



parks · recreation · cultural services

**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2019**

Members Present: Jason Rupinski, Carol Beckman, David Siegel, Hank Scarangella, Mina Liebert, Gary Feffer, Daniel Bowan, Michael Phan, Ron Ilgen

Members Absent: N/A

Alternates Present: Abby Simpson, Greg Thornton, Lisa Wieland

Alternates Absent: Sarah Bryarly, Brooks Williams

Staff Present: Karen Palus, Britt Haley, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Christi Mehew, Tilah Larson, Pat Gentile, Dennis Will

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

Citizen Discussion

Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition Executive Director, commended the Friends of Boulder Park and their partnership with the Parks Department, specifically Britt Haley and Connie Perry. The Friends have also created a partnership with Memorial Hospital representatives to help assist with their park needs. The Urban Tree Canopy Assessment public meeting was held last Tuesday, February 5th at the City Auditorium and was very informative.

Bill Beagle and Jason Koup, Incline Friends Board of Directors, announced that for 2019 they would like to build a northern trail off the Manitou Incline primarily to alleviate pressure on the Barr Trail. The first portion is largely constructed and is located at the first bail out on the Incline at tie 665 and is worn due to many users. This area needs signage and clean-up work. The second portion is at tie 1300 which is near the bail out that goes to the Barr Trail. The trail has an alignment that has already been drawn up and is a very scenic trail. Once repairs are made to the trail it will help with safety and take pressure off first responders.

Lou Morales, resident of the Springs Ranch Golf Course area, stated that in 1997 this area was designated as a reserve and then rezoned and developed commercially. He has evidence that the golf course owner is negotiating to develop the area into residential housing. The golf course is a candidate for open space on the Parks System Master Plan and he is researching and trying to understand the process to protect this golf course. The area has not been rezoned yet.

Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager, stated an agreement was made in 1999 where partial park credit was granted to keep the golf course open to the public. This agreement also stated that if the golf course was closed the credits would be revoked and the developer would have to make a payment to the City in regards to the park credit discussion. This is the

agreement that is currently in force and the golf course is currently open. The Parks Department needs to provide for park space that will be needed according to the agreement. If there is an application for change in use for the property the Parks Department would go through the standard PLDO (Park Land Dedication Ordinance) process. An application for a change of use on the property has not been received and if information is received the department will move forward.

Approval of Minutes – January 9, 2019

Motion – To approve the January 9, 2019 minutes with proposed changes by Parks Board member Carol Beckman.

1st – Carol Beckman, 2nd Hank Scarangella , Approved, Unanimous

Ceremonial items (7:45 a.m. time certain)

Fountain Bike Park Recognition (Presented by Tilah Larson, Senior Grant Administrator)

- Thanked and presented a gift to all the partners that were a part of the Bike Park project at Hillside Community Center which included: Kids on Bikes, Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, El Pomar Foundation, Colorado Springs Health Foundation and Water Resources Engineering.

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Go West Camps (Presented by Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director)

- Thanked Andrew Van Der Wege for his generous contribution for sponsoring the Parks Board holiday breakfast in December and being a great partner of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department.

Presentations

Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) Update (Presented by Joe Lavorini, RMFI Program Director)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center Commercial Activity (Presented by Linda Carter, Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center Manager and Jan Martin, Garden of the Gods Foundation President)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Andrew Van Der Wege, Go West Camps, stated his organization runs camps throughout the City. He has worked with the Parks Department through a “memo of understanding” to use certain parks for their camps. They serve the greater Colorado Springs community. The US Forest Service who owns certain areas considers commercial use to be any organization using an area whether it be profit or nonprofit. A definition of a commercial user could be helpful and he would welcome more conversation around this topic.

Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager stated:

- The Parks Department through the Special Events office offers permits and works with private entities that conduct various activities, such as boot camps.
- Summer camps are held through the Community Centers and utilize various park sites. These camps are spread out throughout the City to serve many areas. The camps are led by staff and volunteers who have had background checks and training prior to the beginning of camps.

Garden of the Gods Restrooms Update (Presented by Jake Butterfield, Parks Construction Project Specialist)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Karen Palus stated she has a meeting this Friday with the Communications Department to discuss the restroom groundbreaking event and media strategies to get the word out to the public and will keep the Parks Board informed.

Blodgett Open Space Interim Use Plan (Presented by Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

CIP Project Update (Presented by Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Golf Update (Presented by Pat Gentile, Golf Course Superintendent)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Forestry Update (Presented by Dennis Will, City Forester)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Board Business

Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director

The Urban Tree Canopy Assessment survey showed the department needs to provide more education to citizens. Colorado State University received a grant to provide \$100 to citizens for a tree if they attend a class. Many neighborhoods have certain tree requirements that coincide with the City's landscape ordinance.

Carol Beckman

- Requested an update in regards to the citizen letter that was sent to the Parks Board about a dangerous crossing that exists on the Rock Island Trail. Britt Haley stated she

spoke with Kate Brady, City Bike Planner, and she was going to check out the area. The department is working on the northern part of the Legacy Loop Trail to Templeton Gap Road; however, this work does not reach this area. The City Bike Planner has funds to update crossings and she will talk to her about this area. Kate Brady and Britt Haley replied to the citizen's letter.

- She provided updates on the following meetings: Waldo Canyon, Leon Young Memorial and the TOPS Working Committee.
- She requested to be the Parks Board representative for the TOPS Sign Package project.

David Siegel

- Stated the Public Art Master Plan has been funded and will begin within the next several months. He attended the Leon Young meeting and is glad it's moving forward.

Daniel Bowan

- Stated he received a certificate of appreciation that documented his term dates on the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Board. He thanked Christi Mehew, Administrative Technician, for providing this to him.

Mina Liebert

- The Gateway Trail opening was beautiful and she commended the Parks Department.
- The City Parks Department and the Trust for Public Land (TPL) are working together on the Panorama Park project. TPL received a \$938,000 grant from the Colorado Health Foundation in December to conduct the design and development process for the park. A firm was selected and they will begin the process in March and conclude in May. This is a quick process and construction will begin in 2020. The Southeast Colorado Springs RISE (Resilient, Inspired, Strong, Engaged) Coalition are helping to facilitate the community movement and have an advisory council which is a component of the funding from TPL. The Parks Board will approve this master plan.
- The Lodging and Automobile Rental Tax (LART) Committee is continuing to explore how to promote LART in regards to branding and a logo. This will be addressed at the meeting this afternoon.

Adjournment

Motion: Move to adjourn at 1:08 p.m.

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