



**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 9, 2021**

Members Present: David Siegel, Carol Beckman, Dr. Daniel Bowan, Larry Bogue, Sarah Bryarly, Greg Thornton, Abby Simpson, Andrea Perry, Steve Harris

Alternates Present: Stephen Lenzo, Julia Sands de Melendez

Alternates Absent: Chris Aaby

Staff Present: Karen Palus, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Britt Haley, Anna White, Melody Horbach, Connie Schmeisser, Leah Davis Witherow, Eric Becker, Lisa O'Boyle, Ben Bolinger, Darlene Kennedy, Kellie Billingsley

Called to Order: Board Chair David Siegel brought the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m.

Citizen Discussion

David Weesner, citizen, spoke on behalf of many City Auditorium users. He said the building should be restored, rather than the operations changing. He claimed that the funds from the American Rescue Plan Act should be more than enough to complete renovations to keep the building usable for all citizens. He expressed disappointment in the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department, feeling as though they were giving away the City Auditorium. He said in the last operating year, the City Auditorium had over 300 bookings.

Alli Schuch, Program Coordinator for the Watershed Outreach Program, informed the Board about Creek Week 2021, which will be held from September 25 to October 3. More information can be found at www.fountain-crk.org.

Susan Davies, Executive Director for the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), played a video for the Board which featured citizens in different parks, explaining what the parks meant to them. Next, she informed the Board that the ballot issue for the Trails, Open Space, and Parks (TOPS) tax will be issue 2C. She said more information can be found at trailsopenspacesparks.com and about \$120,000 has been raised for the campaign thus far. Finally, she said the County Parks could receive some money from ballot issue 1A, which would be a TABOR refund of about \$2,000,000.

Jeanine Holt, member of the Handbell Alliance, shared that her organization is a user of the City Auditorium, and has been performing there for 43 consecutive years. Once a year, 300 handbell musicians play an all-day event, and then an evening performance for about 1,200 guests. She

said the City Auditorium is the only place they can host this event due to the needs concerning floor space. There is not another venue in the city that can accommodate that amount of people with adequate room on a flat-floor surface. She said the Handbell Alliance had looked at other venues, but none of them will work for their event. While she agreed the building needs some love, Jeanine stated opposition to changing the main event floor. Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager, responded with information about where the City is currently in the process of changing operations. She said a Request for Proposal process began in 2018, which started the negotiation process. COVID-19 put this on hold while the City Auditorium was being used as an isolation shelter, and then began again in the latter half of 2021. While there are still elements the City wants to discuss, they have now entered a Due Diligence Process with the Conservatory. There will be a public meeting process so citizens can give feedback. A more robust communication from the City about the agreement should come out to the public in the next few days. The commitment has been signed for the first six months. Board Chair David Siegel asked if the Board had any say in the process. Kim responded that after the Due Diligence Process, if the City should decide to transfer operations to the Conservatory, that would come back before the Board ahead of it going to City Council. David Weesner, citizen, made one final comment that his main concern was that the facility would not be operated as the process continues.

Cory Sutela, Executive Director for Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, thanked the Board and staff for all of their hard work over the summer months. He said he had collaborated with staff for a grant that would fund the reroute of the Limber Pine Trail on the North Slope, and hopes there will be a master plan for the area in the future.

Approval of Minutes – August 5, 2021 meeting minutes with proposed changes.

Motion – To approve the August 5, 2021 minutes with proposed changes.

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

Presentation Items

Flying Horse Turin 2 Filings 3 and 4 (Presented by Connie Schmeisser, Landscape Architect II, and Chris Lieber, Principal at NES Landscape Architects, Inc.)

Connie Schmeisser, Landscape Architect II, and Chris Lieber, Principal at NES Architects, Inc., presented the Board with the Flying Horse Turin 2 Filings 3 and 4. This presentation included the Filing 3 development data; Filing 4 development data; the Flying Horse trail system; Turin 2 Filing 3 and 4 trail system; the Filing 3 master plan; and finally, the Filing 4 master plan.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

Aspen Meadows Park Master Plan (Presented by Connie Schmeisser, Landscape Architect, and Shane Brown, Professional Landscape Architect and Urban Planner for Kimley-Horn)

Connie Schmeisser, Landscape Architect, and Shane Brown, Professional Landscape Architect and Urban Planner for Kimley-Horn, presented the Aspen Meadows Park Master Plan to the Board. This presentation included the project information; development, maintenance and phasing; feedback from the neighborhood survey; the overall site plan; trail and neighborhood connections; the Phase I site plan; playground equipment and vendors; and finally, continued phasing.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

Staff Updates

Cultural Services Update (Presented by Leah Davis Witherow, Museum Curator)

Leah Davis Witherow, Museum Curator, presented the Board with the Cultural Services Update. This presentation included the Cultural Services Division mission statement; core operations; the 2021 operating budget; public-private partnership funding; Garden of the Gods visitation and operations; North Cheyenne Cañon operations; Rock Ledge Ranch operations; an Archaeology division update; Pioneers Museum operations; public art; sesquicentennial celebrations; and finally, a look ahead.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

Special Improvement Maintenance District Update (Presented by Eric Becker, Special Improvement Maintenance District Unit Administrator)

Eric Becker, Special Improvement Maintenance District Unit Administrator, presented the Board with the Special Improvement Maintenance District (SIMD) Update. This presentation included a map to show where districts are located throughout the City; information about the advisory boards for each district; ordinance information; management of districts; the Colorado Gateway District; the Platte Avenue District; the Platte Avenue Corridor Study; the Woodstone District; the Woodstone water plan; the Old Colorado City District; Old Colorado City sidewalk and landscape bed improvements; the Colbrunn Court lighting project; the Stetson Hills District; Stetson Hills fence replacement; the Norwood District; Norwood 2021 projects; the Briargate District; the potential new district formation; SIMD funding comparison; and finally, some SIMD challenges.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

Recreation Plan Community Survey Results (Presented by Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager)

Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager, presented the Recreation Plan Community Survey Results presentation to the Board. This presentation included the study's framework; survey responses; CAPRA Accreditation Measurement; what residents want; and finally, recommendations.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

Board Business

Steve Harris – Steve asked for an update on the Westside Community Center. Kim King responded the Department had conducted an RFP process for the community center for a new operator. The process was not successful, and the process closed out. The neighborhood had felt left out though there were representatives from the neighborhood on the committee. The Woodman Valley group who currently operates the facility is considering a different operation model, and the neighborhood has some feedback as well. Kim said we are anticipating another process due to multiple entities being interested. Kim believes there will be a public information process prior to any process beginning, which will include timelines.

Abby Simpson – Abby gave an update on the tile making project for the mural that will be in Panorama Park and invited the Board and staff to participate in making one.

Larry Bogue – Larry asked if there is an update on the e-bike pilot program. Kurt Schroeder, Maintenance and Operations Manager, responded that the City Attorney's Office is still working on language to redefine some things in the ordinance. A speed gun study has taken place and data is compiled that will be presented at a future meeting. Next, Larry asked if the South Slope had closed. Kim King responded that it should still be open, but she would follow-up and confirm for Larry.

Sarah Bryarly – Sarah asked if there would be a department calendar this year. Kim King responded yes, and that we would put out that information soon.

Carol Beckman – Carol asked if the \$2,500,000 allocated for the City Auditorium using the ARPA funds would go to deferred maintenance. Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, responded that the money would go to the CS Community Cultural Collective plan and is allocated for 2022 regardless, but the budget for 2022 has not been released yet. Anticipated release is early October. Carol commented on the road closures for bridge replacement in North Cheyenne Cañon, and if the road could be closed closer to Daniel's Pass. Kurt said it is a matter of leaving some space for people to turn around. There is some concern from the Canyonwood Neighborhood, and how the closures might affect them. Next, Carol reviewed the presentation information from the TOPS Working Committee meeting. Carol then asked about the article in the Cheyenne Edition saying the City had made an offer on the PEO Chapter House. Karen responded that Parks had made an offer. Carol asked for an update on the Boulder and Thorndale court replacement. Karen replied that the bids came in higher than staff thought was reasonable to pay, and the RFP is closed. Finally, Carol mentioned a KOAA article she had seen about limiting parking in parks and open spaces based on carrying capacity in order to limit use. Kurt clarified that there had been a misquote, and parking had been increased purposefully.

Gregory Thornton – Greg asked if the Beach House at Prospect Lake has a liquor license. Kim King responded that the concessionaire, Lakeside Dawgs, is in the process of obtaining a liquor license for beer and wine. It is not in place yet, though. Greg said he had heard from a citizen that the property had a reverter clause regarding liquor. Kim said research had been done in the past to confirm that this is not true.

David Siegel – David said that LART has finalized their 2022 recommendations, which will go to the Budget Committee next.

Executive Session

Board Chair David Siegel read the following: *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, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board, in open session, is to determine whether it will hold a closed executive session. The issues to be discussed involve determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations and instructing negotiators regarding land acquisitions. The Chair shall poll the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services 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 Executive Session at 11:00 a.m.

1st – Sarah Bryarly, 2nd – Carol Beckman, Approved, Unanimously

There was consensus to move out of Executive Session at 11:33 a.m.

Adjournment

Motion: Move to adjourn the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board meeting at 11:34 a.m.

1st – Steve Harris, 2nd – Andrea Perry, Approved, Unanimously.