



**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes - FINAL
September 13, 2018**

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

Members Absent:

Alternates Present:

Alternates Absent: Brooks Williams

Staff Present: Britt Haley, Kurt Schroeder, Christi Mehew, David Deitemeyer, Eric Becker, Carl Schueler, Scott Abbott, John Stark, Connie Perry

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

Citizen Discussion

Amy Brautigam, Fountain Creek Water Sentinels/Coalitions Lead, announced that Creek Week will be held on September 29th – October 7th. This is the largest outdoor clean up in Colorado. There are public cleanups all across the region, during these days. She distributed an overview and summary of the watershed and asked the Board for their continued support.

Bruce Hamilton, Save Cheyenne Organization representative, stated he cannot understand how the Parks Department can give away land in reference to the Land Exchange between the City of Colorado Springs and the Broadmoor. He is on the front lines and doesn't think other cities and city councils would give land away. Save Cheyenne's stance on the lawsuit between the City of Colorado Springs and the Broadmoor is you cannot dispose of public land. He does not agree with the means of how this was accomplished and hopes this never happens again. Mina Liebert, Board Chair, stated they were not disposing of the land, but they were trying to make more trail connections. She asked him what solution would they suggest and stated the department only has so many resources and is limited in what staff can accomplish. Mr. Hamilton asked to give them some time and they will raise the funds and people will volunteer. Gary Feffer, Board Vice Chair, stated this area has been owned since 1885 and, up until this proposed land exchange occurred, where have all these people been to volunteer and take care of this property. The area includes the need for sand blasting the rocks on Old Stage and fire mitigation; In multiple master plans regarding North Cheyenne Canon the Strawberry Hill area is not even identified. He questioned the statement to give people more time and the money will be raised as organizations can only help a small fraction compared to the hundreds of thousands of dollars needed to care for these properties. Mina Liebert suggested Save

Cheyenne representatives sit down with the department and discuss ideas to improve the process in the future.

Approval of Minutes – August 9, 2018

Motion – To approve the August 9, 2018 minutes.

1st – Jason Rupinski, 2nd – Hank Scarangella, Approved, Unanimously

Action Items

TOPS Appointments (Presented by Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager)

The interview panel recommended the appointment of the following individuals to the TOPS Working Committee:

TOPS Working Committee: Recommended Reappointment:

Lily Weissgold: Term, August 1, 2018 – September 9, 2021

TOPS Working Committee: Recommended Appointments:

Bob Falcone: Term, September 13, 2018 – September 9, 2021

Blaze Panariso: Term, September 13, 2018 – September 9, 2021

Paula Krantz: Term, September 13, 2018 – September 9, 2021, Alternate

Motion: Move approval of the appointments to the TOPS Working Committee as presented.

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

2019 Capital Improvement Project Amended Recommendations

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation](#)

The Office of Fiscal and Strategic Planning recalculated the 2019 revenue projection for the PLDO fund based on updated revenue receipts for 2018. The new revenue estimate for 2019 is \$2,250,000, an increase of \$1,065,000 from the initial revenue projection of \$1,185,000.

The City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department staff requests an additional project be added to the recommended 2019 Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget.

In December of 2017, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board approved a minor master plan amendment to the Garden of the Gods Park. The amended plan incorporated the reconstruction of the two existing restrooms in the park and the addition of two new restroom buildings. The additional restroom buildings are approved and planned at the South Garden (Parking Lot 10) and at the Central Garden (Parking Lot 7). The addition of the new restrooms and the reconstruction of the existing restrooms will increase facility capacity from 8 lavatories to 32 year round lavatories.

Staff plans to move forward on the construction of two of the restrooms as approved in the master plan amendment. This includes the North Main restroom and the Central Garden (Parking Lot 7) restroom. The facility for the Central Garden will provide for a total of 4 women's lavatories, 4 men's lavatories, and 1 family restroom. The facility will incorporate new utility connections to potable water, sanitary sewer and electricity. Additional site improvements associated with the construction include an improved accessible parking stall in Lot 7 and an improved accessible pathway to the new facility and the Central Garden pathway. The estimated construction cost for the Central Garden restroom facility is \$1,030,000.

The approved project funding for the Parkland Dedication Ordinance (PLDO) fund in 2019 is \$1,035,000. Staff is proposing an additional \$950,000 be allocated for the second Garden of the Gods Park restroom facility bringing the 2019 PLDO project budget to \$1,985,000.

Board member Carol Beckman asked what has changed to make the projection much higher. Kelly Rajab stated the economy is changing, development is moving forward and more money is coming into the PLDO fund. This adjustment was received from the Budget Office three weeks ago. Kurt Schroeder, Parks Maintenance and Operations Manager, stated the City Finance Department is typically very conservative with their projection numbers.

Board member Jason Rupinski asked for clarification of the approximate \$90,000 shortfall of the supplemental appropriation compared to the construction estimate to ensure completion. David Deitemeyer responded the supplemental appropriation covers the actual shortfall.

Board member Hank Scarangella asked what is the rationale for this restroom being constructed verses the Scotsman area restroom. David Deitemeyer said they wanted to get the most for their money in terms of the number of facilities in the park. The net gain will be four additional stalls and the department is trying to maximize the amount of facilities that are available. This location in the Central Garden is very popular as well as it's near the seasonal shuttle stop. While this location is being constructed, the Scotsman restroom will remain open so four additional stalls will be available during the summer months.

Board member Daniel Bowan inquired if the department has a list of capital projects that are in the queue for next year to see how money will be spent in the future. Britt Haley stated that Kelly Rajab and herself will come before the Board in May of every year and suggest the projects and their projected budget. In this particular case, the project deviated from the budgeted amount. The department is asking for the Board's approval since the contractor is hired, the design is ready to go and the price is set. The department wants to complete this project before prices increase.

Board Chair Mina Liebert stated it also depends upon how much money the department can leverage from other funding sources. Since this is a new facility the department can use PLDO dollars.

Board member Daniel Bowan inquired about a buffer from the trail to protect the natural resources. David Deitemeyer said they have refined the trail and scaled back that line and showed this on the map explaining the improved access and secondary access points.

Board member Carol Beckman asked if the design for the outside of the restrooms have been decided. David Deitemeyer stated they are still refining the details but exterior materials will be native soil with added concrete. The color will match the environment and they are trying to conceal it within the landscape. The roof color will be a natural rust/brown color.

Board member Carol Beckman stated she heard there are some staff concerns regarding this location. David Deitemeyer responded that one of the concerns was the viewshed . This was highly discussed during the master plan process and the department will do some additional planting to help address these concerns. In addition, the building size has been reduced as emergency vehicles no longer have to be accommodated under the roof canopy.

Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition Executive Director, stated she completely understands the timeliness and reason for this project. The additional restrooms will help tourists. She asked if the Lodgers and Automobile Rental Tax (LART) Committee would consider funding this project.

Board Chair Mina Liebert stated it is on the LART docket for approval in November for \$350,000 in 2019 to support the main central restroom. LART is working on educating the public that it is a tourist tax and not a community tax.

Motion: A motion recommending the addition to the 2019 CIP Budget of \$950,000 from PLDO funds for construction of an additional restroom facility at Garden of the Gods Park.

1st – Carol Beckman , 2nd – Ron Ilgen, Approved, Unanimously

Presentations

TOPS Stewardship Season-End Update (Presented by Scott Abbott, Regional Trails and Open Space Supervisor and John Stark, Park Ranger Supervisor)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Board member Daniel Bowan asked if notification will be made to the community when chemicals will be sprayed at parks. Kurt Schroeder, Parks Maintenance and Operations Manager, stated this is already being done. Signs are displayed stating when contractors will spray and the chemical that will be used. This information is being recorded by the Parks Department. A website page has also been created listing what parks will be sprayed and when.

The Farm – Final Park Sites and Amenities (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 Advisory Board last took action on this Master Plan in December 2017. This last Master Plan maintained the original 50 foot trail corridor along Black Squirrel Creek (approx. 14.57 acres) with multiple park sites creating a linear park concept totaling 17.80 acres. The first set of park sites were approved by the Parks Advisory Board in July 2018.

La Plata Communities is bringing forward the second (and last) set of park sites: Foothills Farm Park with Cow Crossing Sculptures (1.5 acres), Little Nipper (0.13 acres), Fork in the Road trail sculpture, and Knoll Park (0.36 acres). The total park sites are in addition to the Tier 2 Black Squirrel Creek Trail Corridors (a continuous concrete trail and a creek side soft surface trail).

The consultant will start construction in 2019 on the remaining parks approved this year with completion expected in 2020.

Panorama Park

Connie Perry announced a public meeting will be held on Saturday, September 22nd from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at Panorama Park. The Parks Department will be receiving public input on how to design the park. There will be music, food and giveaways and she hopes the board will attend.

Board Business

Carol Beckman asked for an update regarding the Red Rock Canyon project in which volunteers hiked two hours to the project site. Kurt Schroeder stated they talked with Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) and Park Staff. This was a RMFI project and the Parks Department was delivering materials. Park staff did not have control over this project; however, they've offered vans and a shuttle in the future when the travel to project sites is extensive. The department is aware of the situation and will be sensitive to it in the future. Shuttles will help the situation as well as alleviate potential parking problems.

Michael Phan inquired if an update will be presented on the Strategic Plan.

David Siegel

- Inquired about when Plan COS will come before the Board for approval. Britt Haley replied their schedule has shifted and the Comprehensive Plan Executive Steering Committee's final meeting is on September 20th and they will be asking for City Councils approval in January. The discussion was not centered on the Majestic Landscapes chapter other than how to word the recommendation regarding sustainable funding for Parks. The Colorado Springs Utilities technical staff assisted with wording improvements and more language on urban forestry. Carl Schueler will provide a new link for the old and new plan which staff will forward to the Board prior to the next meeting. This information is not for broader consumption. The plan will come before the Board in the near future.

- There have been two Art Commission meetings. The Bancroft Park Michael Garman sculpture was discussed and the Commission would like to move the location which will create a minor master plan amendment. A conversation took place as to who will own the sculpture and Michael Garman Jr. would like to maintain ownership.
- The Peace Officers Memorial at Memorial Park is up and running and in great shape.
- The Parks Department uses so much paper and he feels it should be conserved and condensed.

Daniel Bowan stated he was trying to get a copy of the Garden of the Gods master plan from board member Hank Scarangella. He knows master plans can be very challenging; however, issues still continue with transportation, gates, and restrooms and he feels it is time to revisit the master plan since its been a very long time.

Gary Feffer

- Announced that he and Board Chair Mina Liebert attended the Pickleball Tournament at Monument Valley Park. This event was impressive, organized and the facility was beautiful.
- The PLDO Committee has had approximately five meetings. He feels the Committee moves two steps forward and then two steps back; however, overall progress has been made. There is a real commitment from all facets of the community to create an ordinance that works. A piece that's delicate for the Committee is solving the permanent funding source for the Parks Department that would therefore allow the department to be more willing to apply restrictions and limit the ability to use those monies elsewhere. The department doesn't bend the rules; however, due to the lack of funding, they have maneuvered ways to use various funds and still stay within the boundaries. He understands how people feel if they put money into downtown they want the money to go towards downtown parks. Karen Palus spoke at the last meeting and said until we figure out ways to fund Parks the department cannot let go of this flexibility. Britt Haley stated that a big question remains if the ordinance should adopt restrictions that money should be spent in a geographic location that is identified.

Ron Ilgen thanked Matt Mayberry for a great "Gift of History Breakfast" for the Pioneer Museum. Matt Mayberry, Cultural Services Division Manager, stated that they have received almost \$70,000. Thank you for all that attended the breakfast and your support. The goal this year was to increase the money received by 10% and it has more than doubled this goal.

Mina Liebert

- Asked the board to complete the sheets that are at the dias which will record the number of volunteer hours that each member has contributed.
- She attended the Great Plains Regional Pickleball Tournament run by Steve and Ramona Boone. The tournament attracts people from all over the country, Canada and Mexico. They receive LART funds for this event and it validates why organizations should receive these dollars with people investing in the economy. These are the types of organizations LART wants to support.
- This weekend the Holly Berry Festival will be held at Rockledge Ranch.

- The Garden of the Gods Foundation contract with the City is up for renewal and they are working on a new one. The contract is a 25-year contract and over the last 25 years it has seen an annual three percent increase on top of the original donation of \$75,000 dollars. This has amounted to doubling the amount they have given to the City over the last 25 years. The last check was for over \$150,000 dollars. This includes funds from the gift shop, the Visitors Center movie and Bean Sprouts Cafe. They outsource all their vendor capabilities and programs and receive revenue checks which go to the Foundation for investment back into the Garden. There are proposed changes to the contract to help sustain the mission of the Visitor and Nature Center and contribute back to the City for investments that go into programs for the Garden. There is a pot of money that the Foundation has decided to allot back to the City to go toward the restrooms. This is in addition to the \$250,000 that the Foundation has put into projects for the coming year.
- One of LART's goals is to show how they support events that affect tourism. They have discussed branding or a logo as an identifier to start the community education process to help a potential ballot measure that would increase the tax from two percent to four percent for hotels and one percent to two percent for car rentals. Board member Hank Scarangella presented an editorial to the Friends of Garden of the Gods that explains the tourist tax and it is a great educational piece.
- She attended a meeting last night regarding the Leon Young Pavilion. The City will be hosting another meeting on November 1st and Tilah Larson is distributing a flyer. This is an opportunity to bring people together and discuss things that matter to community members. The Parks Department is trying to honor what is realistic and doable from an infrastructure and project prospective, and the neighborhood is looking at what is going to honor Leon Young's legacy as an example of a community gathering space. Tilah Larson, Senior Grants Analyst and Connie Perry, Landscape Architect II, did a great job presenting; however, there were some angry residents. She encouraged people to attend these meetings and be involved. Tilah Larson, Senior Grant Analyst, stated they all agree the pavilion needs improvements and some want it preserved in its present state. The department has significant projects happening in this area in the future to include Shooks Run and the Legacy Loop connector. The department wants to be mindful of future projects in the area, funding from various sources and honoring Leon Young's legacy. Board Vice Chair Gary Feffer stated there is a real focus in the southeast part of the city and these initial meetings are important. The community needs to know the Parks Department and Board are willing to listen.
- They have interviewed four candidates for the Parks Board alternate position and still have more candidates to interview.

Gary Feffer, stated in regards to the Garden of the Gods (GOG) master plan that the Garden is so unique and goes far beyond just locals as they receive millions of visitors annually. Park staff has great admiration for this area and has been responsive to what is going on in the Garden on an on-going basis.

Daniel Bowan, stated the Board has a duty to update the Garden of the Gods master plan due to all these needs because they are challenging and complex. He knows the City does the best they can.

Kurt Schroeder distributed to the board several paper copies of the Garden of the Gods Master Plan. The master plan was a one year process with at least 50 meetings.

Kurt Schroeder provided the following updates:

- Dennis Will has been selected as the new City Forester for the Parks Department. The department is now looking to replace his position and is looking for a Forester.
- The Garden of the Gods gates at Ridge Road and High Point have begun to be closed and it has been going smoothly. The main gate latch post was installed this morning. The entire park will be locked in the evening in the next few weeks.

Adjournment

Motion: Move to adjourn at 11:20 a.m.

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