



**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, May 12, 2022**

**Members Present:** David Siegel, Carol Beckman, Dr. Daniel Bowan, Larry Bogue, Steve Harris, Abby Simpson, Greg Thornton, Sarah Bryarly

**Members Absent:** Andrea Perry

**Alternates Present:** Julia Sands de Melendez, Steve Lenzo

**Staff Present:** Kurt Schroeder, Britt Haley, Eric Becker, Anna White, Melody Horbach, Connie Schmeisser, Sklyer Rorabaugh, Brad Densmore, Gillian Rossi, Scott Abbott

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**Called to Order:** Board Chair David Siegel brought the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m.

**Citizen Discussion**

Kathy Perry, citizen, is part of the Save Westside Community Center group. She also volunteers at the Center. She reiterated what the group has been doing to help save the Community Center and its operations. She said she is also helping out with the public engagement process.

Lou Galletta, citizen, spoke against the on-going kickball games that have been taking place on Tejon Street for the last five years. He said the games often take place without permitting, and when they do, the permits conflict with the Special Event policies and procedures. He asked that permits be issued within proper protocol, and ideally, this event be moved to a park.

Lynnette Galletta, citizen, echoed the comments made by Mr. Galletta. She said the Special Event policies and procedures directly say that permits will not be issued for specific individual use. She also requested that these games be moved to a park. She expressed frustration in the process, having met with some Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services staff to discuss the issues prior to the meeting. One main area of frustration is that they feel they are not made aware of games in a timely manner, and that the person taking signatures for the permit isn't always consistent which makes it difficult for the neighbors to communicate properly.

Janet Carlisle, citizen, also spoke on kickball. She asked that policy changes be made to the Special Event procedures, so the application is tightened up. Expressing similar frustration to the comments made before her that the representative getting signatures isn't always consistent, Ms. Carlisle said there is little to no notice made to the neighbors about the game.

Susan Davies, Executive Director for the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), attended the County Parks Board meeting. The County Parks Board has three vacancies, so she urged those listening to volunteer if they can or pass along the message. TOSC is reaching out to constituents on the trails to find a way to be better stewards to equestrian users. They have created a brochure that she will share with the Board.

Jacob Figueroa, owner of S.U.P. Paddleboarding, addressed the Board with some concerns about Prospect Lake. His first concern was of where the “Swim at Your Own Risk” area will be. Anna White, Staff Assistant, responded that the buoys will be placed and clearly marked, with additional signage. His next concern was that the Lakeside Dawgs, the vendor in the Beach House at Prospect Lake, have a license to serve beer and wine. Jacob is concerned about patrons using the lake if they have been consuming alcoholic beverages. Anna said she would follow up with Kim King, Administration and Recreation Manager, about this.

**Approval of Minutes – April 14, 2022, meeting minutes.**

**Motion – To delay approval of the April 14, 2022 minutes until the June 9, 2022 meeting, so they can be expanded upon.**

1<sup>st</sup> – Dr. Daniel Bowan , 2<sup>nd</sup> – Carol Beckman, Approved, Unanimously.

**Ceremonial Items – Time Certain 7:30 a.m.**

**Staff Retirements – Brad Densmore** (Presented by Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager, and Skyler Rorabaugh, Pikes Peak – America’s Mountain Manager)

Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager, and Skyler Rorabaugh, Pikes Peak – America’s Mountain Manager, took some time to recognize the contributions of Brad Densmore, Construction Project Specialist, and how instrumental he was in the completion of the new Summit Complex. Both Britt and Skyler thanked Brad for his years of hard work and dedication. Brad’s last day will be May 13, 2022.

**Presentations**

**Amara Master Plan** (Presented by Connie Schmeisser, Landscape Architect II)

Connie Schmeisser, Landscape Architect II, presented the Board with the Amara Master Plan. This presentation included the overview of La Plata and the communities they have already developed; the Amara context map; the PlanCOS vision map; the Composite Parks, Open Space and Trails Master Plan; the Amara Master Plan; Amara Villages; Amara Master Plan Illustrative; site photos; the land dedication process; Park Land Dedication calculation; Amara Parks Walkability Analysis; views and high points; Amara Open Space Plan; Amara Trails Plan; Amara Draining Plan; Amara Phasing Plan; Amara Parks Vision Imagery; PlanCOS Vision Themes; Neighborhood Park #2 Dimensions; Neighborhood Park #2 – Park Examples; and finally, the

concept plan for Neighborhood Park #2.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

After a very lengthy discussion, main concerns from the Board included:

- Board members were not in favor of giving dedication credit for stormwater elements, including drainage areas and detention ponds. Britt Haley responded that this is something being looked at system-wide through our Master Plan also. Board member Sarah Bryarly suggested that half credit could be given to the developer for the area of the park that is usable. To her, reducing credit for Park #2 makes sense because though there is value in the overall open space, the objectives of a neighborhood park aren't being met because most of the area is a detention pond.
- Neighborhood Park #2 being located close to a major roadway, since road speeds are predicted to be 35 to 45 miles per hour on the proposed Powers Boulevard.
- Several neighborhood parks, especially the 3.5-acre parks, seem too small for expected demand, so having the parks be a little larger would be good.
- Board members requested a table depicting the donation as it relates to park land and Stormwater when the item returns next month for recommendation.
- The proposed master plan encompasses three school districts, which could be challenging when it comes to property taxes.
- Due to the lack of funding for Parks overall, this seems like a far-reaching plan, especially with the water footprint it will have as well. Board member Dr. Daniel Bowan commented that this plan did not seem like a great growth strategy.
- Board members also requested to see a table depicting the different park sizes throughout the proposed master plan.
- Dr. Bowan expressed significant concern about the City's decision to pursue annexation of this area, but also recognized that it was not an item for the Parks Advisory Board to consider.

### **Staff Updates**

**Annual Report** (Presented by Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager)

Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager, briefly went over the 2021 Annual Report for the Board. Each Board member received a copy, which is also available online.

[Link to Annual Report Here](#)

## **BioBlitz Dates and Location Announcement** (Presented by Gillian Rossi, Park Ranger Supervisor)

Gillian Rossi, Park Ranger Supervisor, presented the Board with the BioBlitz Dates and Location Announcement. The BioBlitz will be held on Saturday, August 6, 2022 at Blodgett Open Space. Blodgett was chosen this year due to the new parcel acquisitions, and due to the 5-year anniversary of the last BioBlitz at that location. Pictures from the previous BioBlitz were included. Also attached to the announcement of the BioBlitz date and location, Gillian included slides about the Leave No Trace Gold Standard Nomination. This update included a review of what the nomination included the conference panel; the site visit; Leave No Trace Staff; property and facility tour photos; and finally, next steps.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

## **Board Business**

Dr. Daniel Bowan – Dr. Bowan asked what can be done to help citizens, like those who had come in to voice their concerns about kickball, to feel as though they were heard. Anna White stated she had given her information to Lynnette Galleta and asked her to forward the documents she had brought to the meeting, so they can be distributed to the Board. From there, staff will work with them on their requests to find a solution that works. Next, Dr. Bowan commented that many National Parks and State Parks are moving to timed-entry and reservation systems and said that Garden of the Gods would be a good candidate for a similar system, whenever that conversation happens. Lastly, he said he so appreciated the new Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services newsletter that is put out by City Communications each month.

Carol Beckman – Ms. Beckman reported that the TOPS Working Committee meeting in May was canceled and asked about the TOPS renewal. Britt Haley related that they worked with Trust for Public Land to streamline the language, which the city attorney approved, so they will use that language for the poll. They plan to test an extension, a .05% increase, and opening it to all trails and all open space. Ms. Beckman asked where the agreements for the PEO Chapter House stand. Britt Haley responded that she was working on them, and a meeting had been scheduled to discuss them. Ms. Beckman's next comment was that in the focus group selection for the engagement process for the Westside Community Center, there was not a category looking for individuals not involved in the organized opposition. Staff said they could follow up with Kim on that when she returns. Ms. Beckman asked if there were any more updates following the Jimmy Camp Creek presentation to City Council. Britt said no, but that she is working to coordinate visits for Council Members to better understand the area. When she does have an update on Jimmy Camp Creek and the renewed interest in it, she will provide it to the Board. Ms. Beckman then asked where the issues concerning Prospect Lake and non-motorized use stands. Eric

Becker, Acting Park Maintenance and Operations Manager, answered that he had attended a meeting with Kim and the various lake users to talk through the next steps. He said the meeting went well. There is a vendor under contract for the design of the aeration system, and we are awaiting a few surveys of the lake before design can begin. Ms. Beckman asked if a citizen who had come into the TOPS Working Committee meeting with questions about having events on TOPS property had been helped. Britt responded that they had sent her the provisions for events on TOPS properties, but Britt had also asked the City Attorney's Office for further guidance in her response. Britt noted that the TOPS ordinance says no sale without a public vote, and also says no exclusive license or permit without a public vote, so based on that previously, they decided not to allow races in TOPS properties. Britt said a question is whether an event or race is an exclusive permit, and she asked the city attorney to review that, but also most TOPS properties that people ask about for races also have conservation easements, with their own restrictions, which would need to be reviewed. Finally, Ms. Beckman noted that there should be an April report on the City Auditorium now, and asked if she could get a copy of that and the Community Cultural Collective's business plan for the City Auditorium. Anna White, Staff Assistant, said she would follow-up on this with Kim King.

Abby Simpson – Ms. Simpson asked if it was possible to get an overview of the Special Events process to better understand it, so the Board can be more helpful to citizens. Staff said this could be done.

Steve Harris – Mr. Harris asked if Kim could provide some background on the kickball issue at the next meeting. Steve also mentioned that he didn't receive the newsletter. Anna White said she would follow up on that.

David Siegel – Mr. Siegel attended the bi-annual update meeting for the Garden of the Gods Foundation. He said that the contribution coming from the Foundation was much larger than it has been in previous years, stemming from a change in their agreement and the uprise in visitation.

### **Adjournment**

**Motion: Move to adjourn the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board meeting at 11:28 a.m.**

1<sup>st</sup> – Carol Beckman, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sarah Bryarly, Approved, Unanimously.