



**TOPS Working Committee Meeting  
Meeting Minutes - FINAL  
Wednesday, October 4, 2017**

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

**Members Absent:** Silas Musick

**Alternates Present:** Lily Weissgold

**Parks Board Liaisons Present:** Jason Rupinski, Carol Beckman

**Parks Board Liaisons Absent:** N/A

**Staff Present:** Britt Haley, Kurt Schroeder, Christi Mehew

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

**Agenda Preview**

**Announcements**

Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager

- The site tour process in the past was on an “as needed basis”. The process changed and tours were scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month. She has experience that a site tour is not always needed every month, so it will remain on the calendar; however, it will be announced approximately a week before if the tour will take place.
- She congratulated and thanked the following TOPS Working Committee members for their reappointments: Lee Milner, Joe Lavorini and Jim Klever.
- She congratulated and announced the new TOPS Working Committee alternate, Lily Weissgold.

**Citizen Discussion**

Sharon Milito, citizen/scientist, stated a for sale sign is displayed on the Bishop property with an asking price of approximately one million dollars. Britt Haley replied that the Parks department is still working with the owners of the property and on an appraisal. The sign is a fulfillment of the owner’s original purpose.

Eric Eaton, citizen/scientist, stated he submitted an application for funding for the Sand Creek area at the end of Pikes Peak Avenue. Lee Milner and Nancy Hobbs toured the property last year. Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) is still working on the west fork area of this property and he is still concerned with their water project. He would like to see his application move forward

pending what happens with CSU as it has strong potential as Open Space.

Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC) Executive Director passed cards out to Committee members and stated the TOSC board is supportive of the stormwater initiative and if it passes hopefully new things will happen for our Parks; however, people need to vote.

**Approval of Minutes** – September 6, 2017

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the September 6, 2017 TOPS Working Committee meeting.  
1<sup>st</sup> – Lee Milner, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Jeff Mohrmann, Approved, Unanimous

### **Presentations**

**Bioblitz Results** (Presented by Sharon Milito)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: what is a bioblitz; how did it all begin; why bioblitzes; science brought to you by; information brought to the public by; technology and data; bioblitz at Blodgett Peak Open Space; Blodgett Peak Open Space stats; Blodgett Peak Open Space - mammals; Blodgett Peak Open Space – birds; Blodgett Peak Open space – plants; Blodgett Peak Open Space – arthropods; Blodgett Peak Open Space – fungi; Blodgett Peak Open Space – reptiles and amphibians; Bioblitz at Jimmy Camp Creek; Jimmy Camp Creek Park stats; Jimmy Camp Creek Park – hikes; Jimmy Camp Creek Park – archaeology dig; Jimmy Camp Creek Park – mammals; Jimmy Camp Creek Park – birds; Jimmy Camp Creek Park – plants; Jimmy Camp Creek Park – arthropods; Jimmy Camp Creek Park – fungi; Jimmy Camp Creek Park – reptiles and amphibians; Bluestem Prairie Open Space; Bluestem Prairie Open Space – mammals; Bluestem Prairie Open Space – birds; Bluestem Prairie Open Space – plants; Bluestem Prairie Open Space – reptiles; Bluestem Prairie Open Space – arthropods; Bioblitz Ute Valley Park; Bioblitz Ute Valley Park – mammals; Bioblitz Ute Valley Park – birds; Bioblitz Ute Valley Park – plants; Bioblitz Ute Valley Park – arthropods; Bioblitz Ute Valley Park – fungi; Bioblitz Ute Valley Park – reptiles and amphibians; summary; conclusions; and an opportunity for kids to thrive.

Discussion included: how to monitor Open Spaces; problematic and invasive species; front range communities that have iNaturalist programs; and advertising on the City's website the Bioblitz results.

**Stewardship Season-End Update** (Presented by Scott Abbott, Regional Trails and Open Space Supervisor, John Stark, Park Ranger)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: an overview of staff; where we work; seasonal training; Colorado College internship; volunteerism; Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI); RMFI projects; RMFI closures; park ranger duties; presence; law enforcement; park safety; interpretation and education; school programs; google trekker; Incline signage; High Chaparral

archaeology; High Chaparral wayfinding and ordinance signs; High Chaparral interpretive sign and Red Rocks map; conservation tech duties; conservation; maintenance; improved climbing signage and Bluestem signage; wildlife; resource management; invasive species management; and thank you for your support.

Scott Abbott introduced the stewardship team. John Stark and the stewardship team presented the PowerPoint.

The discussion included: Committee members thanking the stewardship team; a request that Parks staff record the positive responses; Inspire grant; dogs off leash; length of time of stewardship funding; sharing dogs off leash statistics with City Council; stewardship winter season team; and interest in the Bioblitz program possibly being a part of school curriculum.

Kurt Schroeder stated that the dogs off leash program has resulted in multiple arrests including drug recovery and car break-ins. Crime that is happening on the streets is happening in the Parks and it is very important to preserve our TOPS properties.

Kurt Schroeder thanks the stewardship team and introduced the new Natural Resources Specialist, Cody Baer Sutton.

Eric Eaton announced the Bioblitz would not have been a success without the stewardship team and their enthusiasm and expertise.

Susan Davies asked if the stormwater initiative passes and as a result more police officers are hired, will there be a change with the TOPS program paying for off-duty officers to patrol TOPS properties? Kurt Schroeder stated that Scott Abbott and some Park Supervisors have support of a sergeant in the Golden Hills division who is sympathetic to the issues the department is facing. Susan commended the wayfinding improvements and mentioned investing in stewardship dollars is very important.

Bill Koerner asked if Corral Bluffs is being checked and secured on a regular basis. John Stark replied the crew is out there to monitor on a semi-regular basis and neighbors have been a great resource in reporting problems. Sharon Milito and Anna Cordova are performing support work at Corral Bluffs and help bring issues to their attention. Bill also inquired about trespassers on the Manitou Incline. Kurt Schroeder responded that wildlife cameras are set up and Britt Haley stated extra-duty El Paso County officers are there at strategic hours especially at the beginning of the closure.

### **Election of TOPS Chair and Vice Chair**

Britt Haley requested nominations for Chair and Vice Chair of the TOPS Working Committee and stated that she has discussed voting procedures with Kurt Schroeder and voting would be conducted with a raise of hands.

Cathy Grossman nominated Jason Alwine for the TOPS Working Committee Chair. Jeff Mohrmann seconded the motion.

Jim Klever nominated Lee Milner for the TOPS Working Committee Chair. Becky Wegner seconded the motion.

Jason Alwine explained the role of the Chair; in response to a question about the role.

Britt Haley read the description of the Chair and Vice Chair from the TOPS Policies and Procedures Manual.

Chair Vote: Jason Alwine received 5 votes. Lee Milner received 3 votes. Jason Alwine was elected TOPS Working Committee Chair.

Cathy Grossman stated she is interested in the Vice Chair position.

Becky Wegner stated she might be interested in the Vice Chair position.

Nancy Hobbs nominated Cathy Grossman for the TOPS Working Committee Vice Chair. Jeff Mohrmann seconded the motion.

Lee Milner nominated Becky Wegner for the TOPS Working Committee Vice Chair. Becky Wegner declined the nomination due to time constraints.

Lee Milner nominated himself for the TOPS Working Committee Vice Chair. Becky Wegner seconded the motion.

Vice Chair Vote: Cathy Grossman received 5 votes. Lee Milner received 3 votes. Cathy Grossman was elected TOPS Working Committee Vice Chair.

**Citizen Discussion** N/A

[Link to handouts distributed during meeting](#)

### **Adjournment**

The TOPS Working Committee meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m. and then entered a closed executive session.

**Closed Executive Session** (Presented by Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager, TOPS Program Manager)

In accord with the City Charter Art. III, §3-60(d) and the Colorado Open Meetings Act, C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(a, b and e), the TOPS Working Committee, in Open Session, is to determine whether it will hold a Closed Executive Session. The issues to be discussed involve determining

positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations and instructing negotiators regarding a land acquisition matter. The Chair shall poll the TOPS Working Committee members, and, upon consent of two-thirds of the members present, may hold a closed executive session. If consent to the closed executive session is not given, the item may be discussed in open session or withdrawn from consideration.

Motion: To enter a closed executive session.

1<sup>st</sup> – Joe Lavorini, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Cathy Grossman, Approved, Unanimous

Motion: To end the closed executive session.

1<sup>st</sup> – Becky Wegner, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Nancy Hobbs, Approved, Unanimous