



**TOPS Working Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes - FINAL
Wednesday, July 11, 2018**

Members Present: Jason Alwine, Cathy Grossman, Lily Weissgold, Becky Wegner, Lee Milner, Jim Klever, Joe Lavorini, Jeff Mohrmann, Nancy Hobbs
Parks Board Liaisons Present: Jason Rupinski, Carol Beckman, Mina Liebert
Staff Present: Britt Haley, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Christi Mehew, Anna Cordova, Scott Abbott

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Jason Alwine brought the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

Closed Executive Session (Presented by Britt Haley, TOPS Program Manager)

In accord with the City Charter Art. III, §3-60(d) and the Colorado Open Meetings Act, C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(a and e), the TOPS Working Committee, in Open Session, is to determine whether it will hold a Closed Executive Session. The issues to be discussed involve determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations and instructing negotiators regarding a land acquisition matter. The Chair shall poll the TOPS Working Committee members, and, upon consent of two-thirds of the members present, may hold a closed executive session. If consent to the closed executive session is not given, the item may be discussed in open session or withdrawn from consideration.

Motion: To enter into a closed executive session.
1st – Nancy Hobbs, 2nd – Jim Klever, Approved, Unanimous

Motion: To end the closed executive session.
1st – Becky Wegner, 2nd – Nancy Hobbs, Approved, Unanimous

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

Announcements

Britt Haley, TOPS Program Manager

- The TOPS Working Committee has two openings in September. Please tell interested individuals to apply by the deadline, July 20th.
- Tops Working Committee member Lee Milner stated the committee currently has

representation from Council districts 1, 3 and 5. He said it would be helpful to have representation from Council districts 2, 4 and 6 in the future.

- The TOPS Working Committee August meeting might be cancelled due to minimal agenda items. Please let her know if you have any presentation requests.
- The Legacy Loop Uintah underpass is complete and the celebration is next week on Thursday, July 19th at 11:00 a.m. Please RSVP to the event. Thank you to Christine Lowenberg from The Greenway fund as they will be serving lunch as a part of the celebration.

Committee member Nancy Hobbs announced the Blue Moon Trail Run Series is going well. Thank you to Brian Kates, Meadows Park Community Center Administrator who is helping organize the events. The next race is July 27th at 6:00 p.m. at Pinon Valley Park and she encouraged everyone to attend.

Approval of Minutes – June 6, 2018

Motion: To approve the minutes of the June 6, 2018 TOPS Working Committee meeting. A modification will be made to the Capital Improvement Budget action item first motion. Cathy Grossman voted “aye” for this item not “nay”. Motion failed with a vote 3 to 5.

1st – Lily Weissgold, 2nd – Cathy Grossman, Approved, Unanimous

Citizen Discussion

No citizens spoke at this time.

Action Items

Blodgett Peak Open Space Acquisition (Presented by Britt Haley, 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.

The parcels are located just west of the existing Oak Valley Ranch subdivision and directly south of the Blodgett Open Space which is currently 167 acres. The access to the parcels is on the west side of Woodmen Road and south of Blodgett Ranch Trail. As with the neighboring Blodgett Open Space, this property shares a boundary with the Pike National Forest.

Committee member Nancy Hobb stated with a trailhead at Blodgett Trail users can make an entire loop whether on foot or bike and this is very important. Trails currently exist on this property.

Committee member Lee Milner inquired if the appraisal took into account the lower value from the conservation easement. Britt Haley responded yes.

The following citizens spoke in favor of acquiring this land: Andrew Bird, Jim Medley, Hank Scarangella, Susan Davies, and Mike Scott.

Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition Executive Director stated that Peregrine Friends Group is a new group that is committed in helping taking care of this open space and she commends them. She inquired about what trail connectivity will this area provide. Britt Haley replied the existing trail connectivity would be the west Woodmen Trail that was completed ten months ago. There are many trail development opportunities that exist which she showed on a map. Committee member Jim Klever stated there are many trails in Ute Valley Open Space that would require a street crossing at Centennial to meet the Foothills Trail and connect to the Blodgett area which creates more potential.

Susan Davies, TOSC Executive Director stated that Rocky Mountain Field Institute, TOSC and the US Forest Service is working on the planning process for Waldo Canyon. They will talk about the connection from Waldo Canyon to Rampart Range to the Blodgett area.

Motion – To approve the acquisition of up to 64 acres of property as an expansion of the Blodgett Open Space for fair market value plus \$10,000 from the TOPS Open Space Category.

1st – Lily Weissgold, 2nd – Becky Wegner, Approved, Unanimous

Presentations

Legacy Loop Update (Presented by Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager)

Britt Haley spoke in regards to the South Shooks Run area specifically the Las Vegas/Royer Street challenge of the Legacy Loop and how to close the gap.

- Several options were discussed with the BNSF Railroad to include: using the existing bridge; a jack and bore operation; replacing the bridge; and a shoefly operation. The only option the Railroad has approved is a shoefly operation which reroutes the tracks and would be very expensive for the department.
- The department came up with another idea to take over the maintenance and liability for everything below the railroad tracks. They will submit a memo to the railroad to continue discussions and find a solution. The department still needs land acquisitions and an easement to the south of this area.
- For 2019 the department decided to focus activity on the northern portions of the Legacy Loop.
- Tilah Larson, Senior Grants Analyst, discussed various funding opportunities for the northern portion of the Legacy Loop.
 - Rock Island Trail from Templeton Gap to the Pikes Peak Greenway is about one mile long with a trail cost of approximately \$1.8 million.

- Pikes Peak Greenway from the trailhead to Uintah Street is a little over a mile long and would require burying utility lines would cost approximately \$1.5 million just for the utilities alone and not for the hard surface.
- Two Mesa Street underpasses along the Greenway which are estimated just below \$1 million dollars for each to be constructed.
- Grant applications submitted: National Park Service Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant for \$750,000; Colorado Beautiful Grant for \$500,000; and a Federal Transportation Grant for \$5 million.

Committee member Lee Milner proposed that the committee take a tour of the South Shooks Run area from Las Vegas to Royer Street during the August TOPS Working Committee meeting time. He is concerned about the South Royer closure in July of 2019.

Committee Chair Jason Alwine stated without any concrete proposal he didn't see the purpose of going to this site when there is no movement or activity at this time. He trusts park staff to do what they need to do and come forward when the best option is available.

Britt Haley stated she will update the Committee when new information on this project is available.

Susan Davies, TOSC Executive Director inquired about the cost to close the gap on the northern portion of the Legacy Loop. Tilah Larson stated that the community has identified what they would like and that cost is approximately \$16 million and includes every aspect. This will be scaled down as choices are made.

Carlos Perez, citizen stated he is a member of the PPRTA Committee and wants to reiterate the concerns about the Legacy Loop and the Royer Street closure. This came up at a PPRTA meeting and the public's disappointment about this closure. The current railroad crossing will be closed at Royer and moved to Hancock and Spring Creek which is technically a relocation. PPRTA does have a trails component with a focus on the Shooks Run Trail, Pikes Peak Greenway and other areas. The Shooks Run Trail is also a transportation buy in. There will be a presentation at the next PPRTA meeting to discuss the public's concern, engineering and water options.

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

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Citizen Discussion

No citizens spoke at this time.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the TOPS Working Committee meeting at 9:41 a.m.

1st – Jim Klever, 2nd – Lily Weissgold, Approved, Unanimous