



**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes - FINAL
July 12, 2018**

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

Members Absent: Brooks Williams

Staff Present: Karen Palus, Britt Haley, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Christi Mehew, Connie Perry, Tilah Larson, Anna Cordova

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

Citizen Discussion

Jeff Norton, Pikes Peak Pickleball Association member, introduced Joe Johnson and Peter Fleming who are the new President and Vice President of the organization. A handout was provided to the Board regarding their background.

Approval of Minutes – June 14, 2018

Motion – To approve the June 14, 2018 minutes.

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

Action Items

Lizard Leap Park Master Plan Update (Presented by Connie Perry, Landscape Architect II)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Classic Communities request approval of the proposed amended Lizard Leap (10.0 acres) Neighborhood Park Master Plan design. The park is located southwest of Hwy 83 and Flying Horse Club Drive and will sit just west of the planned Powers Boulevard extension. This park was first presented and approved in March 2015. Lizard Leap Neighborhood Park is to be developed in conjunction with the single family lot construction associated with Parcels 3, 4, 5A, and 5B, now known as Milan, Torino and Palermo.

The amended design provides several of the prior park elements: a multi-purpose field; play areas for 2-5 and 5-12 year old age groups; a hillside slide; a picnic /shade structure with barbeque; a hilltop overlook; interior walks; neighborhood access walks with trail signage; and landscape and irrigation.

The amended design eliminates the basketball court, pickleball court, fitness equipment, some tables, benches, 48 off-street parking stalls, and the original 12 foot La Foret Trail Alignment through the center of the park. The new 8 foot trail location was proposed as part of the Development Plan application to build one wide trail to satisfy the required perimeter public sidewalk and which could serve as an interim La Foret Trail connection.

Board members Hank Scarangella and Jason Rupinski inquired about the future trail depicted on the master plan map. Connie Perry stated Classic Communities will build the widened trail along the roadway and if the City decides they would like a trail through the park they will build the future trail that is depicted on the map. Doug Stimple, CEO of Classic Companies, spoke at the last board meeting saying he had no obligation through this annexation agreement to build the La Foret Trail. Trails following the roadway are common in the Flying Horse community.

Board member Daniel Bowan asked for more clarification of the originally approved location for the La Foret Trail versus this proposal. Connie Perry showed the original trail alignment which was through the center of the park. They are building a trail; however, relocating it to the perimeter of the park by the roadway. The green line on the map is the future trail. Daniel Bowan expressed his disappointment on the alternate trail route location and the reduction in parking.

Britt Haley stated that the first proposal to Park staff did not show any trail. The original La Foret Trail was to go through the park. As a cost savings and to obtain a trail, Planning considered the perimeter trail as a compromise. Britt asked Classic Communities to depict the original trail alignment through the park as a possible future trail. The Parks Department has experienced the same problem with concrete being very expensive and it creates challenges and the need to scale back monetarily.

Board member David Siegel stated why it makes sense to have a street sidewalk rather than a trail through the park. Britt Haley stated a concrete sidewalk is an urban trail and is accepted as a good trail experience for this subdivision and this is how urban trails are being done in the Flying Horse community.

Board member Carol Beckman asked if the City builds this trail in the future will it require a change in the master plan. Britt Haley replied no and that is why they have the future trail depicted on the master plan map so it is preserved.

Motion: A motion approving the Lizard Leap (10 acres) Neighborhood Park Master Plan re-design, to be platted, re-zoned to (PK) and built by the developer with maintenance by the Flying Horse Metropolitan District.

1st – Michael Phan, 2nd – Carol Beckman, motion passed 7 to 2

Yays – Jason Rupinski, Ron Ilgen, Hank Scarangella, Mina Liebert, Gary Feffer, Michael Phan, Carol Beckman

Nays - David Siegel, Daniel Bowan

The Farm (Presented by Connie Perry, Landscape Architect II)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The Farm consists of approximately 475 acres of land between Interstate 25 and Voyager Parkway, located on the west side of Voyager Parkway at Ridgeline Drive. The Farm Land Use Master Plan was originally approved in 2004 with annexation of the property. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board took action on this Master Plan in December 2017. This last Master Plan maintained the original 50 foot trail corridor along Black Squirrel Creek (approximately 14.57 acres) with multiple park sites creating a linear park concept totaling 17.80 acres.

La Plata Communities is bringing forward the first Neighborhood Park site with two park nodes: Overlook Park (2.89 acres), Black Squirrel Passage, and the Ann Leach Easel & Artwork (Painting).

These parks will be built by the developer, owned and maintained by the Allison Valley Metropolitan District No. 2 with the Tier 2 concrete trail surface maintenance provided by the City of Colorado Springs.

Board member Carol Beckman asked if it was standard to have a playground within a park. Connie Perry said that La Plata will be submitting tomorrow the remainder of the park elements and the Homestead area should have playground equipment.

Board member Jason Rupinski asked if the design elements go back for review for safety consideration. Connie Perry replied the department does not review for safety as the district takes on the construction and liability component.

Motion: A motion approving the design of three of The Farm's proposed parks - Overlook Park, Black Squirrel Passage, and the Ann Leach Easel & Artwork.

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

2019 Fees & Charges (Presented by Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department is recommending fees and charges for the 2019 calendar year that pertain to the Department's programs and services.

The proposed fee schedule will generate an estimated \$69,452 in fee revenue. The proposed 2019 fees and charges are necessary to support Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services programs, facilities and services at the level identified in the 2019 budget. The Department will continue to market and offer the Helping Hand Fund to assist youth who may otherwise not be

able to participate in recreational programs.

Board member Carol Beckman stated the fees and charges were reasonable and questioned why they are not higher. Kim King replied that staff felt the proposed changes are reasonable and did not feel it was necessary to go any higher. These are municipal facilities and they are at capacity. Staff prefers this approach; however, increases may be considered down the road. The community centers are all different and programming can vary as they operate in different school districts.

Parks Board member Carol Beckman inquired why the South Slope recreation area attendance was lower in 2017 than 2016. Kim King and Kurt Schroeder responded that in 2017 the main road to this area had flood damage and the only access was Old Stage Road.

Parks Board member Carol Beckman stated it didn't seem like reservations for South Slope are in demand and a \$20 fee could be too high. She was concerned about revenue not covering the expense for the Park Ranger. Kim King did not feel this was an issue and will evaluate after the summer and bring a detailed report to the board at the end of the season. Kurt Schroeder stated weather is a factor as the reservoirs do not receive anything beyond snow pack for water.

Board member Michael Phan asked how these fees are compared to other municipalities and if there is a baseline fee nationally. Kim King stated there is not a baseline and after conducting comparative research no data was available that was equivalent to our department. Some community center programs are subsidized which can affect fees. The last few years the department has focused on cost recovery. Financial assistance and scholarship opportunities are available and programming has a sliding scale as the department wants everyone to enjoy the facilities.

Board member Daniel Bowan stated he appreciated that programs like TRP and Community Centers were subsidized for a portion of their operating costs. He hopes to see these subsidies continue in the future.

Board member Ron Ilgen asked if the City Auditorium fees will change and if an update on the auditorium could be provided. Kim King said the auditorium saw an increase this last year and the fees will remain the same for next year. An RFP request is out for partnerships, and hopefully staff can give an update at next month's meeting. The department is exploring different options as big revenue generating bookings are not happening but opportunities are available and being explored.

Board member Gary Feffer asked if the suggested increase for commercial usage for the community centers was to dissuade usage. Kim King replied that organizations that are not interested in going to hotels are coming to use our facilities. This is why the department decided to increase the commercial use fees.

Board member Jason Rupinski stated he was at Memorial Park and had a good conversation with Jacob at the Boat House area. They are encouraging activity and recreation and it's great to see the park being used in the middle of the day. Kim King said they have paddleboards and a concessionaire at the park and this offers opportunities for revenue generation. The department receives a percentage of this revenue. They operate seasonally and are great partners.

Board member Mina Liebert mentioned she is interested to see the numbers next year as staff monitors the for-profit organizations and possibly increase this fee incrementally. She asked if the twenty percent increase is still realistic for the families in the Hillside Community Center area. Kim King replied yes and they will work with families that cannot afford fees.

Motion: A motion recommending approval of the proposed 2019 fees and charges as shown on Exhibit A.

1st – Ron Ilgen, 2nd – David Siegel, Approved, Unanimous

Corral Bluffs Expansion Acquisition (Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The City of Colorado Springs has prioritized and worked to acquire property in and around the Corral Bluffs Area for its special open space values. This action item provides the opportunity for the TOPS program to acquire, manage and protect over 220 acres of property located in the heart of the existing horseshoe shaped Corral Bluffs Open Space. Additionally, it offers access from the existing Corral Bluffs property to State Highway 94.

On June 6, 2018 the TOPS Working Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the acquisition of up to 223.25 acres of property identified by tax schedule numbers 44000 00 016 and 44000 00 506 and approval to expend up to \$1,078,000 for the land acquisition and transaction costs from the TOPS Open Space Category revenue.

Board member Jason Rupinski asked when a fence will be installed to close off this area. Britt Haley said part of the supplemental appropriation request will go towards fencing this area.

Board member Jason Rupinski stated that the Corral Bluffs Alliance (COBA) is currently conducting group and individual tours of this area.

Britt Haley announced that a Bioblitz will be conducted at Corral Bluffs in September which will include guided hikes for the public in this area.

Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition Executive Director, stated she is supportive of this acquisition and is eager for the day when the public has more access. The TOPS sales tax renewal will be coming up in the future and it's hard to make a case about property the public

is not able to access. She suggested that a map showing the acquisition could be available at the Bioblitz in September.

Motion: Move to approve acquisition of up to 223.25 acres of property identified by tax schedule numbers 44000 00 016 and 44000 00 506 and approval to expend up to \$1,078,000 for the land acquisition and transaction costs from the TOPS Open Space Category revenue.
1st – Jason Rupinski, 2nd – Hank Scarangella, Approved, Unanimous

Colorado the Beautiful Grant- Legacy Loop (Presented by Tilah Larson, Senior Grant Analyst)

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department is seeking a letter from the Advisory Board in support of an application to the Colorado the Beautiful Initiative, administered by State Trails. The grant application will seek \$500,000 in funding to support the construction of the Rock Island Trail, which is part of the Legacy Loop.

The grant application requires a minimum of a 30% match. The Department is committing \$1,200,000 in matching funds; \$1,000,000 from PPRTA and \$200,000 from TOPS, which is the amount required to complete the scope of work proposed.

Board Chair Mina Liebert stated in the 2nd paragraph of the grant letter she had a small correction and would discuss this with Tilah Larson later. She inquired if the letter should include the Olympic City USA logo. Tilah Larson replied she will check into this and make the appropriate changes.

Motion: A motion to approve the letter supporting the grant application to the Colorado the Beautiful Grant on behalf of the Rock Island Trail segment of the Legacy Loop.
1st – Carol Beckman, 2nd – Jason Rupinski, Approved, Unanimous

Presentations

Plan COS Update (Presented by Carl Schueler, Planning Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Plan COS is a high level plan organized around themes to include the following: vibrant neighborhoods; unique urban places; thriving economy; strong connections; renowned culture and majestic landscapes.

Public meetings will continue through July with fine tuning the plan in August. This plan will come before the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board in September for approval.

Downtown Gateways (Presented by Sarah Humbargar, Vice President of Development Services)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The April 2018 Downtown Gateway Improvements – Design & Implementation Guide originated from the 2016 Experience Downtown Master Plan (Chapter 3) where nine gateway locations were identified for enhancement. The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) has worked for the past year with KimleyHorn, Arthouse Design Group and RTA Architects on the conceptual design and siting of these gateway locations. The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) has recently contracted with KimleyHorn again, to begin the final design, construction documentation, and phased installation of these gateway areas.

Ceremonial Items

Pikes Peak Peace Officer's Memorial and Horseshoe Venue at Memorial Park

- Lt. Commander David Edmondson, Chair, Pikes Peak Region Peace Officer's Memorial Committee and Chris Lieber, NES Landscape Architects, thanked the board and Park staff for their support on this project.

Blodgett Peak Open Space Acquisition (Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The TOPS program is coordinating with the Trust for Public Land to acquire three parcels located directly south of the existing Blodgett Open Space property for the TOPS program. These properties are identified by the 2014 Park System Master Plan as candidate open space properties. They offer beautiful mountain terrain with panoramic views of the City and would expand the Blodgett Open Space property by just over one third of its current size. An acquisition through the TOPS program would further protect the City's mountain backdrop.

The City will enter into a contract to acquire the three parcels from the Trust for Public Land, contingent on the City's standard real estate due diligence review and City Council approval, for the updated appraised value. Acquisition of the property requires an appropriation in the amount of up to \$775,000 from TOPS Open Space Category revenue to purchase the property, to pay for the City's portion of the costs associated with the ALTA survey, property appraisals, Phase I environmental survey, closing costs and recording fees.

TOPS Stewardship – Archaeological Updates (Presented by Anna Cordova, Lead Archaeologist)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Staff Updates

North Cheyenne Canon (NCC) Master and Management Plan Update (Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager)

- The appeal of this plan was brought forth by Cheyenne Canon Conservationists with three concerns to include: the NCC Master and Management plan should be approved by City Council; removal of the references to the South Cheyenne Canon redesign or reference to shuttles; and remove the word branding and marketing from the plan.

- The appeal was denied by City Council with a vote of 6 to 3. Council members Richard Skorman, Yolanda Avila and Bill Murray voted “Nay”. Council members Tom Strand, Dave Geislinger, Merv Bennett, Andy Pico, Jill Gaebler and Don Knight voted “Yay”.
- A change was made to the language in the plan from a minor plan amendment to a plan amendment to keep consistency with the Planning Department’s language.
- Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition Executive Director, stated that Britt Haley was amazing while delivering the appeals presentation. City Council has changed and members that aren’t always in favor for Parks did support the parks in denying the appeal.
- Charles Castle, citizen and past Parks Board member, stated the board went through the process and received the Friends of Cheyenne Canon support and that’s what matters to him. There is a lot of work that goes into this process and the board did a good job.
- David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect distributed a handout to the Board and provided the next steps for North Cheyenne Canon.
 - A LART application for \$250,000 has been submitted for improvements to the Helen Hunt Falls area.
 - Thank you to Carol Beckman who was a crew leader for a work day in the area in June.
 - An application has been submitted with the Friends of Cheyenne Canon for a funding opportunity of \$20,000 a year for the next three years. This would help with getting an ADA accessible trail loop behind the Starsmore Visitor and Nature Center and interpretive programming at the Visitor Center.
 - A consultant may be considered for hire for the Starsmore Visitor and Nature Center Interpretive Master Plan dependent upon funding.
 - Funding is needed for the implementation of the recommendations in the plan.
 - Bristol Brewery has partnered with the Friends of Cheyenne Canon to release the Cheyenne Canon Pinon Nut Brown Ale. These proceeds help with fundraising and bringing awareness to the Friends group.
 - Staff is looking at the budget balance for 2018-2019 to make improvements to the Powell parking lot. Road closures are being considered in partnership with the US Forest Service. An entry sign will be installed at Gold Camp Road as well as other interpretive signage throughout the park.
 - Trail counters will be installed to get a better idea of the number of visitors in the park.
 - Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates are very interested in assisting in converting the Chutes into a designated downhill mountain bike trail.

Larry Ochs Sports Complex Update (Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager)

- The US Division of Fish and Wildlife Service approved moving forward with the land swap as the Preble mouse habitat is no longer an issue.
- An application has been submitted to re-zone the area and this will go to the Planning Commission in August for approval.
- Staff is meeting with Real Estate Services to continue working on the contract for the land swap and discuss the next steps.

Pop Up Park Update (Presented by Tilah Larson, Senior Grant Analyst)

- The Pop-Up Play program is funded through a Transforming Safety Community Grant. Aurora and Southeast Colorado Springs received two years of funding for their communities.
- A van was purchased and it will stop at parks throughout the southeast community. Trained staff will direct youth to participate in free outdoor activities.

Board Business

Election of Board Chair and Vice Chair

Motion: to approve Mina Liebert as Board Chair.

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

Motion: to approve Gary Feffer as Vice Chair.

1st – David Siegel, 2nd – Ron Ilgen, Approved, Unanimous

Representatives for:

- Pulpit Rock Regional Park/Austin Bluffs Open Space/University Park Open Space Master and Management Plan - Carol Beckman and Jason Rupinski
- Acacia, Antler's and Alamo Parks Master Plan - David Siegel and Michael Phan
- Panorama Park Master Plan – Mina Liebert and Hank Scarangella

Mina Liebert stated that Christi Mehew, Park Board Assistant, provided at the dais a list of Parks Board liaisons positions. Please let her know if any changes need to be made.

Daniel Bowan inquired if staff responded to the letter written to the board from Nicole Rosa. Kurt Schroeder provided an update which included contacting her multiple times to address her concerns about spray products used to kill weed and sign notifications.

Gary Feffer stated that the Park Land Dedication Ordinance group had their last meeting. This is a very important topic and lots of differing parties are involved from various areas. They hope to have everything completed and approved by the end of the year. A few contentious items were discussed during meetings. Doug Stimple, CEO Classic Homes, made a comment in the meeting about finding a long term solution to park funding.

Ron Ilgen stated the Summit House project liaison is not listed on the sheet that was provided at the dais and he is the liaison for this project. Also, the sheet does not have liaisons listed for the Legacy Loop, Manitou Incline Review Board and Meadows Park Community Center Advisory Board.

Mina Liebert said LART is meeting today and will be doing some initial discussion about the 2019 projects. Please consider attending one of the COS Plan districts meetings. Thank you for supporting her as Chair.

Adjournment

Motion: Move to adjourn at 12:38 p.m.

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