and what the department should focus on developing as we move forward following the pandemic. This survey will also help staff to update the Recreation Programming Plan. Owen Rask, a Colorado College Fellow supporting the Department this summer, is helping with implementation of the survey. Participants who complete the survey before July 30<sup>th</sup> will be entered into a drawing to win a free Family 4-Pack to Pikes Peak – America’s Mountain.

**Westside Community Center** (Presented by Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager)

Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager, informed the Board that the Request for Proposal (RFP) for a new vendor in the Westside Community Center has closed without a successful outcome in terms of a new operator at this point in time. While one school had initially wanted to take over operations, there was a caveat in the property that School District 11 would have to approve another school in the center, which they decided not to do, so that took the school out of competition. Following this, the Department was not able to come to an agreement that would work with the YMCA. Woodmen Valley Chapel and their Center for Strategic Ministry is committed through the end of year, and potentially beyond that if needed, to continue providing services to the community.

Board member Carol Beckman asked if Kim could disclose why an agreement with the YMCA wouldn't work, however, Kim responded that there had not been a debrief yet with the YMCA. She did say the relationship with the YMCA is still strong, but it just wouldn't work right now. Carol then asked what Woodmen Valley Chapel's commitment extends to, and Kim said they had promised not to leave the center without an operator as they figure out next steps.

Board Vice Chair David Siegel wondered how the RFP process can be done to meet the needs of the Legal Department, while also including the surrounding community. Kim said she believed there were a few ways to approach this if another RFP process is done. First, having better representation from the community on the evaluation committee. Secondly, she felt discussing the scope of the RFP would also help alleviate concerns. However, it is difficult because the process is confidential.

Board member Dr. Daniel Bowan wondered if a community survey ahead of an RFP to establish goals would help the process. He asked if the need to have a vendor in the center was due to the Department not having the financial capability to facilitate the center. Kim responded this cost is around \$400,000 to \$500,000 per year to run a community center, versus the \$100,000 per year we were contributing to the facility and Woodmen Valley. Daniel responded he would love to see creative ideas from staff about how the Department could fund and staff the center, versus outsourcing to a vendor, if possible. Kim said the current operation was reached through an RFP process in 2010 during the economic downturn to keep the center open, as it provides essential services to the surrounding community. Though the vendor is through a ministry, the services provided are those of a true community center, like Hillside Community Center. Karen Palus mentioned that the site itself is unique, as it is a historical building, which can provide some challenges. Daniel asked if some of the funds from the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) will be going towards this facility. Karen responded that on Monday, Council will be discussing which facilities will receive some of these funds. With the exception of Deerfield Hills Community Center, all other City owned community centers are eligible for these funds. Board Vice Chair David Siegel asked if the Board would have any purview over the projects receiving these funds, as they are capital improvement projects. Karen responded she didn't believe there would be time for a formal vote on them. Dr. Bowan added that, procedurally, it would make sense for the Board to overview these projects and funds, as they do the other capital improvement projects and budgets. Karen responded that most of these projects have been long standing needs within the Department from the unfunded list.

**TOPS Ballot Initiative** (Presented by Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, and Britt Haley, TOPS Program Manager)

The TOPS Ballot Initiative continues to move forward, and Karen will be presenting with City Council President Pro-Tem Richard Skorman on the topic of TOPS and long-term sustainable funding. A potential proposal will be shared that covers the percentages, with a variety of options. Once there is some direction from Richard and the Mayor, Karen will present to City Council. There is still good support from citizen committees on the current proposal timeline. However, the increased amount is still to be determined. At the July 26 City Council Work Session, ballot language will be presented. Britt Haley, TOPS Program Manager, is working with Legal to craft this. There may also be a TABOR retention item on the ballot, the Briargate General Improvement District, along with a highway fund item.

At the August 10 regular City Council Meeting, City Council will discuss and vote on the ballot language. It will be read again on August 24. The ballot language must be sent to the County by September 3 to be on the November 2 Municipal Election Ballot. Board Vice Chair David Siegel asked fellow Board members if they were comfortable with the level of Board input during the process. Board Chair Ron Ilgen stated he felt like the process had been well informed, and that the Board had been represented well. Board member Sarah Bryarly mentioned that had the meetings not been virtual, the meetings discussing the issue might have gone smoother. Board member Dr. Daniel Bowan stated that the participants on the Presidential Parks Sustainability Commission (PPSC) had felt as though they had done their due diligence, and the issue was now in the hands of City Council and the Mayor. He mentioned next that there is another TOPS Working Committee meeting ahead of the August 10 City Council meeting, where the Committee could make a final recommendation on the ballot language. He asked if the Board would get the same opportunity. Karen offered that the August Parks Advisory Board meeting could be moved to one week earlier, on August 5, to make a final recommendation as well. The Board agreed to move the meeting to August 5.

### **Board Business**

Board Chair Ron Ilgen mentioned that the departure of Board member Jason Rupsinski leaves a vacancy on the TOPS Working Committee for a Parks Advisory Board Liaison representing neighborhood parks. Board member Abby Simpson volunteered to fill this vacancy.

Carol Beckman – Carol reviewed the TOPS Working Committee meeting presentations, which were on Cheyenne Mountain State Park as well as trail project updates. She said the 30<sup>th</sup> Street Improvement project is putting an RFP out for a Contractor, which will then be followed by public meetings where the contractor can explain the scope of work.

Ron Ilgen – Ron asked if there was an update on the City Auditorium. Karen responded that the Department is doing their due diligence, and Legal is working on a memorandum of expectations and next steps. Board member Sarah Bryarly asked if there was any backlash.

Karen answered that there has been mixed feedback, but mostly supportive of improvements, but some concern for changes to the facility itself.

Abby Simpson – Abby reminded the Board that the Panorama Park tile project for the mural in the park is continuing and invited Board members to come paint a tile. The library staff have been hosting outreach events to get more tiles completed and will have a booth at the July 31 Sesquicentennial Celebration.

### **Election of Board Chair**

In the departure of Board Chair Ron Ilgen, Karen Palus asked for nominations for the next Board Chair.

Board member Carol Beckman nominated current Board Vice Chair David Siegel as the next Chair. Board member Greg Thornton seconded the nomination. David accepted the nomination. With a vote of 8 to 0, with David abstaining, David was selected as the new Board Chair.

With the new Board Chair selected, Karen asked for nominations for the Board Vice Chair. Board member Greg Thornton nominated Board member Carol Beckman. Board member Larry Bogue seconded the nomination, which Carol accepted. Current Board Chair Ron Ilgen nominated Board member Sarah Bryarly, which Board member Jason Rupinski seconded. Sarah accepted the nomination. Board member Carol Beckman was selected as the new Vice Chair with votes from Abby Simpson, Larry Bogue, Dr. Daniel Bowan, Carol Beckman, Greg Thornton, and David Siegel. Sarah received votes from Ron Ilgen, Jason Rupinski, and Sarah Bryarly.

### **Adjournment**

**Motion: Move to adjourn the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board meeting at 9:15 a.m.**

1<sup>st</sup> – Carol Beckman, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Greg Thornton, Approved, Unanimously.