



CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS

# **PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES (PRCS) ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

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Location: 1401 Recreation Way Colorado Springs, CO 80905

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Date: August 8, 2024

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Time: 7:30 a.m.

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## **I. MEETING ATTENDANCE**

- a. Members Present: Sarah Bryarly, Abby Simpson, Amandla Atilano-Roque, Larry Bogue, Greg Thornton, Julia Sands de Melendez
- b. Members Absent: Andrea Perry, Steve Harris, Steve Lenzo
- c. Alternates Present: Debbie Swanson, Kimberley Sherwood, Mike Sullivan
- d. Staff Present: Britt Haley, Eric Becker, Kim King, Lonna Thelen, Stacey Schauer, Stephanie Adams, Alva Hamreteg, Maya Toribio

## **II. CALLED TO ORDER**

Board Chair, Sarah Bryarly, brought the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m.

## **III. CITIZEN DISCUSSION**

- a. Michael Phan, Director-at-Large for Pikes Peak Marathon, Inc., provided an overview of the Garden of the Gods 10 Mile, 10K and Trail Run event that was held in June. There was a great turnout, with three countries and forty-two states represented. Mr. Phan thanked Department staff for their tremendous support. Additionally, Mr. Phan explained that a portion of each entry is matched by Pikes Peak Marathon, Inc., and is donated back to the Department. Following this, Mr. Phan presented staff with a check for \$4,700 to continue supporting the maintenance of trails in Garden of the Gods Park.
- b. Jacob Figueroa, owner of SUP Colorado Springs, expressed concerns regarding the paddleboarding vendor at Prospect Lake. Mr. Figueroa shared his history of the area as the previous paddleboarding vendor and informed the Board of complaints that citizens and users had shared with him about the new vendor

and the Beach House. Complaints included safety concerns, the Beach House not being operated, and the deterioration of the facility. Mr. Figueroa expressed disappointment in the decision to close the Beach House this year.

- c. Susan Davies, Executive Director for the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), informed the Board of the Urban Stormwater bike tour that will be held the upcoming weekend. Next, Ms. Davies stated that her organization is in support of the proposed 2C Ballot Initiative and discussed the importance of the initiative passing successfully and the benefits to parks if it does.

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 10, 2024 MEETING MINUTES**

- a. Motion: To approve the July 10, 2024 meeting minutes.
- b. First: Amandla Atilano-Roque
- c. Second: Julia Sands de Melendez
- d. Approved, unanimously.

#### **V. PARTNER/COMMUNITY ITEMS**

- a. Generation Wild Update (Presented by Maury Peterson, Executive Director for the Catamount Institute)
  - 1. Maury Peterson, Executive Director for the Catamount Institute, presented the Board with the Generation Wild Update. This presentation included a thank you to Department staff who have supported Generation Wild; an overview of Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO); the structure of Generation Wild of the Pikes Peak Region Community/Coalition; overview of Generation Wild of the Pikes Peak Region; the Coalition organizers; Backpackers; Camp Shady Brook; Catamount Institute; Deerfield Hills Community Center; Fountain Creek Watershed District; Hillside Community Center; Kids on Bikes; Meadows Park Community Center; Mile High Youth Corps; Rocky Mountain Field Institute; Colorado Parks and Wildlife; and finally, upcoming events.

#### **VI. ACTION ITEMS**

- a. There were no action items on this agenda.

#### **VII. PRESENTATIONS**

- a. There were no presentation items on this agenda.

#### **VIII. STAFF UPDATES**

- a. Park and Recreation Month Overview (Presented by Stephanie Adams, Senior Analyst – Community Engagement)

1. Stephanie Adams, Senior Analyst – Community Engagement, presented the Board with the Park and Recreation Month overview. This presentation included public outreach; goals and objectives; Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Professionals Day; and finally, a thank you to sponsors.
- b. Prospect Lake/Panorama Park Evaluations (Presented by Alva Hamreteg and Maya Toribio, Colorado College Public Interest Fellows)
1. Alva Hamreteg and Maya Toribio, Colorado College Public Interest Fellows, presented the Board with the Prospect Lake and Panorama Park Evaluations. This presentation included observed use of Prospect Lake for summer 2024; methods; recreational activities observed; most popular activities by volume; park volume throughout the week; youth versus adult usage; motorized versus non-motorized use; qualitative data; recommendations; Panorama Park SOPARC observations for summer 2024; methods and scheduling; schedule and collection; zones with highest use; park user activity levels by gender; main activity of female park users; main activity of male park users; comparison of main activities by gender/overall most popular activities; observed ethnicity of park users; surveying; survey responses; and finally, recommendations.
- c. Memorial Park/Prospect Lake Updates (Presented by Eric Becker, Park Maintenance and Operations Manager, and Kim King, Assistant Director)
1. Eric Becker, Park Maintenance and Operations Manager, and Kim King, Assistant Director, presented the Board with the Memorial Park and Prospect Lake Updates. This presentation included beach refilling; new irrigation and turf conversion; Division of Water Resources; Swing High playground parking lot improvements; repairs to the lift station and opening of pavilion restroom; improvements to the horseshoe courts; the Safer Streets Grant; major sidewalk improvements; landscape bed enhancements; new practice cricket pitch; new park signage, benches, picnic tables, and dog waste stations; small vert ramp resurfacing; Veterans Memorial project; Memorial Park basketball court refurbishment project; Beach House renovations and update on operational status; Memorial Park Boat House; and finally, the Prospect Lake Aeration project.
- d. Stratton Park Update (Presented by Britt Haley, Director)

1. Britt Haley, Director, provided a verbal update on Stratton Park. In her update, Britt shared the purchase process from 2021, the partnership with the Golden Lotus Foundation, and the Department's vision for the site. Britt sent a letter of consideration of a proposal to the Golden Lotus Foundation and is waiting for a response. In the meantime, the building on the property is being utilized by Department staff for office and meeting space. Ideally, Britt would like to propose a public planning process to open the park and spotlight the Asian heritage influence as acknowledgement of the Golden Lotus Foundation's involvement in the purchase of this property. Should the Golden Lotus Foundation not provide an adequate proposal meeting parameters detailed by the Department, the park would then be considered for further park design and development efforts. Lonna Thelen, Design and Development Manager, shared next steps in the process, which would begin this October or November, with plans being brought to the Board in spring.
2. Board Vice Chair Abby Simpson requested a Board tour of the property. Britt Haley responded that staff would work on this request.

e. City Auditorium Update (Presented by Kim King, Assistant Director)

1. Kim King, Assistant Director, provided a brief verbal update on the City Auditorium. Kim informed the Board that the Memorandum of Understanding with the Colorado Springs Cultural Community Collective ended in November 2023. The Mayor's Office established a Community/Staff Solutions Team, who then determined options and next steps for the City Auditorium. Out of this process, a new Request for Proposal for operations and management of the site was released to the public, with bids due on August 27, 2024. Kim reminded the Board of the previous RFP process, renovation costs, ARPA funds, and prior facility usage. Kim will continue to provide further updates as they become available.

f. Other Updates

1. Scott Abbott, Regional Parks, Trails and Open Space Manager, announced that a large-scale fire mitigation project would begin in Stratton Open Space on August 19<sup>th</sup>. The Department is working with the Colorado Springs Fire Department's Mitigation Section and City Forestry to mitigate over 260 acres. Stratton Open Space will remain open during the mitigation work, however there may be intermittent closures of different areas of the park. Scott thanked his staff for their contributions to the project. Additionally, there is a project page on the City website with more information.

2. Lonna Thelen, Design and Development Manager, announced that the e-bike survey had been closed, and results are being analyzed. The Board should expect to see a presentation at the next meeting, including final results and outcomes. Next, Lonna informed the Board that the Oak Meadows playground renovation had been completed. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on August 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m., and Board members are encouraged to attend if they are able to.
3. Eric Becker, Park Maintenance and Operations Manager, announced that one set of the tennis courts at John Venezia Park is being resurfaced into a pickleball court. Additionally, lights will be added to the courts in September, with landscape improvements around the courts beginning in 2025.
4. Britt Haley, Director, provided a brief update on Incline staffing. Staffing by the Department was eliminated due to budget limitations. However, the reservation system remains in place. Staff and overall operations of the Incline continue to be discussed between City staff and Manitou Springs.

## **IX. BOARD BUSINESS**

- a. Ethics Code and Open Meetings Law Training (Presented by Young Shin, Associate Attorney – Corporate Division for the Office of the City Attorney)
  1. Young Shin, Associate Attorney – Corporate Division for the Office of the City Attorney, presented the Board with the Ethics Code and Open Meetings Law Training. This presentation included the City Code of Ethics; covered persons; advisory opinion; gifts; gift exceptions; conflicts of interest; Open Meetings Law; and finally, Open Meetings Law: Notice.
- b. Other Business
  1. Board Member Julia Sands de Melendez announced that the LART Committee has \$3,000,000 to award, with about \$7,000,000 in requests. Ms. Sands de Melendez said an increase to LART funding would only occur by a vote of the people on a ballot measure.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Motion: To adjourn the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board meeting at 11:07 a.m.
- b. First: Julia Sands de Melendez
- c. Second: Larry Bogue
- d. Approved, Unanimously