



**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes - FINAL  
Thursday, May 9, 2019**

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

**Members Absent:**

**Alternates Present:** Abby Simpson, Greg Thornton, Sarah Bryarly

**Alternates Absent:** Lisa Wieland , Brooks Williams

**Staff Present:** Karen Palus, Britt Haley, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Christi Mehew, Annette Proctor, Kelly Rajab, Connie Perry

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**Called to Order:** Board Chair Mina Liebert brought the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m.

**Citizen Discussion**

Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC) Executive Director, stated the opening of the Cottonwood Trail last week was a great example of a beautiful project that people have been waiting for a very long time.

**Approval of Minutes** – April 11, 2019

Motion – To approve the April 11, 2019 minutes. Mina Liebert stated she had a few minor word changes and would submit them to Christi Mehew. Christi Mehew, Administrative Technician, stated she made a correction to the minutes per Parks Board member David Siegel’s request to delete the statement that he announced a public meeting at Panorama Park. Hank Scarangella abstained from voting due to his absence from last month’s meeting.

1<sup>st</sup> – Jason Rupinski, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Carol Beckman, Approved, Unanimous

**Action Items**

**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board Recommendations for Reappointments to City Council** (Presented by Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director)

Board member David Siegel stated he thought board member Michael Phan would be reappointed for a first term. Karen Palus stated that his reappointment would be for a second term due to an ordinance that states “if a member serves more than half of a person’s term as a replacement it will constitute a full term”. Michael Phan has served one year and eight months of Gary Bostrom’s three year term.

Board member Ron Ilgen stated he doesn't remember reappointments and appointments being brought before the Parks Board as an action item. Karen Palus stated it was to move the recommendation forward to City Council for approval.

Motion: Move approval of the reappointment of Carol Beckman and Michael Phan for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term from 07/13/19 to 07/14/22 to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board.

1st – Jason Rupinski, 2<sup>nd</sup> – David Siegel, Approved, Unanimous

**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board Recommendations for Appointments to City Council** (Presented by Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director)

Board member Carol Beckman inquired about the process to choose alternates to become regular members. Karen Palus replied she sent an email to all five alternates to see who was interested in the regular member positions. Three of the five alternates responded with interest and therefore have been selected to move into the three positions that will be available in August.

Board member Carol Beckman expressed concern that now five board member's terms will expire at the same time and inquired about the process to stagger terms. Karen Palus stated this has happened due to various transitions on the board.

Motion: Move approval of the appointments of Sarah Bryarly, Abby Simpson and Greg Thornton to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board for a 1<sup>st</sup> term from 07/13/19 to 07/14/22.

1st – Carol Beckman, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Michael Phan, Approved, Unanimous

**Presentations**

**Wolf Ranch Master Plan Amendment** (Presented by Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager and Chris Lieber, NES Principal)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Britt Haley introduced Chris Lieber, NES Principal, who presented the project item.

Board member Hank Scarangella asked Chris Lieber to consider park elements that are accessible to those with disabilities.

Board member Hank Scarangella asked the cost to build the park today and the cost of the proposed park. Britt Haley said she would be happy to do this; however, there will be several changes by the time the park could be developed so it will be speculative.

Karen Palus stated to the board that she left the meeting at the beginning of the presentation because she is a resident of the Wolf Ranch Community and therefore recused herself.

**North Cheyenne Canon Public Works Bridges Project** (Presented by Aaron Egbert, Senior Civil Engineer)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

**Ceremonial Items** (10:00 a.m. time certain)

**National Volunteer Recognition Month** (Presented by Annette Proctor, Senior Volunteer Coordinator)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Annette Proctor showed a video that captured the volunteers in action last year.

Bret Tennis, Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center Operations Administrator, awarded Jane Gasko for her 24 years of volunteer service to the center.

Sarah Braun, Program Coordinator with Therapeutic Recreation, awarded Jimmy Osborne, Jay Burns and Alan Severn for their years of service to the program.

Karen Palus stated there will be a special media announcement on Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. at the Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center and welcomed everyone to attend.

**2020 Capital Improvement Project Recommendations** (Presented by Kelly Rajab, Parks Financial Analyst)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Board Vice Chair Gary Feffer requested a list of all the projects that are being funded and those waiting to be funded.

Karen Palus stated it's important that Friend's groups contact the Parks Department to discuss and receive a approval if a project is on City property.

Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC) Executive Director, inquired about the money that is allocated for playground renovations and irrigation. Britt Haley explained that every year the department has approximately \$400,000 to either work on playground improvements or irrigation systems on a rotating basis each year. Next year Panorama Park will need both irrigation and playgrounds. The money that is budgeted is allocated for turf conversion/irrigation and playgrounds so the money is going towards the same uses just at one location. Susan Davies stated she would like to have a conversation about two questions that citizens will be asking in regards to the TOPS Sales Tax renewal and increase. Those two questions are: what are the needs and should TOPS be re-worked. Every year the Trails Category of the budget comes up short; however, every year there is a balance in the Open Space Category. Denver is now getting \$45 million a year for their parks from a .25 cent tax

increase.

### **Staff Updates**

#### **2020 Budget Overview** (Presented by Kelly Rajab, Parks Financial Analyst)

- Last week she and Kim King, Recreation Administration Manager, met with the City's Budget Analysts for a budget kick-off meeting.
- All budgets will be finalized and submitted by July 10<sup>th</sup> to the Budget Office.
- The Budget Office will talk with the Mayor and discuss his priorities and possibly make changes.
- The budget will be presented to City Council in the Fall of 2019.
- City Council will vote on the budget in early December 2019.

#### **Garden of the Gods Restrooms** (Presented by Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager)

- She showed a picture of the demolition of the existing facility.
- There is a traffic control plan which means that construction staging is taking up about a third of the main parking lot adjacent to the restrooms.
- A survey was completed on April 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Contractors are working on mock ups that have turned out very pretty.
- Jake Butterfield, Parks Construction Specialist, went to Denver yesterday to inspect several test versions of rammed earth walls at Colorado Hardscapes who is a subcontractor on the project.

#### **Acacia, Antlers and Alamo Parks Master Plan** (Presented by Connie Perry, Landscape Architect)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

#### **New Staff Introduction** (Presented by Matt Mayberry, Cultural Services Manager)

Matt Mayberry introduced John Stark who has been selected to be the new Garden of the Gods Park Manager.

### **Board Business**

Ron Ilgen said he is a part of the RFP process for the Pikes Peak – America's Mountain concessionaire. He asked about the results of the City Nature Challenge. Kim King replied the department ranked 57 overall amongst 159 cities and that staff is already planning for next year. The department did a fantastic job and have great ideas for the future. The City Nature Challenge results are on the City's website.

Hank Scarangella stated that in December Karen Palus mentioned the Protect Our Parks (POPS) Initiative. This is an initiative that started through the Save Cheyenne organization that followed the appeals process of the land exchange between the City and The Broadmoor. The Save Cheyenne organization would like the city charter to say the City cannot sell, convey, trade, or exchange Park Land without the vote of the people. Several cities in Colorado have similar charters in place. A working group has formed to develop the ballot language and

present it to City Council in June to consider placing the question on the November ballot. There has been a lot of discussion since such transactions can be complicated.

Karen Palus said they are interested in trying to do what is right for our parks; however, there could be unintended consequences. Three meetings have occurred and the Save Cheyenne organization does not want the Parks Board or City Council to have any say in park land transactions. They want them all to be a vote of the people. City Council President, Richard Skorman, was clear that he wants a recommendation from the Parks Board and the City Clerk's office is involved as well. She will share the proposed language of the ordinance and provide as much information as possible to the board. She anticipates it coming as a presentation to the board in June and as an action item in July. The City Attorney's office is developing a comprehensive parks list that would fall under this initiative as it's complex and they're working on defining what properties would be subject to this ordinance. She applied the current criteria in the initiative to our past park transactions and only three situations would have required a vote of the people: Garden of the Gods Visitor Center, Seven Falls Entrance and the Land Exchange with The Broadmoor, specifically the Strawberry Hill property.

Karen Palus stated at the end of month City Council will receive a presentation regarding a TABOR reimbursement that is moving forward to be on the November ballot in which \$7 million would be designated to go towards park projects. The department is working with the legal and public works departments to coordinate these projects with the work being done by the 2C initiative. She will bring the information to the Parks Board to receive feedback once she has a meeting with the Mayor and City Council.

Daniel Bowan inquired if the department would ever want to rezone TOPS properties. Karen Palus responded that it would be similar to the Parks Category when the department went back to the voters in regards to the TOPS Sales Tax and asked them to include all parks. The sales tax may be retweaked at renewal time to broaden the categories to be more inclusive.

David Siegel said the Public Art Commission Master Plan had a kick-off meeting. A discussion took place and there was a misunderstanding as to what the definition is of public art. He is pleased the group has been reunited.

Carol Beckman gave an update on the May TOPS Working Committee meeting. She asked if the Red Rock Canyon Master Plan Amendment item will come to the Parks Board for approval. Britt Haley replied yes.

Kurt Schroeder stated the weekend after the Cottonwood Trail opened about 20-30 % of bikes out on the trail were e-bikes. The State legislature has passed a bill that a community cannot be any more restrictive on e-scooters than they are on e-bikes.

Karen Palus stated the bridge that was constructed for the Cottonwood Trail was a \$10 million project. Many people were excited they could now bicycle safely to work.

## **Adjournment**

Motion: Move to adjourn at 12:55 p.m.

1<sup>st</sup> – Carol Beckman, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Hank Scarangella, Approved, Unanimous