



**TOPS Working Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes - FINAL
Wednesday, July 12, 2017**

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

Members Absent: Silas Musick

Alternates Present: N/A

Parks Board Liaisons Present: Jason Rupinski, Carol Beckman, Gary Bostrom

Parks Board Liaisons Absent: N/A

Staff Present: Sarah Bryarly, Karen Palus, Britt Haley, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Christi Mehew

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Jason Alwine brought the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m.

Agenda Preview

Announcements

Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director

- Sarah Bryarly’s last day with the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department will be Friday, July 14th. She has been a tremendous asset to the Parks Department and TOPS Program for the past 14 years.
- Britt Haley has been selected to fill the position of Parks Design and Development Manager. Please attend the “meet and greet” for Britt on Friday, July 14th from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- The Parks Design and Development Division will be advertising for the position of Senior Landscape Architect.
- The TOPS 20th Anniversary Celebration will be held on Wednesday, July 26th at the Penrose Garden Pavilion from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Please RSVP for this event.
- A glass jar keepsake was given to each member on the Committee from the John Venezia Community Park opening.
- Carol Beckman and Gary Bostrom are the new Parks Board liaisons to the TOPS Working Committee. Jason Rupinski will represent Parks, Carol Beckman will represent Trails and Gary Bostrom will represent Open Space.
- Three Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members have been selected, David Siegel, Daniel Bowan and Brandon Dyett (alternate).

Britt Haley, newly appointed Parks Design and Development Manager

- Shared with the Committee her background, education and work history. She received a

Bachelors degree in International Affairs as well as a law degree at the University of Colorado Boulder. Her work history includes: legislative aide for Senator Wayne Allard, Federal and Interstate Water Rights Unit under the Colorado Attorney General, Deputy and later Chief Legal Counsel for Governor Bill Owens, Director of the State Land Board and Division Chief with the City of Colorado Springs Attorney's office.

Sarah Bryarly, Parks Design and Development Interim Manager

- The BioBlitz at Jimmy Camp Creek will be held on Friday, July 14th and Saturday, July 15th. All public sessions are full and results of the BioBlitz will be made available to interested groups. She encouraged Committee members to attend the event.
- Documentation for the Manitou Incline is being completed and going through the approval process with an approximate construction start date for Phase III to be in August.

Approval of Minutes – May 3, 2017

Motion: To approve the minutes of the June 7, 2017 TOPS Working Committee meeting.
1st – Nancy Hobbs, 2nd – Cathy Grossman, Approved, Unanimous

Citizen Discussion

Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC) Executive Director, stated the Venezia Community Park opening was a great event and it would be a shame to have to wait another 10 years for another park opening.

TOSC voted to support Mayor Suther's initiative to get stormwater on the November ballot. The Parks general fund will not be increased until the stormwater issue is resolved.

Action Items

Corral Bluffs Expansion Property (Presented by Sarah Bryarly, Interim Design and Development Manager)

[Link the PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: key discussion points; natural resource target areas; history of the partnership with Trust for Public Land (TPL); site significance; current status; financial implications; TOPS funding category; financial implications (maintenance and operations); and the timeline/approval process.

Sarah Bryarly introduced Justin Spring, Colorado Director of Land Protection at the Trust for Public Land, who is the representative working with the property owners on this transaction.

- The TOPS Working Committee has identified the approximately 85.61 acre Corral Bluffs Expansion property, located adjacent to Corral Bluffs Open Space as having open space values that merit preservation. Acquisition of the property would serve as an extension of Corral Bluffs Open Space/Jimmy Camp Creek area.

- TPL recently approached the property owners to determine the interest level of selling the property for public use. TPL has facilitated the discussions regarding the sale of the property to the City for open space purposes.
- TPL desires to partner with the TOPS Program in fulfilling the City's Open Space Master Plan to acquire the property for open space. To facilitate the City's acquisition of the property, TPL has obtained a letter of intent from the sellers to sell the approximately 85.61 acre property in September, 2017.
- TPL has agreed to sell the property to the City in one phase for \$570,000 through the Open Space Category.
- A map was shown of the entire area to include Jimmy Camp Creek, Colorado Springs Utilities property, and the Corral Bluffs Open Space.
- The average cost of maintaining the open space at the current service level is \$44/per acre.
- The largest expense after the acquisition will be access point improvements.
- The project timeline:
 - July 12th – TOPS Working Committee approval
 - July 13th – Parks and Recreation Advisory Board approval
 - July 10th – City Council work session presentation
 - July 25th and August 7th – City Council approval
 - August 23rd – Trust for Public Land Board of Directors approval
 - September 2017 – Closing

Bill Koerner, citizen, stated the importance of wildlife on the property and the critical need for connected trails between Jimmy Camp Creek and the Corral Bluffs Open Space.

Joe Lavorini discussed the structures on the property as well as privacy concerns for the property owners.

Motion: To approve the acquisition of the Corral Bluffs Expansion property from the Trust for Public Land for \$570,000 plus \$10,000 for associated costs.

1st – Lee Milner, 2nd - Cathy Grossman, Approved, Unanimous

Amendment to the 2018 CIP Budget (Presented by Sarah Bryarly, Interim Design and Development Manager)

[Link the PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: the estimated 2018 revenue; and the TOPS Open Space category.

- During the April presentation of the 2018 Capital Improvement Projects presentation, staff presented \$757,000 within the Open Space Category for continued implementation of the Red Rock Canyon Master Plan.
- Through citizen discussion during the April TOPS Working Committee meeting, citizens

asked the Parks Department to revisit how the Forest Management was addressed within the open spaces.

- Due to this request, staff relooked at the budget to add additional funding to the Stewardship fund (within the Open Space Category), to conduct a lighter Forest Management touch within the open spaces.
- The overall amount of funding for Red Rock Canyon was reduced to \$300,000 as part of adding additional money to the Stewardship fund.
- The additional funding for the Forest Management work was denied by both the TOPS Working Committee and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.
- Committee member Lee Milner asked during the June TOPS Working Committee meeting if the Red Rock Canyon project could be increased back to what was presented during the April presentation since the additional funding within the Stewardship category was denied.
- As a result, staff is presenting an addition to the 2018 Capital Improvement Projects to add back the originally requested funding for the Red Rock Canyon Master Plan implementations.

Motion: A motion to approve the additional funding for Red Rock Canyon in the proposed 2018 CIP Budget in the amount of \$457,000.

1st – Lee Milner, 2nd – Becky Wegner, Approved, Unanimous

Citizen Discussion

Bill Koerner, citizen, stated the State Trails Committee discussed in their last meeting cutting funding for land water conservation and forest services by 84%. There is an effort from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife department to encourage people to write letters to their congressmen and senators in support to not cut funding as money is needed for many projects. Committee members were provided Bill Koerner's email address to obtain further information.

Kurt Schroeder, Parks Maintenance and Operations Manager, stated he just sold his house to avid cyclists who chose Colorado Springs due to the facilities and trails in the area. He emphasized the importance of our trails and the impact of budget cuts.

Susan Davies, TOSC Executive Director, stated she visited the Midland Trail, specifically the bridges to America the Beautiful Park and the Pikes Peak Greenway. The improvements are looking great and should be completed by late September.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the TOPS Working Committee meeting at 8:30 a.m.

1st – Lee Milner, 2nd – Jeff Mohrmann, Approved, Unanimous