



**TOPS Working Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 2, 2015**

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

Members Absent:

Alternates Present: Sarah Blakeslee

Parks Board Liaisons Present: Jackie Hilaire, Scot Hume

Staff Present: Chris Lieber, Sarah Bryarly, Tilah Larson, Jay Hines

Jackie Hilaire brought the meeting to order at 7:32am

Action Items

Action Item #1 - Election of TOPS Working Committee Chair and Vice Chair

Nominees - Jason Alwine, Lee Milner

- Jason Alwine elected Chair
- Lee Milner elected Co-Chair

Agenda Preview

There were no changes to the agenda presented by Jason Alwine

Chris Lieber

- Chris introduced Christi Mehew who is the temporary administrative technician for Karen Palus and Chris Lieber
- Popsicle Bridge is a great success and transformation. This project is a great example of partnership with Kids on Bikes and cooperation between a number of City Departments.
- The implementation of the Downtown Master plan continues and is currently focusing on Ridge trail
- Leslie Thomas has resigned her position on the TOPS Working Committee – she is moving out-of-state but sends her best to the Committee
- Jason Rupinski is recommended by the Parks Board to serve on the TOPS Working Committee as the 3rd TOPS liaison. This recommendation will go forward to City Council for approval

Approval of Minutes

Motion - approve the minutes of the August 5, 2015 meeting:

- Sarah Musick, Approved - Unanimous

Action Item #2 -Proposed Revisions to City Code to Conform with Voter Approved TOPS Ordinance

Proposed motion to approve the Ordinance to amend the City Code section 202 and 203 to conform to the current voter approved TOPS Ordinance. Amendments:

1. Allow more flexible spending with the TOPS Parks Category
2. Biennial (every 2 years) audits financial audits of the TOPS Program instead of Biannual (every 6 months)

Motion-Lee Milner, Approved - Unanimous

Presentation Items

- **Management Plan Process for Stratton O.S., University Park O.S., Bluestem O.S.** (presented by Sarah Bryarly)
 - A management plan that focuses on preserving and sustaining properties, not adding new features. ERO Resources, Tapis Associates and Kezziah Watkins are part of the planning process
 - September 2015 work will begin by gathering information from stakeholders, conducting interviews and collecting data on properties from consultants
 - October 2015 a proposed meeting with Cheyenne Mountain Middle School will be conducted with future meetings in November 2015 and January 2016
 - December 2015/January 2016 University Park and Bluestem O.S. will be presented to the TOPS Working Committee for approval. February 2016 Stratton O.S. will be presented for approval
 - A solid public engagement process is desired. People with information and interest can contact Sarah Bryarly directly at sbryarly@springsgov.com

- **Red Rock Canyon Update** (presented by Sarah Bryarly)
 - May 2015 flood damage pictures were shown along with repairs
 - Sand canyon had a breach in water and areas were washed away. A contractor pumped water out of the area to avoid long term problems
 - Repairs to the Roundup trail pond were completed and the connection was rebuilt
 - The State Trails Grant funded repairs to the following areas: East fork of Sand Canyon, Sand Canyon trail, Greenlee trail waterbar, Bock trail, Meadow trail, Upper Hogback trail, Section 16 alternative trail and Section 16 parking lot
 - Upcoming projects include: repairs to trails and new trail construction to Section 16 and White Acres; stone enclosures for Port-a-lets to protect from vandalism and increase visual appearance; vegetate the Sand Canyon Dam breach and Upper Pond Dam breach areas; plan options with an engineer in regards to the Upper Pond Dam breach along with presenting these options to the State with inclusion of the Palmer Land Trust; update maps at main entrance points and all signs updated by the end of next season
 - The trail reconstruction, port-a-lets and signage projects will be funded by TOPS. FEMA funding is being considered for Sand Canyon Bridge. The Upper Pond Dam bridge is predicted to be a long term project and will be a slow implementation process

- **Impacts of Tussock Moth Infestation on TOPS Properties** (presented by Jay Hein)

- A map was shown of the current moth infestation which extends in 8000 acres in size
- Treatment options include:
 1. Aerial application with Bacillus Thuringiensis. The cost range is from \$ 50-60/per acre per treatment
 2. No Action. If no action is taken an increase in size and severity is likely, repetitive defoliation can occur and lead to bark beetles and tree mortality and the protective canopy could be removed which creates water quality and quantity issues
- October 2015 the preparation process will begin. Contracts can be signed once the 2016 Budget is implemented providing the decision is made to spray come Spring 2016
- January/February 2016 the community will be informed by the media
- Spring 2016 ground surveys will be completed
- May 2016 open houses and public meetings will be conducted
- Chris Lieber stated the effects of the Waldo Canyon burn area included losing vegetation. The benefits of trees are protection of soil and decrease of erosion so options need to be thoughtfully considered
- **2016 Discover Colorado Springs Calendar** (presented by Tilah Larson)
 - The 2016 poster was displayed
 - Pictures for the calendar are being accepted for the next month. More information along with submission instructions can be found at coloradosprings.gov; search on Discover Colorado Springs
 - The calendar party will be held in October 2015 and TOPS members will be invited

Staff Reports (presented by Chris Lieber)

- **Update on Foothills Trail Flood Damage Repairs**
 - 2015 the alignment of Camp Creek shifted and took out sections of the concrete trail
 - 2015 FEMA flood effort dollars were used to relocate the trail to higher ground with sustainable alignment and abandon the lower trail area. Millings were used and in 2016 it will be brought to current trail standards through the TOPS 2016 budget allocation
 - The realignment of the southern section of the trail moves further to the east and closer to 30th but has enough separation to provide a pleasant trail experience and meets ADA requirements
 - Spring 2016 is the anticipated completion of the design process pending budget approval and September 2016 is the projected completion date
- **Update on Wedgewood Property Proposal**
 - El Paso County Parks is not moving forward at this time due to issues with current property owners regarding the acquisition

Citizen Discussion

There were no citizen discussions

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn –Becky Wegner, Approved- Unanimous

The TOPS Working Committee adjourned at 8:59am