



**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, September 12, 2019**

**Members Present:** Ron Ilgen, David Siegel, Carol Beckman, Daniel Bowan, Michael Phan, Abby Simpson, Greg Thornton, Sarah Bryarly

**Members Absent:** Jason Rupinski

**Alternates Present:** Lisa Wieland, Andrea Perry, Larry Bogue

**Staff Present:** Karen Palus, Britt Haley, Kim King, Kurt Schroeder, Christi Mehew, David Deitemeyer, Scott Abbott, Tilah Larson, Jake Butterfield, John Stark, Matt Mayberry

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**Called to Order:** Board Chair Ron Ilgen brought the meeting to order at 7:36 a.m.

**Citizen Discussion**

Jim Coonradt, Cottonwood Creek Disc Golf Club member, stated he felt the Cottonwood Creek Disc Golf Course should not be shut down for three weeks for the redesign. He proposed to keep six holes open while the new designs could be constructed on the rest of the holes. Parks Board Chair Ron Ilgen encouraged him to meet with David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect.

Cory Sutela, Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates President, thanked Park Board members and Park Staff for their leadership and partnership. The Ute Valley Downhill Trail is completed, the chutes area has been reworked, and the TOPS Wayfinding program is moving forward. A pilot study is being conducted in Garden of the Gods Park on e-bikes. Medicine Wheel members returned from a recent Summit conference. E-bikes are universally accepted; however, opinions are split if they should be allowed on soft surface trails. He did not find e-bikes mentioned in the 2014 Parks System Master Plan. The Medicine Wheel board disagrees with Park Staff's statement that the Garden of the Gods Master Plan only disallows commercial off road biking tours and it does not specifically mention e-bikes; therefore, these tours comply with the master plan. Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, said that is not what the email stated. The master plan is only related to commercial bikes; therefore, it is in compliance. There is no statement in the master plan about e-bike use. He continued to state that the Medicine Wheel Board objected to the process that was used to initiate the pilot program. Park Staff did not consult with Friends of Garden of the Gods, mountain bike user groups or the Parks Advisory Board. He urges the Parks Board to suspend the pilot program immediately until they can receive input from stakeholders who have shared messages and are stewards of the park system. He thanked Park Staff for seeking creative solutions to this challenging situation. Karen Palus stated they have a scheduled meeting tomorrow regarding e-bikes with Cory Sutela and Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition Executive Director.

Larry Small, Fountain Creek Watershed Executive Director and Allison Schuch, Director of Creek Week announced Creek Week, which is September 29<sup>th</sup> – October 7<sup>th</sup>. They distributed a handout to the board that included details about the event and information on the Fountain Creek Watershed.

Elijah Nicksen, Vice President of 719 Disc Golf Club, and Joe, a representative from the 719 Disc Golf Club, said they have safety concerns about holes 4, 5 and 7 of the redesign for the Cottonwood Creek Disc Golf Course. They have developed a new design for these holes to make them more safe for pedestrians. The club is willing to help implement the redesign and there are only small adjustments needed to make it safe. Board Chair Ron Ilgen suggested they set up a meeting with the appropriate people. Karen Palus stated that Park Staff has been working with this group for the past two years and the disc golf community needs to work together. She asked them to work with David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect, on this project.

Dr. Judith Von Ahlefeldt, Landscape Ecologist, presented a PowerPoint on the Prairie Necklace. She stated there is rapid loss of prairie land and she is hoping to preserve some of the area and create the prairie necklace. She will be presenting this PowerPoint to the Planning Commission this month.

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Hank Scarangella, Friends of Garden of the Gods, stated that during the March Parks Board meeting Glenn Pressman, Friends of Red Rock Canyon president, shared with the board that a process did not exist to amend a master plan. He has met with Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager, regarding this concern. Today the board will see a Garden of the Gods PowerPoint and the last item will be on the 30<sup>th</sup> Street Improvements, which is a Public Works project. There are components that could affect the community and one example is the roundabout planned at the entrance off 30<sup>th</sup> street. He asked board members when they hear the presentation to think about their role in evaluating these projects and to keep in mind the lack of process to amend master plans.

Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC) Executive Director, said the TOSC board shared concerns about the e-bike pilot program process and she was prompted to write a letter with a series of questions to the Parks Board Chair and the Parks Department. She received answers from Karen Palus and looks forward to being kept in the loop on this topic. The TABOR refund initiative has a number and it will be 2B on the ballot. TOSC has voted to take the lead in getting the word out regarding 2B. Please vote “yes” on 2B during the November election and check out the TOSC website, [www.trailsandopenspaces.org](http://www.trailsandopenspaces.org).

#### **Ceremonial Item (time certain 7:30 a.m.)**

**Friends of Cheyenne Cañon** (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect) Thanked Rebecca MacNamee and Isaiah Litzell, President and Vice President of the Friends of Cheyenne Cañon, for their support of North Cheyenne Cañon and their commitment to park stewardship, trail development and maintenance. They contributed \$40,000 and volunteer

time in creating a connector trail from a parking lot to the Columbine Trail. In addition, they helped build a trail behind the Starsmore Visitor and Nature Center.

**USAPA Great Plains Pickleball Regional Tournament** (Presented by Steve and Ramona Boone, USAPA Regional Directors)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Steve and Ramona Boone gave an overview of the Pikes Peak Pickleball Association and the 2019 Regional Tournament results. They introduced Peggine Tellez, Pikes Peak Pickleball Association social chairperson. A certificate was given to Karen Palus to give to Jay Myers for his help during the tournament. Ramona and Steve Boone presented Peggine Tellez with a certificate and presented a \$1,000 check to the Parks Department.

**New Staff Introductions** (Presented by Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager)

- Kim King introduced Kelly Stevenson as the new Cemetery Supervisor.

#### **Action Items**

**Enclaves at Mountain Vista Neighborhood Park Master Plan** (Presented by Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager and Jon Romero, N.E.S. Incorporated)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Parks Board member Carol Beckman asked where is the boundary of the neighborhood that the park will serve and are there plans to connect the area to the Rock Island Trail. Jon Romero showed the boundary on a map and stated it does not connect currently; however, there is the ability to connect in the future. There will be dedicated parking and bike racks. The developer will build the park and the metro district will maintain the area.

Jon Romero distributed to the board a handout in regards to the Park Land Dedication Ordinance fees and explained it in detail.

Parks Board member Daniel Bowan inquired about the fees and the land dedication acreage. Jon Romero explained that they opted to pay fees in lieu of dedicating land. The total obligation would have been 8 acres. Daniel Bowan pointed out that the amount is 5.35; however, the proposal is for 4.8 acres. Jon Romero said the actual acreage is 5.05. Britt Haley said the motion could be amended to state 5.05 acres.

**Motion: To approve the proposed Enclaves at Mountain Vista Neighborhood Park Master Plan (Design).**

**Motioned by Carol Beckman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ron Ilgen, Approved, Unanimous**

**Cheyenne Mountain State Park (CMSP) – Rock Creek Canyon parcels** (Presented by Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Parks Board member Carol Beckman stated that the letter of support from CMSP for this acquisition was not in the agenda packet. Britt Haley explained the letter of support that was provided by CMSP to the board and their commitment to provide maintenance on the properties.

Parks Board member Carol Beckman read a portion of the maintenance and operation agreement and asked what would they change in regards to fees. In addition, she asked when will the master plan process begin, when will access be provided and what will be the use of the partially constructed building. Britt Haley said she has not received any requests for a change in fees and a discussion may take place in the future, as the agreement needs to be updated. The intent is to provide public access; however, she cannot speculate the future. She does not know when the master plan process will begin. The partially constructed building may be used as a storage area.

Parks Board member David Siegel stated this illustrates the opportunity to reconsider how trails and maintenance are viewed as it relates to TOPS properties so the department is not so reliant on Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Parks Board member Daniel Bowan stated in the original Open Space Plan it identifies land that the City would like to acquire. He asked would the Rock Creek Canyon Open Space be managed by the City or will it be given as a gift to the state park. Britt Haley replied we are not giving anything to the state park; they will just maintain the area. He opined is it best to buy our own park land that would not charge an access fee and not be under the guidance of someone else or work with partners and give them the land to do maintenance and operations. He felt there is merit in both options. He would like to see public access provided or possibly free access once a month to residents because TOPS tax dollars are being used for the acquisition. Britt Haley clarified that nothing has changed concerning being able to ride a bike, walk, or ride a horse into CMSP for free.

Parks Board member Sarah Bryarly inquired if TOPS dollars can be used if another house is built. Britt Haley said she interprets the ordinance to say that as long as it serves opens space values and TOPS purposes it will be a permitted use.

Parks Board member Abby Simpson stated that CMSP passes are available at Colorado Springs libraries.

Parks Board Chair Ron Ilgen asked who would be doing the house demolition. Britt Haley said she has submitted the item to the procurement department to secure a contract and it will be done through the TOPS program.

Susan Davies, TOSC Executive Director stated this area is a part of the Park System Master Plan and is adjacent to the Cheyenne Mountain State Park. This provides a connection to the Heritage Trail and TOSC supports this acquisition. They hope there will be public access in the

future.

**Motion: A motion to recommend acquisition of the 160.52 acre property at 1285 Rock Creek Canyon Road and the 2.91 acre property at 1325 Rock Creek Canyon Road as additions to Cheyenne Mountain State Park in the amount of \$1,284,000 to include the purchase prices, real estate transaction costs and building demolition costs from the TOPS Open Space Category.**

**Motioned by Daniel Siegel, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carol Beckman, Approved, Unanimous**

**Great Outdoors Colorado Grant –Concrete Couch** (Presented by Tilah Larson, Senior Grant Analyst)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department proposes to sponsor a Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Local Government Parks and Recreation (LPOR) mini-grant. The \$45,000 grant application will assist with supporting the construction of public restrooms at Concrete Couch (CC)'s community park and learning laboratory.

CC has sought the city's support to sponsor their grant application, as GOCO requires that a qualified government agency submit the application, and receive and disburse funds for this grant. City funds are neither needed nor requested as part of this sponsorship application. While the city would support CC in receiving grant funds from GOCO, CC assumes all responsibility for building and maintaining these facilities. These terms will be outlined in a memorandum of understanding between the parties if the grant is awarded.

Parks Board member Abby Simpson inquired about the location. Tilah Larson showed the location on a map and said it is near the railroad tracks and an easement exists through the property to build a trail. Concrete Couch anticipates serving the Meadows Park Community Center area.

Parks Board member Carol Beckman inquired about bikes being allowed through this area, an office on site and shared concerns regarding the large homeless community in the vicinity. Tilah Larson stated once the trails are constructed they will look at the potential of bike riding in the area. She showed on a map the office site. She said Concrete Couch is aware of the homeless population in the area and are mindful and will have a caretaker on site.

Parks Board member Greg Thornton asked if the restrooms would be open only during business hours. Tilah Larson replied yes and Concrete Couch will have the ability to lock them.

Susan Davies, TOSC Executive Director, wrote a letter of support for this grant. She thanked Park Staff and stated this is a part of the city that is neglected. This will be beautiful and has great potential.

**Motion: A motion to approve the department's sponsorship of Concrete Couch's application to the Great Outdoors Colorado Local Park and Outdoor Recreation grant program for restrooms to support their public recreation facilities.**

**Motioned by Carol Beckman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Daniel Siegel, Approved, Unanimous**

**Colorado Parks and Wildlife – State Trails grant application for Daniels Pass** (Presented by Tilah Larson, Senior Grant Analyst and David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department seeks a letter from the Advisory Board in support of an application to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Non-Motorized Trails Grant Opportunity on behalf of constructing the Daniel's Pass Trail. The grant application will request \$250,000 in funding to support the construction of the trail and its supporting elements.

The grant application requires a minimum 30% match. The Department is committing \$75,000 in matching funds from TOPS, which is the amount required to complete the scope of work proposed.

Parks Board member Greg Thornton asked if there are any pictures he could see of the proposed bridge structure. David Deitemeyer stated there are four in North Cheyenne Cañon Open Space and two in Ute Valley Open Space. They are easy to install, come in 150 pieces, assembled on site, and look natural to the environment.

Parks Board member Carol Beckman that interpretive signs be limited to placement at the nature center as she doesn't want the signs scattered throughout the area. David Deitemeyer said there will be one interpretive sign in a strategic location which will highlight the historical background of Greenwood Park and the Green Settlement. The objective is to provide a location that gives access to the trail system.

Parks Board member Carol Beckman asked how this grant is different from the stewardship grant that was received. Tilah Larson replied that the stewardship grant does not address all social trail closures and additional closures will be funded by this grant.

Parks Board member Sarah Bryarly asked who would perform the work on this project. David Deitemeyer said a contractor will build the bridges and volunteers will do the trail closures.

Parks Board Chair Ron Ilgen inquired about the \$75,000 grant match. Tilah Larson said the money would come from the TOPS Trails Category.

Cory Sutela, Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates President, said he has been talking to David Deitemeyer about this project. Many mountain bikers will be sad; however, they support the project because they will now be able to get up and over Daniel's Pass.

**Motion: A motion to approve the letter of support to seek funding from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife – State Trails Non-Motorized Grant Opportunity for Daniel’s Pass Trail construction.**

**Motioned by Carol Beckman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Abby Simpson, Approved, Unanimous**

**Approval of Minutes** – August 8, 2019

**Motion** – To approve the August 8, 2019 minutes with changes per Carol Beckman and Daniel Bowan. Carol Beckman stated under “Board Business” that Karen Palus said “Amp’ d Adventures” instead of “Adventures Out West”. Daniel Bowan stated in regards to the e-bike pilot program that staff said it was implemented in response to a trail being closed that limited a commercial company so they wanted to give them another option.

**Motioned by Carol Beckman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Greg Thornton, Approved 7 to 0**

**Ron Ilgen and Sarah Bryarly abstained due to being absent during the August meeting.**

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

**Shooks Run Trail Playground** (Presented by Jake Butterfield, Construction Specialist)

Amy Triandiflou, a citizen working on the Patty Jewett Junction project, explained the project and the neighborhood engagement process. They have received \$37,495 in donations to date. She distributed a handout to the board. Karen Palus presented her with a \$25,000 check from the parks department to put towards the project.

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

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

**Karen Palus**, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services announced the following:

- The November ballot will consist of 2B, which is the TABOR retention initiative, and 2C, which is the road improvements initiative.
- The Protect Our Parks (POPS) initiative had two readings at City Council meetings and it did not pass to go on the November ballot. There will be more discussion and as she receives information she will share it with the board.
- The City as a whole has had to make budget adjustments to meet current needs and an anticipated leveling off of revenue in 2020. The Parks Department budget received only a portion of cable franchise funds, \$400,000, for 2020.
- Thank you to Board Chair David Siegel for being a strong parks advocate while serving on the LART (Lodgers Auto and Rental Tax) Committee. The department has received funding for three projects: \$150,000 for North Cheyenne Canon to reconstruct the Silver Cascade Trail and the overlook above Helen Hunt Falls; \$500,000 towards the Garden of the Gods Park next restroom project; and \$125,000 for the Pioneers Museum for an exhibit in connection with the City’s 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration.
- The Memorial Park exercise stations and trail connections celebration is next week on



Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. The Colorado Springs Health Foundation provided the department with a grant in support of health and fitness improvements for the park.

- She and Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager, will not be at next month's Parks Board meeting. They will be attending the Colorado Parks and Recreation Association conference. The department will be receiving awards at this event.

**Tutts Sports Complex** (Presented by Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager and Kyle Campbell, Division Manager, Classic Consulting Engineers and Surveyors)

Classic is under contract to purchase the approximately 171-acre Springs Ranch Golf Course property adjacent to and across Sand Creek from the partially completed Coleman Park.

The Parks Department owns a 25.531 acre undeveloped parcel of land at Tutt Boulevard, south of South Carefree. Parks acquired it with the intent to fulfill one of the Park System Master Plan goals of providing additional sports complex facilities in the north and eastern areas of the City. The Parks Department property is located adjacent to the Springs Ranch Golf Course and Springs Ranch Community with frontage on Tutt Boulevard. Since acquisition, the neighboring land uses, property context and ultimately the Tutt Boulevard property's viability as a developed sports complex has changed. It is now less desirable as a sports complex.

Parks staff recognized early that a land exchange could benefit the nearby partially developed Coleman Park. Sports complex features currently exist at Coleman Park with the soccer stadium and adjacent Vibes baseball stadium. The plan for Coleman Park is to develop it with typical community park elements to include additional sports complex facilities such as ball fields. A project that would result in a larger Coleman Park property benefitted by the same or a greater number of acres associated with the nearby but separate Tutts Sports Complex property would be beneficial to the development of Coleman Park, the provision of essential community sports facility needs and operationally for Parks.

If Parks is able to acquire additional property for Coleman Park on the east side of Sand Creek with access from Peterson Road, Coleman Park's eastern area becomes available for use with less cost.

Recognizing the potential benefits of an exchange were worth consideration, Parks staff and Classic agreed to conduct the due diligence necessary to pursue a land exchange. As with our other land exchange proposals, this would be a value for value or value plus to Parks as determined by appraisal. Real estate appraisals for both properties have been ordered and are underway.

The costs associated with exchanging properties include appraisals, surveys, title work and closing costs. Satisfaction of the park credit agreement obligations related to the golf course will result in a payment of approximately \$4 million to Parks, which will be used for development of Coleman Community Park.



Classic conducted four voluntary neighborhood meetings in May and June of 2019 to provide information and receive feedback from the public about the proposed changes for the Springs Ranch Golf Course acreage. Classic and neighbors who attended both reported that those public meetings indicated a positive response to the land exchange idea.

[Link to Map](#)

Board member David Siegel asked if the board could walk the site to understand the project better. Britt Haley replied yes and asked Christi Mehew, Administrative Technician, to schedule this tour.

**Garden of the Gods Park and Public Works Update** (Presented by Mike Chavez, Engineering Manager; Robin Allen, City Engineering; David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect; and John Stark, Garden of the Gods Park Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Parks Board member Daniel Bowan and Parks Board Vice Chair David Siegel expressed concern that the e-bike pilot program did not come before the board for approval and went against the Park System Master Plan, which states it does not allow guided off-road bike tours.

Parks Board Vice Chair David Siegel stated a process is needed to decide when a master plan amendment is necessary. He supports e-bike use; however, this feels like a back door approach to go around the Parks Board and the Friends of Garden of the Gods to support the Garden of the Gods Foundation and a contractor. This makes him uncomfortable and embarrassed as a Parks Board member representing this board and a partner to the community.

Kurt Schroeder stated he appreciated both Daniel Bowan and David Siegel's comments. The pilot program is a controlled situation. The department has been inundated with questions and concerns from the entire recreational trail user community. They are making their best effort to work on this situation. Medicine Wheel are experts on certain things; however, they are not unbiased when it comes to looking at different types of bikes on trails where mountain bikers have had free reign. State legislation has indicated the department cannot limit e-scooters to any greater extent than they limit e-bikes.

Park board members David Siegel and Daniel Bowan stated in the future please ask the Parks Board to assist when these situations arise and to work on improving the process.

Matt Mayberry, Cultural Services Manager stated there was no intention to go around the Parks Board, but that staff were responding to an expected construction condition. They received a week's notice after the last Parks Board meeting in which staff needed to make a decision.

**Board Member Pictures** this has been moved to the October meeting.

## **Board Business**

Daniel Bowan inquired about email communication to Parks Board members. Christi Mehew explained the City of Colorado Spring's website has a Parks Board page. This page has an area where citizens can write comments to the board. These email/comments come directly to her and she forwards them to the board. In addition, Karen Palus and management staff will forward parks and community event invitations to the board. Daniel Bowan said he would like to receive media articles regarding park projects and parks in general.

David Siegel stated the Downtown Historic Parks Master Plan project is continuing. A survey is going out to citizens to receive input in regards to amenities they would like to see in these parks and he encouraged everyone to participate. The survey will also be distributed at the "What if" festival this weekend. The Public Art Master Plan process is underway and will partake in the "What if" festival.

## **Carol Beckman**

- Provided an overview of the TOPS Working Committee September meeting.
- Inquired about the Austin Bluffs Open Space Master Plan presentation. Britt Haley stated David Deitemeyer is working on the plan, specifically trail improvements. The plan is not ready to be presented.
- Inquired about the Pikes Peak - America's Mountain construction and the plants being disturbed by debris. Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager, said she would look into the matter and provide her with an answer.
- She volunteered to be an additional liaison to the Incline project. Britt Haley stated she would inform Karen Palus.

## **Ron Ilgen**

- Thanked David Siegel for running last month's Parks Board meeting in his absence.
- Announced he attended the Garden of the Gods Foundation Annual meeting. The City will be receiving an annual donation from the Garden of the Gods Visitor Center in a substantial amount. They have given over \$4,000,000 to the City over the past 24 years. Next year they will be celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Kurt Schroeder stated the department will be going through an Urban Forest Management Plan process and is looking for board representatives to be a part of this project. Daniel Bowan and Abby Simpson volunteered. Ron Ilgen asked if alternates could serve on the project because Parks Board alternate, Larry Bogue, has an extensive forestry background. Kurt Schroeder replied yes and Larry Bogue volunteered.

## **Adjournment**

**Motion: Move to adjourn the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board meeting at 1:15 p.m.**

**Motioned by Daniel Bowan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carol Beckman, Approved, Unanimous**