

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2015**

Members Present: Hank Scarangella, Ron Ilgen, Scot Hume, Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, Mina Liebert

Members Absent: Alex Johnson, John Maynard

Alternate Present: Bob Lally

Alternate Absent: Jason Rupinski

Staff Present: Kim King, Karen Palus, Kurt Schroeder, Julie Lafitte, Jake Butterfield

Call to Order

Jackie Hilaire convened the meeting at 7:32am

Citizen Discussion

Steve Boone (Sports Corp Commissioner for Pickleball):

- Third year to participate in Rocky Mountain State Games; have doubled participation to almost 200 players. Everyone is invited to watch.
- Survey of players at MVP courts for 30 days. Almost 100 players/day for 3 hours/person. 40-50 participants each Saturday at free lessons.
- Repairs ready for Great Plains Regional Tournament in September, hopefully by State Games in July. Lots of out of town participants in both tournaments.

Bob Falcone (FOCC):

- Mt. Muscoco Trail has opened, thanks to Board and Parks Department for support of the project, particularly to David Deitemeyer. There will be a formal trail opening at a later date.

Jim Wahl:

- Brought Wilson Park in the Rustic Hills area to the attention of the Board. The park has deteriorated over the years and is currently full of weeds. He thanked Kurt for his work on the park, including coordinating maintenance with District 11, but mentioned the vintage 1968 irrigation system as one part of the problem. Kurt responded that the park is one of those located at a school and there has been some confusion over the responsibility for maintenance. Kurt has met with District 11 to rework the agreement. He will give a progress report in the fall. Charles asked Kurt to help Mr. Wahl if he decided to form a Friends Group for the park.

Bill Koerner (TOSC):

- Mentioned the Starlight Spectacular bike ride coming up on June 20. Thanked the City for fixing potholes along the route for the safety of the riders.

Terry Peisner and Meg Kendo(FMVP):

- Gave an update on repairs during the past two years on the rock walls in Monument Valley Park.
- Requested \$20,000 in matching funds from the department for a grant to repair the Columbia Street entrance to the park.

Approval of Minutes – May 14, 2015

Motion: Ron Ilgen/Second: Charles Castle Approved - Unanimous

Ceremonial Items (These took place at 10:00am.)

- Chris Lieber recognized FirstBank for their donation of 9.46 acres to the Northgate Open Space and presented bank representative Bobbie Norton with a certificate of appreciation.
- Karen Palus introduced water conservation specialist, Eric Becker, who has recently joined the department from Colorado Springs Utilities.

Action Item

- Appointment of new TOPS Working Committee members and alternates.
 - Chris Lieber thanked former members Kirk Samelson, PJ Anderson, and Jim Rees for their time and leadership on the Committee.
 - Thanked Scot Hume and Jackie Hilaire for their time dedicated to the interview panel.
 - Recommended members: Cathy Grossman, Sarah Musick, Nancy Hobbs (will fill Kirk Samelson's term)
 - Recommended alternates: Sarah Blakeslee and Jim Klever

Motion: Approval of the three recommended TOPS Working Committee members and two alternates.

Motion: Scot Hume/Second: Charles Castle Approved: Unanimous

Presentations

- Tim Mitros presented the repairs Public Works will be doing in the Rockrimmon Open Space.
- Aaron Egbert, Priscilla Marbaker (Tapis), Lisa Bachman (Bachman PR) and Steve Murray (FHU) presented the work so far on the Envision Shooks Run project.
- Chris Lieber presented the Preliminary 2016 CIP Budget

Citizen Comments:

- Bill Koerner (TOSC)—TOSC is regarded as the “keeper of TOPS”. Would like to dispel notion that TOPS is mature or in transition. Want to honor intention of voters by focusing on the future. We preserve about 6000 acres of Open Space compared to other counties at 43,000 or 51,000 acres. How did the other counties accomplish this? They had better financial resources because their TOPS equivalent tax percentages are higher. Need to acknowledge we're playing catch up. Need to be sensitive to institutionalizing stewardship needs. 38% to maintenance, stewardship and CIP, 41% to Open Space. The real need is to implement the Master Plan—we need to estimate those costs. Message: be careful with how we spend our TOPS money.
- Bob Lally (Board alternate)—Need to think about the ballot initiative; seize moment with new administration and City Council. 60% of our citizens are not aware of what we do. They need to know what's in it for them. Parks Board needs to advocate for citizens.

Board Comments:

- Hank Scarangella would like a copy of the presentation. Endorses previous comments.
- Ron Ilgen would like to know if there's something specific they can do relative to City Council. Chris: be strategic about which projects are in which bucket. Karen: take the 2016 budget survey on the City website; pass it on to your friends and colleagues. Opportunities to meet with Council Members
- Scot Hume is concerned about ten-fold escalation of land management costs. Chris responded that we need to ask what services we want to provide; we are currently

suggesting a higher level of service than in the past. To date we haven't had a comprehensive stewardship program and have not addressed needs. The vast majority of the costs are associated with people using the land. Scot is also concerned about mixing operations and capital funds. Chris asked for comments to be emailed.

- Charles Castle advocated for a dedicated amount of General Fund to go to Parks.
- Jackie Hilaire thanked Chris for the presentation and for the stewardship workshop. She remarked that the budget is always a way of distributing insufficient funds to different priorities and reminded that 84% of citizens want us to take care of what we have.
- Staff members elaborated on some of the many stewardship areas that have been neglected due to lack of funding or personnel time.
- Carly Kobasiar presented the revised fee waiver policy and changes to fee-based activity permits. She also shared the new PR & CS logo.

Staff Reports

6. Eric Becker gave an overview of recently installed Smart Controller irrigation systems in many parks. Shawn Riley showed the Board how a park maintenance tech is able to use the system. The system allows for greater efficiency and accuracy for both personnel time and water use.
7. Tilah Larson gave an update on the Greenway Collaborative.
8. David Deitemeyer gave a verbal update on progress in repairing 2015 Flood Damage.

Board Business

9. Election of Board Chair and Vice-Chair
 - a. Motion for Jackie Hilaire to continue as Board Chair from Charles Castle/Second: Ron Ilgen
Approved—unanimous
 - b. Motion for Gary Feffer to continue as Board Vice-Chair from Scot Hume/Second: Charles Castle.
Approved—unanimous
10. Scot Hume and Charles Castle volunteered to be liaisons to the Envision Shooks Run Project.
11. Mina Liebert and Hank Scarangella volunteered to be liaisons to the Deerfield Expansion Project.
12. Gary Feffer volunteered as liaison to the Stratton Open space Management Plan Process.
13. The park safety item was previously resolved. Tilah will give a presentation about the Park Ambassador program at a later date.
14. The Board recommends that Mina Liebert should continue on the LART committee.

Announcements by Karen Palus:

- City Council had reconfirmed Ron Ilgen and Alex Johnson for second terms on the Board, and had confirmed alternate Jason Rupinski to move to a Board seat.
- Mayor's Cup golf tournament next week which supports First Tee at Valley Hi.
- June 19 GOCO grant award announcement for Legacy Loop at Fontanero and Recreation Way.
- Valley Hi Foot Golf now open, tournament with Switchbacks on June 26.

Mr. Castle submitted these notes regarding Meadows Park Community Center prior to the meeting:

- June 23 City Council. Resolution proclaiming July as P&R Month. Youth, staff and volunteers will be on site to support the resolution.
- June 24 Bike to Work Day. Over 70 riders from 5 Meadows Park camp programs are expected to participate in the ride for a combined total of 450 pedaled miles. Following the event, campers

will travel to the Olympic Training Center in support of Olympic Week, where they will receive an inspirational talk from an athlete and participate in Olympic and Paralympic events in the training facilities e.g. sit volleyball.

- Through the Kaiser Permanente Walk & Wheel grant:
 - Colorado College Public Interest Fellowship Program fellow Victoria (Tori) Johnson began her full-time, 10-week fellowship with the department on Tuesday. An environmental policy major, Tori will be supporting the department in myriad ways this summer, including:
 - League of Cyclists 2016 application for Colorado Springs: ID gaps, support in maintaining existing silver status, aiming for gold.
 - Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) policy. Identify ways that department/city can further support initiative and improve rated status.
 - Pilot garden programs. Work with Karen Fleming on introducing pilot program that identifies a park tennis court in need of repair and converts it (at least temporarily) to raised garden beds.
 - Public Land Dedication Ordinance (PLDO). Explore what other communities are doing, how CS could introduce.
 - Memorial bench program. Research possible stewardship policies, explore alternatives to benches for citizens wishing to memorialize a loved one in city parks.
 - Toolkit for bicycle-friendly businesses. Develop a step-by-step process in collaboration with Transit Division.
 - \$1000 provided to develop pilot Walk with a Doc, Converse with a Nurse, etc. (Tryst with a Botanist, Drink with a Shrink, Run with a Nun). Perhaps mention preliminary work you have done with north hospital and Venezia Park and our goal to assist in fostering walking culture and park utilization by hospital employees and patients following its dedication.
 - Blue Moon Trail Run Series. June 26, 5:30 p.m. Kokopelli Kids Run (12 and under), adults 6 p.m. (5K). Piñon Valley, Ute Valley Parks. Net proceeds benefit city community centers, Friends of Cheyenne Cañon, Friends of Ute Valley Park. Parks Board interested in supporting, walking, having a booth?

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:56am.