



**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, December 8, 2022**

**Members Present:** David Siegel, Sarah Bryarly, Larry Bogue, Steve Harris, Greg Thornton, Dr. Daniel Bowan, Julia Sands de Melendez, Abby Simpson, Andrea Perry

**Alternates Absent:** Steve Lenzo

**Staff Present:** Britt Haley, Kim King, Eric Becker, Anna White, David Deitemeyer, Blake Zink

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**Called to Order:** Board Chair David Siegel brought the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. following the annual Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board holiday breakfast.

**Citizen Discussion**

Cory Sutela, Executive Director for Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, thanked the Board and staff members who were able to join Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates for their Ugly Sweater Party.

Judith Rice-Jones, citizen, took a moment to honor Lee Milner, who had served many years on the TOPS (Trails, Open Space and Parks) Working Committee, as well as helping to create the program in 1997. Next, Ms. Rice-Jones commented that the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board used to receive the book former Director Nancy Lewis wrote. She reminded the Board that their duty is to the citizens to help inform the Department, not to the Department itself. She also added that they were chosen to help protect General Palmer's vision for the parks. Ms. Rice-Jones said she had additional reading material she could send to the Board pertaining to her comments.

**Approval of Minutes – November 10, 2022 meeting minutes.**

**Motion – To approve the November 10, 2022 meeting minutes with proposed changes.**

1<sup>st</sup> – Julia Sands de Melendez, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Larry Bogue, Approved, Unanimously with Board member Sarah Bryarly abstaining.

**Partner/Community Update**

**Pikes Peak Pickleball Association Update**

Vicky Mediate, Secretary for the Pikes Peak Pickleball Association, presented the Board with the Pikes Peak Pickleball Association Update. This presentation included background on the Pikes Peak Pickleball Association; information on the Colorado Pickleball Open – Pikes Peak or Bust; the tournament summary; photos from the tournament; tournament takeaways; September 2022 tournaments at Monument Valley Park; and finally, available 2023 weekend Pickleball tournament dates. In the presentation, the Association had made a request to block certain weekends from out of City/State event organizers hosting Pickleball tournaments, as they can deter attendance. Blake Zink, Senior Program Administrator, gave the Board background on the Special Event permitting process, and said while this request will be taken into consideration, it is not a policy within the Department. The Board requested that the permitting and fee policy be revisited later in the year.

### **Action Items**

There were no action items on this agenda.

### **Presentations**

**TOPS (Trails, Open Space, and Parks) Ballot Update** (Presented by Britt Haley, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director)

Britt Haley, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, presented the Board with the TOPS (Trails, Open Space and Parks) Ballot Update. This verbal update included the proposed ballot language to extend the TOPS program for another twenty years and open up the remaining categories, to which Britt added, that the Mayor was comfortable with the proposed language. Britt recognized Board Chair David Siegel and Board member Dr. Daniel Bowan for their work on the President’s Commission for Sustainable Park Funding in 2021, and that recommendations from that Commission were factored into the previous ballot measure, as well as this one. Britt also detailed the time frame for this ballot measure, which will be voted upon by City Council on the January 10<sup>th</sup> regular City Council meeting. Due to this timeline, Britt offered that the Board had three options: to change their January meeting date; have a special meeting; or advise Council with an informal recommendation.

Key takeaways from the Board and citizen comment:

- Board members agreed that formal action should be taken on the topic.
- Polling did not support an increase, and the Mayor would like to see the success of an extension before his time in office comes to an end.
- Educating the public on TOPS is imperative, and an informed campaign is crucial. Britt Haley said that the Trust for Public Land’s Conservation Finance team conducted the polling and have offered to help with the campaign.
- Analysis was done after the previous ballot initiative failed, which showed that education needed to be done for residents living on the East side of town, which is not as open-space heavy as other areas of town.

- The current language was heavily reviewed to make it more readable. However, Board members did ask for some definitions of wording in the language. Britt said she could try to provide this, but the language had been crafted by the City Attorney's Office based on the previous initiative, polling, and the Commission for Sustainable Funding.
- Board member Dr. Bowan stated that he felt the Board had not been given a chance for input, and that he was not happy with the compressed timeframe, as well as the changes in the language.
- Board member Julia Sands de Melendez said some additional information on spending in each category would be helpful for the Board to see.
- Bob Falcone, the TOPS Working Committee Chair, commented briefly that the Committee had discussed the same topic, but Committee comments were generally in support, though a slight change in language had been suggested after the meeting.
- Concern from many citizens centered around opening up the Open Space category. The main concern is that some of the wording would leave funding to be used for maintenance and development versus acquisition. Additionally, some citizens argued that flexibility can be detrimental, as it could change the initial focus of TOPS, which was to acquire and preserve open space. As a compromise, it was suggested to open up the Trails category, but leave the Open Space category untouched.
- Other citizens argued that flexibility is necessary so projects can be completed, and that the program is twenty-five years old, and thus needs to change as needs change.
- When citizen comments were finished, the Board returned to comments. Board member Steve Harris commented that while he trusts our current staff to continue the current good work of TOPS, the language needs to reflect the original vision of TOPS for future staff.
- The Board discussed the idea of having a meeting following the TOPS Working Committee meeting on January 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss TOPS. Britt said she would work with the Board Chair and Vice Chair to come up with the next steps for meeting and would let the Board know as soon as possible.

**Garden of the Gods Trading Post Encroachment Correction** (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect, and Britt Haley, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director)

David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect, and Britt Haley, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, presented the Board with the Garden of the Gods Trading Post Encroachment Correction. This presentation included an overview map; land exchange transaction elements; photos of the site; and finally, next actions.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

### **Staff Updates**

Britt Haley, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, gave the following staff updates:

- Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager, won the 2022 Employee of the Year for the Department. Britt thanked Kim for all of her hard work in 2022, which included some public-facing challenges and changes in leadership. Multiple Board members extended their congratulations to Kim.
- John Stark, Garden of the Gods Manager, had accepted the position of Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Manitou Springs. His last day with the City will be January 2, and staff and the Board wished him all the best on his next endeavour.

### **Board Business**

#### **Selection of Board Liaison for Blodgett Master Planning Process**

David Deitemeyer informed the Board of the need for a liaison for the Blodgett Master Planning Process and detailed the timeline. Board member Steve Harris volunteered to be the liaison.

#### **Other Business**

There was no other Board business at this time.

### **Adjournment**

**Motion: Move to adjourn the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board meeting at 12:05 p.m.**

1<sup>st</sup> – Julia Sands de Melendez, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Andrea Perry, Approved, Unanimously.