



**TOPS Working Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes - FINAL
Wednesday, May 1, 2019**

Members Present: Jason Alwine, Lily Weissgold, Lee Milner, Blaze Panariso, Joe Lavorini, Nancy Hobbs, Paula Krantz, Bob Falcone

Members Absent: Jeff Mohrmann

Parks Board Liaisons Present: Carol Beckman, Jason Rupinski

Parks Board Liaisons Absent: Mina Liebert

Youth Ambassadors Present: Emma Hybl, Jack Keenan

Youth Ambassadors Absent: William White

Staff Present: Britt Haley, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Christi Mehew, Kelly Rajab, Scott Abbott, John Stark, TOPS Park Rangers

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TOPS Working Committee Chair Jason Alwine brought the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m.

Agenda Preview Committee Chair Jason Alwine announced the agenda for the meeting.

Announcements

Britt Haley, TOPS Program Manager

- John Stark has accepted a new position as the Garden of the Gods Park Manager. Kurt Schroeder, Parks Operations and Maintenance Supervisor, stated the department has decided to follow in the steps of other National Parks and the responsibilities of Garden of the Gods Park will fall under one manager.
 - John Stark stated he is very excited for his new role.
 - He introduced seven TOPS park rangers and each spoke regarding their background: Maddie Peddy, Hayley Noneman, Dave Absher, Wesley Hermann, Mike Bowman, Gillian Rossi and Stephanie Fields.
 - Jillian Rossi will be the Interim Park Ranger Supervisor.
- The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board voted unanimously to move Paula Krantz from an alternate to a regular member on the TOPS Working Committee.
- The TOPS Working Committee will be having some positions become available soon. There will be at least two regular member and four alternate positions available. A flyer has been distributed to the Committee advertising these positions. Please refer interested individuals to apply.
- The May site tour is scheduled for May 15th in the afternoon. Site tours are scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 3:00 p.m. This date and time can be difficult for some members. The tour in May will include touring parcels in Cheyenne Mountain

State Park. She opened up this topic for discussion amongst the Committee. Britt Haley later in the meeting stated they can skip the tour in May and have it in June at the regular date and time.

- There will be an executive session during the June meeting.

TOPS Working Committee member Lee Milner stated the Cottonwood Creek ribbon cutting is today at 1:00 p.m. at 6735 Kumar Heights.

TOPS Working Committee member Nancy Hobbs stated Anna Cordova, City Archaeologist was featured in the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs Newsletter.

TOPS Working Committee member Bob Falcone said he did a podcast last week on the TOPS park rangers and it received a lot of positive feedback.

Approval of Minutes – April 3, 2019

Motion: To approve the minutes of the April 3, 2019 TOPS Working Committee meeting.

- Christi Mehew, Administrative Technician, stated she corrected the minutes to state that Nancy Hobbs “asked for an update on the flea market property” rather than “inquired about the flea market property”.

1st – Nancy Hobbs, 2nd – Blaze Panariso, Approved, Unanimous

Citizen Discussion

No one spoke at this time

Presentations

Cheyenne Mountain State Park Annual Update (Presented by Mitch Martin, Cheyenne Mountain State Park Manager)

- Distributed a map of the area to the Committee.
- Reviewed general information about the park that included: camping, picnic areas, trails, amphitheater, meeting rooms, archery range, staffing, visitation, revenue and volunteers.
- Presented management plan enhancements that included: the top of the mountain, fuel mitigation, archery range, housekeeping of cabins, campground, dog trails, frisbee golf and an upcoming visitor use survey.

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

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

TOPS Working Committee member Lee Milner requested that this PowerPoint be emailed to the Committee once Kelly Rajab makes a correction. Christi Mehew replied she would email it to the Committee.

TOPS Working Committee Chair Jason Alwine asked committee members to send any questions to staff so they can be addressed prior to the next meeting.

Action Item

Red Rock Canyon (RRC) Open Space Master Plan Amendment (Presented by Scott Abbott, Regional Parks, Trails and Open Space Manager and John Stark, Park Ranger Supervisor)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

TOPS Working Committee member Lee Milner stated that the Department of Public Health and Environment's comment in the PowerPoint says to defer the proposed construction of the new trail and doesn't say to never put a trail there. Scott Abbott replied he has looked at the site and this is not an area for a trail. A trail would disturb wildlife and it would require several switchbacks over a highly erosive area. Lee Milner asked what kind of wildlife is in the area? Scott Abbott replied a high level of deer and bird species.

TOPS Working Committee member Lee Milner said he was surprised because if you look at this area in the same light of the Bott Trail, it was made into a sustainable trail. Scott Abbott stated it is important to look at the overall need. The Bott Trail already existed and had a high need for exploration and many users. The department did a lot of engineering on this trail to enhance the corridor.

TOPS Working Committee member Lily Weissgold stated this area would require spending money on maintenance and would come out of the maintenance funding category and she is not confident that should happen.

Mike Scott, citizen, stated the department has been constructing sustainable trails.

Glen Pressman, Friends of Red Rock Canyon President, said there are numerous trails in RRC that go through undisturbed wildlife areas and he isn't sure if this is a legitimate point. The Friends of Red Rock Canyon (FoRRC) believe a trail can be constructed there in the future and that it should be considered in the future. He asked if there is a process or procedure to amend the master plan because he could not find anything in the city code. City code stated in order to do a minor amendment there needs to be a public hearing and notices are to be sent to individuals that the user groups and people that live in the surrounding area. This has been in the media and they would like newspapers to notify the public and have a voice before taking it off the master plan. A lot is going on in RRC and there could possibly be a new master plan. The FoRRC would like to remain the status quo, which is to keep this area closed to the public until the landfill issue is under control.

TOPS Working Committee member Lily Weissgold asked Glen Pressman if he could provide the city code numbers. Glenn Pressman replied 7.5.401 – 7.5.410 which refers to Part 9 that covers the public process.

TOPS Working Committee member Blaze Panariso stated the Committee is making a

recommendation to the Parks Board to remove it from the master plan and move this item forward. The Committee is not changing the master plan. Glen Pressman stated the Committee is making a decision before having a full public process first.

TOPS Working Committee member Lily Weissgold asked Glen Pressman if he is saying it explicitly states in the city ordinance that a recommendation to the Parks Board cannot exist at the same time that a public process is happening. Glenn Pressman replied it doesn't specifically state this because the city ordinance he provided refers to land use master plans and nothing specifically exists regarding park master plans and this is a problem.

Britt Haley stated the code in Chapter 7 is meant as a land use tool; however, the master plan they are talking about is a development master plan that goes to the Planning Commission. Chapter 4 of the city code that refers to the Parks Department uses the term master plan for park planning purposes and it is not the same as what is presented in Chapter 7. There is not clear guidance in Chapter 7 and the City Attorney's office is aware of this and working to define tools for park master plans. There are no specific legal requirements that apply specifically to this question.

TOPS Working Committee member Bob Falcone said the master plans they refer to in the city code are about streets and facilities and are much bigger than a park master plan.

TOPS Working Committee Chair Jason Alwine stated this is a part of the Parks Board master plan amendment and he does not recall such items going through a formal meeting process. He asked does a public meeting satisfy the requirements of an open forum. Glenn Pressman stated it is a similar process in regards to rerouting a trail but in this case they are removing a trail.

TOPS Working Committee member Lily Weissgold said the FoRRC use of the word "believe" is interesting. The Committee has provided the FoRRC opportunities to provide data on trail usage since November and it has not been provided. "Believes" is a word that does not hold water. She asked to hear Glenn Pressman's opinion and if he has any metrics on trail usage.

Glenn Pressman said he is not the person from FoRRC who has taken the lead on this item. He asked Lily Weissgold if she was suggesting that the role of the FoRRC is to invest a lot of money and have engineering studies done to see if a trail can be constructed there. If so, he does not think that is the role of the friend's group. The FoRRC board has voted to assist the City and make money available for studies to be completed in this area to determine if a trail can be constructed.

TOPS Working Committee member Lily Weissgold asked Glenn Pressman why he finds it to be insufficient to remove the trail from the master plan. Glenn Pressman stated he hasn't seen any studies. He thinks the proper procedures and engineering studies would have been done and defers to Scott Abbott's experience working in this area.

TOPS Working Committee member Nancy Hobbs said she thought Glenn Pressman's question

was more related to the use of the area, slope and pitch aspects.

TOPS Working Committee member Lily Weissgold stated she does not understand not trusting the Parks Department when they come to the Committee with these items.

TOPS Working Committee member Nancy Hobbs stated how many people really utilize this area and are upset because they can't make a trail go a quarter mile longer. This seems a bit silly because this is just a quarter mile.

TOPS Working Committee Chair Jason Alwine asked if engineering studies and detail designs are needed to determine if the trail can be constructed. He stated there was a trail on the master plan that has already been closed by the FoRRC for apparent reasons of unsustainability why is there a necessity to open the trail.

TOPS Working Committee member Nancy Hobbs stated if a hawk's nest or a preble jumping mouse existed would there be a public process to decide to close the area. This seems a little silly. The Committee is spending a lot of time and money to talk about something so small.

TOPS Working Committee member Lee Milner stated is there really a reason to remove it from the master plan rather than deferring it till later.

TOPS Working Committee member Blaze Panariso said he thinks the trail should be taken off the master plan because if a trail is on a master plan it is supposed to be built. The Committee should remove it now and once the landfill is taken care of this idea can be revisited.

Glenn Pressman stated that when the master plan was originally written many professionals were brought in to decide about these trails. This was not just drawn on a map. They said this was a place to build a trail.

TOPS Working Committee member Blaze Panariso asked if there was a public process to close the trail.

TOPS Working Committee member Paula Krantz said she cannot see revisiting this item every six months. Just because the trail is on the master plan doesn't mean it should be built.

TOPS Working Committee member Bob Falcone said he has walked the area and there is too much erosion and doesn't see the area to be conducive to having a trail there.

Motion: Lee Milner moved to leave the identified trail on the Red Rock Canyon Open Space Master Plan. Nancy Hobbs 2nd this motion. Motion failed with a vote of 1 to 6.

Yays – Lee Milner

Nays – Paula Krantz, Nancy Hobbs, Jason Alwine, Lily Weissgold, Blaze Panariso, Bob Falcone

Motion: Blaze Panariso moved to remove the identified trail from the Red Rock Canyon Open

Space Master Plan. Lily Weissgold 2nd this motion. Motion passed 6 to 1.

Yays – Paula Krantz, Nancy Hobbs, Jason Alwine, Lily Weissgold, Blaze Panariso, Bob Falcone
Nays – Lee Milner

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the TOPS Working Committee meeting at 10:18 a.m.

1st – Nancy Hobbs, 2nd – Bob Falcone, Approved, Unanimous