

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes  
July 9, 2015**

**Members Present:** Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Alex Johnson, Charles Castle, Hank Scarangella , Jason Rupinski, Mina Liebert, Ron Ilgen, Scot Hume

**Alternate Absent:** Bob Lally

**Staff Present:** Kim King, Karen Palus, Kurt Schroeder, Julie Lafitte, Jake Butterfield, Anna White

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**Call to Order**

Jackie Hilaire convened the meeting at 7:33 am

**Presentation from Mayor Suthers**

- Gave credit to the hard work done by the Parks Advisory Board and the employees of the department
- Discussed polling he had done about concerns in the city – deterioration in the roads are the highest priority for the citizens based on surveys
- Discussed how the city was hit by the recession in 2007-2008 and where budget cuts were made – the biggest hits were taken by public works and transportation
- Asphalt has about a 10 year life span before deterioration is prevalent
- 60% of our roads need resurfacing – we would need \$50,000,000 per year for 10 years to maintain our roads
  - This would reduce the amount to 30%
- Another issue is stormwater – 77% of Springs residents rated roads as a priority above stormwater
  - Mayor Suthers gave some backstory on our funding sources for stormwater in the last 10 years
  - 1041 Permit – allowed us to construct the Southern Delivery System and would delivery water to Colorado Springs for the next 40 to 50 years from Pueblo Reservoir
  - Pueblo later wanted to revoke the 1041 Permit but the motion has been delayed until August so that Pueblo can consult with Mayor Suthers
  - Mayor wants to recreate committed funding from the General Fund of \$19,000,000 a year for stormwater
- “Roads-only” tax increase proposal to get us to \$50,000,000 – would be a 0.62% increase in sales tax for 5 years
- 69% of citizens picks sales tax, 14% picked property taxes, and 6% picked a combination of both an increase in sales tax and property tax
- Ask council to refer two measures to November Ballot:
  - 0.62% sales tax increase for 5 instead of 10 years
  - Allow us to retain \$2,100,000 in TABOR excess revenue from 2014 (excess coming mostly from grant money)
    - a. Park trails would see the help from the excess TABOR revenue over court repairs
    - b. Trail repairs will be well spread out across the city
- All aspects of the city would benefit from voting on these in the November Ballot

## Citizen Discussion

- Lyda Hill (Trustee of the Garden of the Gods Foundation) on the 20 Year Report on the Garden of the Gods Foundation
  - In 20 years:
  - \$2.3 million dollars given to the park
  - 12.5 million visitors
  - 182,000 volunteer hours
  - Spoke about the success of the new Visitor and Nature Center with its grand reopening with new and interactive exhibits
- Nikki McComsey (Kids on Bikes)
  - Spoke about the 10 year anniversary of Kids on Bikes
  - The Popsicle Bridge – part of the legacy loop – construction starts August 1, 2015
  - Thanked the Parks Department, Public Works, Utilities, Traffic and Engineering for the partnership in helping to renovate the bridge
  - “The Great Bicycle Carnival” – 4 bike parades convening at the Popsicle Bridge to celebrate the opening that finishes up in a carnival
  - Bike Camps – urban trails and mountain bike camps to encourage kids to ride bikes
  - Bike Libraries – Meadows Park Community Center helps to operate the bike library
  - Plans to open a Family Bicycling Center next summer - education about bike maintenance and encourages family riding together
  - Charles Castle suggested Kids on Bikes stay involved on creating/helping with better signage on trails
- Gail Humm (Pikes Peak Pickleball Association)
  - Presented a usage survey of the Pickleball Courts since the May 2012 conversion of courts in Monument Valley Park – usage has increased significantly
  - The association has raised \$35,000 of the \$50,000 committed to raise for the maintenance of the courts
  - Asked for support from the Parks Department to commit to a maintenance plan for the courts so they can have a better backing for their fundraising
  - \$100,000 of the CIP Budget has been designated for court replacement
  - Gail Humm said about \$300,000 is the estimated amount needed for the court replacement
  - Karen Palus accepted a check from the Pickleball Association for \$21,000 from Nancy Steffy
  - In response to Ron Ilgen’s question about the impact on the park, Gail Humm stated that the Pickleball presence has completely revitalized Monument Valley Park
- Susan Davies (TOSC)
  - Discussed the success of the 2015 Starlight Spectacular with 1,400 cyclists
  - June was a very big month for biking
  - Also discussed the possibility of a Bike Summit coming in the next year
  - Showed support for the TABOR excess revenue proposal
- Kurt Stellar (Cottonwood Creek Disc Golf Club)
  - Expressed concern that Cottonwood Creek Park’s Disc Golf Course has no budget for repairs
  - Announced that there has been a club created in support of maintenance for the Disc Golf course – they have raised \$2,600 for maintenance of their course in the first six weeks since becoming a club

- Expressed interest in redesigning some of the course to lessen some of the dangers throughout the course
- Jackie Hilaire suggested that they register themselves as a non-profit Friends Group so the Parks Department can involve the group in decision making and keep the group informed on any decisions that would affect the Disc Golf course at Cottonwood Creek Park
- He also expressed interest in having better signage on some areas to avoid within the course due to erosion and other similar issues
- Jim Kune (Cottonwood Creek Disc Golf Club)
  - Jim Kune expressed many of the same concerns as Kurt Stellar for the Disc Golf Course
  - Jackie Hilaire made the same suggestion to register the group as a friends group with the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department
- Bruce Doyle (Friends of Monument Valley Park)
  - Invited the Parks Advisory Board and everyone in the Parks Board meeting to attend Musical Mondays in Monument Valley Park, Monday's at 7:00 p.m. during the month of July
- Bill Koerner
  - Provided flyer about Governor Hickenlooper's "Colorado Beautiful" proposition
  - Jackie Hilaire suggested adding the TOPS Trails we would like to complete to the list of trails that are on the proposition to finish

**Approval of Minutes** – June 11, 2015

Motion: Scot Hume/Second: Charles Castle

Approved - Unanimous

**Action Items**

- Old North End Neighborhood Sign
  - Chris Lieber presented new drawings of a proposed neighborhood sign for the Old North End at Wahsatch Avenue and Unitah Street that would look similar to the current one, with a few aesthetic adjustments
  - Jackie Hilaire had a question about where funding for the sign and its maintenance would come from. The Old North End Neighborhood Organization will fund and maintain the project.
  - Motion: Jackie Hilaire/Second: Charles Castle Approved – Unanimous
- 2016 CIP Budget
  - Karen Palus made opening comments about the operating budget before Chris Lieber's presentation
    - a. Moving Garden of the Gods interpreter into our General Fund away from the Garden of the Gods Foundation and Friends of Garden of the Gods, fund more full-time positions at our community centers, and mowing and water concerns for the parks
    - b. She also expressed a need to have more people working for us that can prevent abuse of our parks
    - c. She explained that the CIP budget is a significant part of our budget, but still just a piece of the overall budget and needs
    - d. Charles Castle asked on the status of the Department working with Colorado Springs Utilities. Karen Palus explained the process and where the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department stands in the conversation about water

- Chris Lieber presented the 2016 CIP Budget for approval by the Parks Advisory Board before presenting the budget to City Council
  - a. During the presentation, there were questions from Board members Hank Scarangella, Scot Hume and Jackie Hilaire about PR & CS' responsibilities and signage. Charles Castle asked about the status of the City Auditorium. Karen Palus made a comment about some new ADA standards that some of our facilities need to address. Karen Palus also mentioned that we are reviewing some of our facilities for security needs.
  - b. Charles Castle and Hank Scarangella had questions about fees and reimbursements. Hank Scarangella also made comments about the funding for our community centers, by taking some money from Panorama Park in order to spend a little more on Deerfield Community Center expansion.
  - c. There were more questions throughout the meeting about new trails and trail connections as well as some of the funding for those projects.
  - d. When presenting about the ranger portion of the budget, there were questions about the type of enforcement that can be found in our parks
  - e. Chris Lieber also presented the modifications that the TOPS Working Committee had made to the budget during their work session the day before
  - f. Charles Castle had questions about why the ranger position was suggested for removal by the TOPS Working Committee. Scot Hume answered with some of the reasons the TOPS Working Committee had given before, such as funding a Full Time Equivalent out of a Capital Fund
  - g. There were other questions about the TOPS Working Committee's suggestions on the budget that were discussed and answered, including funds allotted for more police presence and about the ranger position
  - h. Public Comments:
    - 1. Melissa Walker (Friends of Garden of the Gods) – She encouraged the ideas of stewardship, but thought that there should be improvements to the Garden of the Gods added to the CIP budget. She also mentioned 2021, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Colorado Springs and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Garden of the Gods being designated as a park. Some of the board members were concerned that the Garden of the Gods wasn't a high priority on the list. Karen Palus mentioned that the most influence on the CIP Budget happens in the TOPS area, where they can bid other projects in the Garden of the Gods later.
    - 2. Linda Carter (Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center) – Wanted to discuss some of the transportation methods throughout the Garden of the Gods. She liked the idea of a shuttle for tours, but did not want to encourage park visitors to park at the Visitor and Nature Center if they planned to hike into the park, as it would take up some necessary parking for the Nature Center.
    - 3. Susan Davies (TOSC) – Presented a written resolution from TOSC supporting the budget with modifications. She was concerned about funding for acquisition in the future.
  - i. Board Discussion:
    - 1. Jackie Hilaire commented she disagreed with the TOPS Working Committee's modifications to the budget
    - 2. Mina Liebert asked for some clarification on whether we were making the changes on the budget after the voting or all of it right now.
    - 3. Gary Feffer reiterated that when TOPS was founded, the main reason was for acquisition.

4. Hank Scarangella suggested adding overcrowding at Garden of the Gods as a priority on our list of concerns
  5. Mina Liebert went back to the issue on some of the funding from Panorama Park being moved over to Deerfield Hills Community Center.
  6. Charles Castle expressed a need for permanent funding.
  7. Scot Hume proposed support for Deerfield Hills, but to leave Panorama Park's funding. It was noted here that Deerfield Hill's Community Center funding's request is \$700,000.
  8. Karen Palus suggested splitting the discussion on the budget into two pieces: the Budget with everything but TOPS added, and the TOPS aspect of the budget separately.
  9. Hank Scarangella made a proposed amendment to supply more funding to Garden of the Gods to support the "most visited and visible" park in Colorado Springs in the budget. He proposed that funding be provided to renovate and/or replace restrooms, repair the Jaycee Plaza stone wall, stabilize erosion on Juniper Way Loop, have a full-time ranger position, renovate picnic areas, install a bench on the Perkins Trail, and create parking and crowd control to accommodate visitors. This funding would be added to the current budget request.
  10. Scot Hume stood by the decision to take the TOPS Working Committee's recommendations in to consideration with the TOPS aspect of the budget
- j. Motion to approve the Budget without TOPS with Hank Scarangella's recommendation and the additional money being moved to Deerfield Hill's Community Center
    1. Motion: Charles Castle/Second: Alex Johnson      Approved – Unanimous
  - k. Motion to approve the TOPS portion of the Budget as it was presented by staff, without the recommendations of the TOPS Working Committee, if it is also presented as a non-permanent solution
    1. Scot Hume expressed concern about funding a full-time equivalent position from a capital fund.
    2. Motion: Charles Castle/Second: Alex Johnson      Approved – 8 to 1
- Pikes Peak Hospice Memorial Wall
    - a. Chris Lieber introduced the Pikes Peak Hospice Memorial Wall that would be placed in Nancy Lewis Park
    - b. David Deitemeyer gave a presentation on the location and all aspects of the project. He spoke about the Memorial Project in the past, currently, and the future ideas for the project. He explained how there are also many memorial trees in the park. David Deitemeyer also expressed concerns about maintenance costs, tree replacement, and making some features more aesthetically pleasing. He asked for approval of the redesign with the help of Pikes Peak Hospice. This approval would move us forward with conceptual design. The project would be completely funded by the Pikes Peak Hospice.
    - c. Comments were made by Joan Selman about the maintenance of the wall.
      1. Motion: Charles Castle/Second: Gary Feffer      Approved – Unanimous
  - Confirmation of TOPS Working Committee Member for Second Term
    - a. Chris Lieber carried forward the recommendation for Becky Wegner to the TOPS Working Committee for a second term through June 24, 2018
      1. Motion: Scot Hume/Second: Charles Castle      Approved - Unanimous

### **Ceremonial Items** (These took place at 10:15am.)

- Matt Mayberry introduced Lance James, the new Museum Development Coordinator

### **Presentations** (All presentations appended to these minutes.)

- Buffalo Soldier Memorial
  - Sarah Bryarly presented the status of the Memorial and the two possible locations they had been fundraising for (the corner of Pikes Peak and Union and in the Ring of Honor within the memorial site)
  - This was first brought forward to the board in December 2013
  - The memorial will help to keep the memory of the Buffalo Soldiers alive
  - Sarah Bryarly presented pictures of the two possible memorial designs
  - She said it was more likely that the memorial will be placed in the Ring of Honor Memorial Site for a July 28, 2016 dedication
  - The final approval for the location and design of the memorial will be presented in either the December or January Parks Advisory Board meeting
  - The memorial would come with an endowment to the City for maintenance
- War Dog Memorial was rescheduled to the August 13, 2015 meeting
- Bankers Loop at Goose Gossage Park
  - David Deitemeyer gave a quick overview about the Banker's Loop that was introduced about a year and a half ago to add a single-track to an urban setting
  - He explained the popularity the track is already beginning to see
  - There is a monetary value of \$7,000 on the volunteer hours that have gone into the project
  - It is used by Kids on Bikes as part of the day-camp program
  - Short-term goal: Goose Gossage is the next site that they would like to use
  - Long-term goal: To incorporate more area off the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail

### **Staff Reports**

- Report on possible infrastructure ballot item
  - Karen Palus presented some information on the Mayor's TABOR Excess Revenue and how the survey information was used in putting the proposals together
  - Residents surveyed leaned towards trails getting some of the excess money versus court repairs
  - Heat maps were used to identify trails with issues that cannot be funded in any other way
  - Karen Palus recommended the Parks Advisory Board write a letter in support of voting for the city to keep the TABOR excess revenue
  - Chris Lieber helped to present and explain some of the trails that would be improved through the TABOR refund

### **Board Business**

- Joint TOPS/Parks Board Farewell Picnic
  - Barring inclement weather, the picnic will take place at Red Rock Canyon
  - A hike to view the renovations and repairs to damage in Red Rock Canyon will follow lunch
  - If the weather is not agreeable, the picnic will be moved to Rockledge Ranch
- Recommendation for TOPS Citizen Advisor – trails position
  - A replacement for John Maynard is needed on the TOPS Working Committee as Citizen Advisor for Trails
  - Jason Rupinski said he was interested in the position

- Charles Castle and Scot Hume both attended the Shooks Run Steering Committee meeting and said that it was well attended. Scott expressed some concern about Tim Mitros trying to move water without funding.
- Charles Castle said that Meadows Park Community Center and City Auditorium have not had any changes and are still running well
- Jackie Hilaire announced the Van Briggie Museum festival going on September 12, 2015 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and invited others to go enjoy
- Ron Ilgen extended an invitation to the Pikes Peak Run Fest at the Pioneer Museum's Alamo Square Park at 4 pm on August 13,2015
- Hank Scarangella expressed some concern about the commercial uses of our parks, specifically companies using Garden of the Gods as a backdrop

**Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:07 pm.

DRAFT