



**TOPS Working Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 4, 2015**

Members Present: Jason Alwine, Lee Milner, Cathy Grossman, Nancy Hobbs, Joe Lavorini, Jeff Mohrmann, Sarah Musick, Becky Wegner

Alternates Present: Jim Klever, Sarah Blakeslee

Parks Board Liaisons Present: Scot Hume

Parks Board Liaisons Absent: Jackie Hilaire

Staff Present: Chris Lieber, Christi Mehew, Sarah Bryarly, Tilah Larson

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Jason Alwine brought the meeting to order at 7:32 am.

Agenda Preview

Announcements

Chris Lieber

- The Tabor Refund Ballot Measure election was passed by the voters and 8 trail projects will now be implemented in phases. The first projects that will be implemented include the northern end of the Shooks Run trail, specifically the area near the Bon Shopping Center, the Skyline trail, and the southern reaches of the Sand Creek Trail. The 2nd phase, to be implemented during the summer of 2016, includes segments of the Rock Island Trail, High Chaparral Trail and Palmer Mesa Trail. The 3rd and final phase will include repairs to sections of the Pikes Peak Greenway and Sinton trail. All projects are expected to be complete by the end of 2016.
- Creekside project (America the Beautiful Park) will be completed next week.
- Upcoming Public meetings:
 - November 10, 2016 - Stratton Open Space Management Plan public meeting
 - November 12, 2016 - Larry Ochs Sports Complex Management Plan public meeting
 - November 17, 2016 - Bluestem and University Park Open Space Management Plan public meeting

Approval of Minutes

Motion – to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2015 meeting:

- Nancy Hobbs – 1st, Cathy Grossman – 2nd, Approved – Unanimous

Citizen Discussion

Bill Koerner (Trails and Open Space Coalition)

TOSC has submitted to the State six trail gaps to be closed in response to the Governor’s Initiative and wants to close the gap on Ring the Peak trail. TOSC is requesting from the TOPS Working Committee a letter of support. Chris Lieber suggested the TOSC draft a letter and submit it to the committee.

Susan Davies (Trails and Open Spaces Coalition)

The \$2.1 million Tabor Refund ballot measure (2D) approved by the voters will only cover the most critical issues which are about 30% of the trails. The passing of 2D is a nice start, but there is still a lot more to accomplish on our trails.

Melissa Walker (Friends of Garden of the Gods)

The Friends of Garden of the Gods is asking TOPS to help fund a new restroom. Karen Palus stated the proposal cost is \$470,000 which will include the design process, archaeological study and some construction dollars.

Staff Reports

1. 2016 Capital Improvement Project Budget Update (Presented by Karen Palus)

- Thank you for everyone's support of 2C and 2D in the election. Three critical areas will be addressed with the passing of 2C; including paving of roads in Garden of the Gods, North Cheyenne Canon and Palmer Park.
- The Budget Review Committee made final recommendations to City Council for approval of 3 projects and a \$75,000 grant match for the Pioneer Museum.
 - Deerfield Community Center - \$400,000 was received from the Community Development Block Grant for this project and \$130,000 is being requested from the TOPS Working Committee to complete half of Phase One. Phase One will provide an additional room for the daycare facility, restroom renovations, ADA improvements and address safety issues. Kim King showed a planning map of the Deerfield Community Center. Concerns were expressed by some TOPS members if this project should be funded by TOPS dollars. Additional comments were made that Deerfield Community Center is within a park so it is appropriate to fund the project. Chris Lieber stated from an ordinance perspective, this request to use TOPS funds for the Community Center is appropriate.
 - Garden of the Gods Restrooms Improvements - Staff is doing research on sewer lines, water lines, design and location elements, and many other areas. This project is not ready to go forward at this time; however \$470,000 can start the process. LART funding will be a possibility for this project in the future.
 - Manitou Incline- The Community Development Block Grant-DR for \$2million was not awarded, however, the Mitigation Grant for \$1million which requires a \$255,000 match was awarded. The \$255,000 grant match is being requested from the TOPS Working Committee. Sarah Bryarly stated the majority of the grant will be used on preserving and protecting the water line and construction from tie 1 up to the previous construction site area.
 - Action on these three projects is not requested at this time. Staff will provide a similar presentation to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board on November 12, 2015. It is anticipated that the TOPS Working Committee and the Parks Board will formally consider funding these projects at their respective December meetings. The recommendations of the Working Committee and City Council will be carried forward to City Council for the consideration of the supplement appropriation request in January 2016.

2. TOPS Applications for Funding (Presented by Chris Lieber)

- An application for funding was received regarding the property adjacent to Bear Creek which the Broadmoor currently owns. A map was shown displaying the two parcels of land. Nancy Hobbs and Lee Milner volunteered to accompany Chris Lieber on a site visit to the property. The applicant will be attending the December TOPS Working Committee meeting to give a presentation on the property.
- A second application has been received regarding the property at the end of Pikes Peak Avenue located along Sand Creek. The applicant will be attending the December TOPS Working Committee meeting.
- A third application may be submitted requesting additional property be acquired adjacent to the Union Meadows Open Space.

3. 2016 Calendar Reveal Awards (Presented by Tilah Larson)

- Tilah Larson distributed the 2016 Discover Colorado Calendar to the TOPS Working Committee members.
- Thank you to Joe Lavorini and Nancy Hobbs for judging the photos.
- 1,300 calendars will be delivered the week of Thanksgiving for distribution.
- The calendar photo cover is of Pulpit Rock taken by Jonathon Ruehlen.
- Anna White announced the Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation Department has a Facebook page and encouraged members to “like” the page.

4. Manitou Incline – FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant (Presented by Sarah Bryarly)

- The construction and public outreach process will be similar to the last incline project.
- A media release stating the closing times of the Incline will go out to the public.
- A bidding process will occur due to federal dollars funding this project. Once agreements are in place and construction documents are updated, the project should be “under construction” in August 2016.
- Coordination on this project is continuing with Manitou Springs.
- Manitou Springs is still considering funding a shuttle.

*A photo was taken of the TOPS Working Committee members and the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services management staff for the City of Colorado Springs website.

Presentations

5. Management Plan Process Update: Stratton Open Space, University Park Open Space and Bluestem Open Space (Presented by Sarah Bryarly)

- Stratton Open Space - November 12, 2016 the first public meeting was held at Cheyenne Mountain Junior High School. The presentation focused on the issues Stratton Open Space is facing and how to create a tool kit to manage the property. January 2016 a final public meeting will be held. Palmer Land Trust is assisting to ensure that recommendations are in compliance with conservation easements.
- University Park and Sinton Open Space – November 17, 2016 at 6:30 pm a public meeting

will be held at the YMCA Garden Ranch.

- Bluestem Open Space – November 17, 2016 at 3:30 pm a public meeting will be held at the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services department.
- The three plans will be presented to the Parks Advisory Board in January 2016 and a 2nd meeting will be held in February 2016.

6. Ute Valley Park Master Plan Implementation Update

- Classic Consulting is under contract to design the trail head that is adjacent to Hewlett Packard.
- Three easements are currently being acquired on the south side to complete the southern side of the eastern loop trail.
- Classic design in conjunction with the Parks department is designing a small trailhead on Tech Center Drive and Rusina Drive.
- A \$200,00 State Trails grant has been submitted to provide funding to revamp the downhill course, finish restoring the southern side of the eastern loop trail, work on the ridgeline trail on the west side of the property and to build the small trailhead.
- A \$50,000 GOCO grant has been submitted to help support all of these projects. Mile High Youth Corp will be hired to assist in constructing and closing rogue trails.

Bill Koerner – The Greenway trail signs are missing and damaged by spray paint.

Kurt Schroeder - Scott Abbott, Parks Operations Administrator, is taking inventory of the signs and their condition and then the Parks Department will proceed. Signs are a target for vandalism and damage and many have been replaced.

Susan Davies – Suggested involving Friends groups with signage.

Nancy Hobbs - Announced Sunday, November 9th at 11:00 am the Canya Canon 6k Trail Race and Family Hike will begin at Starsmore Discovery Center.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn – Nancy Hobbs – 1st, Sarah Musick – 2nd, Approved - Unanimous