



**TOPS Working Committee Meeting  
Meeting Minutes - FINAL  
Wednesday, September 6, 2017**

**Members Present:** Jason Alwine (departed at 8:40 a.m.) Cathy Grossman, Nancy Hobbs, Joe Lavorini, Lee Milner, Jim Klever, Jeff Mohrmann, Silas Musick (departed at 9:00 a.m.)

**Members Absent:** Becky Wegner

**Alternates Absent:** Lily Weissgold

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

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

**Staff Present:** Karen Palus, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Christi Mehew

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

**Closed Executive Session**

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 receipt of legal advice and 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 If consent to the closed executive session is not given, the item may be discussed in open session or withdrawn from consideration.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> – Nancy Hobbs, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Cathy Grossman, Approved, Unanimous

Motion: To end the closed executive session.

1<sup>st</sup> – Nancy Hobbs, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Jeff Mohrmann, Approved, Unanimous

**Agenda Preview**

**Announcements**

Karen Palus ,Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director

- Gary Bostrom passed away suddenly last week and thank you to all of those that attended the funeral. Gary will be greatly missed and some members have asked about a memorial that could be made in honor of him. The Park staff will work with his family

at the appropriate time to discuss this request.

- The Park staff will work with City Council to fill the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board vacancy. The board currently has two alternates for consideration.
- The BioBlitz results will be presented by Sharon Milito at the October TOPS Working Committee meeting. A thank you celebration is being planned for all the scientists that participated and a tentative date is set for the last Monday of the month. An invitation will be sent to Committee members once the date is finalized.

Christi Mehew, Administrative Technician

- Please sign in on the “sign-in” sheet provided if you are attending a TOPS Working Committee meeting.
- Lily Weissgold is the new TOPS Working Committee alternate.

**Approval of Minutes** – July 12, 2017

Motion: To approve the minutes of the July 12, 2017 TOPS Working Committee meeting.

1<sup>st</sup> – Jeff Mohrmann, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Joe Lavorini, Approved, Unanimous

**Citizen Discussion**

Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC) Executive Director

- El Paso County Board of Commissioners has voted to put a TABOR refund on the November ballot. Two and half million dollars will be used for park related projects. One million will go towards work on the Fountain Creek Trail under the heading “disaster relief”. One and half million will go towards parks and trails in El Paso county.
- The TOSC Board has participated in conversations regarding the stormwater initiative and the Board supports this initiative. Please encourage people to vote in November.

Nancy Hobbs, TOPS Working Committee member, stated the Google Trekker project was successful. The trekker was used during the Pikes Peak Ascent marathon, as well as Garden of the Gods Park and the Manitou Incline. Google is currently working on processing the imagery and upon completion this information will be shared with the Parks Department.

**Presentations**

**Stratton Open Space Restoration Treatment** (Presented by Dennis Will, Forester)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: project objectives; pretreatment conditions; Stratton Open Space 2017 – June 1, July 10, August 8, (pictures); Stratton Springs 2017 – June 1, July 10, August 9; Stratton Open Space March 14; alternate select species – white fir, rocky mountain juniper, pinon, douglas fir, chokecherry, currant, dead trees; contour logs; recent deer browse; landscapes; Austin Bluffs Open Space and contact information.

Dennis Will, Forester, gave a presentation about the Stratton Open Space forest restoration

project which was completed in June. The area had become a tremendous fuel source over the past thirteen years and needed to be addressed. The concept for restoration was to set the stage for fifty years from now for treatment. The presentation included many before and after restoration pictures that showed the new growth in the area.

The Forest Resources Association Annual Meeting was held on May 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> at Cheyenne Mountain Resort in Colorado Springs. Dennis Will gave a presentation on the Stratton Open Space forest restoration treatment project and thirty forestry specialists toured the area. Dennis received many positive comments on the mitigation work that was completed.

The TOPS Working Committee discussion included the following topics: hikers concern about the lack of shade; the loss of aesthetics; definition of forest restoration; cutting edge techniques; long term forest health and fuel mitigation to manage the property; the Parks Natural Resources Specialist collecting data on the property; noxious weed treatment; fire concerns and meeting the conditions of the grant.

The following citizens spoke in opposition of the Stratton Open Space forest restoration treatment: Steve Castle, Kent Obee, Bill Koerner, John Spengler, Linda Hodges, Donna Strum, Judith Rice-Jones and Ann Young.

Kurt Schroeder, Parks Operations and Maintenance Manager, stated that many projects are underway and the Parks Department is trying to meet the desires of the community. The department has a responsibility to manage these lands as well as meet contract specifications and get the most done with the dollars that are budgeted. Management respected the opinions being voiced and therefore asked for additional money to use a lighter touch in regards to forest management; however, the Committee did not receive the votes needed and did not accept this proposal. There are different opinions and approaches and the department has received many comments in favor of the restoration work done in Stratton Open Space. The department respects the comments stated and wants to move forward in a positive way and address concerns.

Judith Rice-Jones, citizen, announced the Colorado Native Plant Society Annual Conference will be held on Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at Colorado College, Armstrong Hall from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Ann Young, citizen, stated the Conference keynote speaker, Marion Hourdequin, will be speaking about “ecological restoration and environmental ethics” on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. and hopes that many will attend.

**Ethics Training** (Presented by Renee Congdon, Senior Attorney)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: origin of the City Code of Ethics; purpose of the City

Code of Ethics; why you should care; why do you have to sit through this training; primary areas of concern; gifts – general rule; gifts – what is a gift; gifts – immediate family members; gifts – exceptions to the ban on gifts; gifts – inappropriate hospitality or gifts; conflicts of interest; what is a conflict of interest; what is a conflict of interest – confidential information; conflict of interest – examples; conflict of interest – what should you do?; conflict of interest – appearance of impropriety; Independent Ethics Commission (IEC)– IEC jurisdiction and HR jurisdiction; IEC – creation and purpose, subpoena and recommendations; IEC complaints and inquiries; IEC – frivolous complaints and inquiries; IEC – nonfrivolous, formal complaints and inquiries; IEC – Council action; IEC – final action and penalty; IEC – legal representation; advisory opinions and many ethical issues are not clear cut.

### **Citizen Discussion**

TOPS Working Committee member Joe Lavorini congratulated Lee Milner for receiving the Spirit of the Springs Award.

[Link to handouts distributed during meeting](#)

### **Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn the TOPS Working Committee meeting at 9:49 a.m.  
1<sup>st</sup> – Nancy Hobbs, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Jeff Mohrmann, Approved, Unanimous