



**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board Special Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 9, 2023**

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

Members Absent: Steve Harris

Alternates Present: Steve Lenzo

Staff Present: Britt Haley, Kim King, Eric Becker, Anna White, Connie Schmeisser

Called to Order: Board Chair David Siegel brought the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m.

Citizen Discussion

Thomas Lachocki, citizen, attended the Coleman Park Master Plan public meeting. Mr. Lachocki submitted a proposal to put a disc golf course on the site since funding the final master plan will be a challenge. He stated that his proposal would cost around \$60,000 for installation. Additionally, he suggested that there be a modification to the master plan to keep the disc golf course once construction begins. Britt Haley, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, updated Mr. Lachocki and the Board on the timeline and the 2B funding dynamic.

Susan Davies, Executive Director for the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), said her organization has printed fact cards about the TOPS ballot extension and would be happy to provide them for anyone hosting events. Additionally, she has yard signs for anyone who might be interested. Finally, her organization has sent questions to candidates running for mayor about their support of TOPS.

Kathy Perry, citizen, is a member of the Westside Community Center Working Committee. She thanked staff, the other members of the Working Committee, and Board liaisons Greg Thornton and Julia Sands de Melendez for their support of the Committee. The Westside Community Center has met a few milestones, including building improvements and full staffing. Ms. Perry is looking forward to continuing to help develop programming and supporting staff moving forward.

Keith Thompson, citizen, informed the Board of a newly formed mountain biking group in Colorado Springs, called the Colorado Springs Mountain Biking Association. This group was formed by a group of citizens who felt similar groups were not representing the true interests of bikers. This new group is looking forward to finding alignment with the plans and projects of

the Department. Additionally, the group's main objective is to build positive relationships between the Department and mountain bikers. Finally, Mr. Thompson said that his group is looking forward to signing a Friends Group agreement.

Approval of Minutes – January 4, 2023 meeting minutes.

Motion – To approve the January 4, 2023 meeting minutes.

1st – Greg Thornton, 2nd – Sarah Bryarly, Approved, Unanimously.

Community/Partner Update – 8:30 a.m. Time Certain

Youth Advisory Council (YAC) Presentation (Presented by Joyce Salazar, Community Outreach Coordinator for El Paso County Public Health, and the Youth Advisory Council (YAC))

Joyce Salazar, Community Outreach Coordinator for El Paso County Public Health, and the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) presented the Board with the RISE Southeast and Youth Advisory Council Sand Creek Trail Project presentation. This presentation included the mission and vision of RISE Southeast; youth leaders; where it all began; Panorama Park and beyond; parks, schoolyards and trails; choosing the trail; the Sand Creek Trail proposal; art; benches and lighting; the plan; a phased approach; why we care; and finally, community needs.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

Board members thanked RISE Southeast and the YAC for coming in and presenting, with many comments from the Board stating their appreciation for these students and their desire to better their community. A suggestion from the Board was to also present this proposal to the Public Art Commission.

Action Items

Corral Bluffs Acquisition (Presented by Britt Haley, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director)

Britt Haley, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, presented the Board with a 5.74 acre acquisition in Corral Bluffs. This presentation included the candidate open space map; a map of the property; information about the recent fossil discoveries in Corral Bluffs; details of the acquisition; and finally, the proposed motion.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

Board member Dr. Daniel Bowan asked if there is a long-term plan to keep the cell tower on the site. Britt Haley responded that there are five renewal opportunities for a five year lease for the cell tower on the land. If the lease were to expire or be terminated, Dr. Bowan asked what would happen to the cell tower. Britt replied that the company who owns the cell tower would be required to remove all of the equipment and infrastructure.

Motion: Move to recommend approval of acquisition of approximately five point seven four (5.74) acres of property identified by tax schedule number 4505 000 007 and approval to expend up to \$200,000 for the property acquisition and transaction costs from the TOPS Open Space Category revenues.

1st – Greg Thornton, 2nd – Sarah Bryarly, Approved, Unanimously.

Presentation Items

Wild Horse Ranch Acquisition Opportunity (Presented by Britt Haley, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director)

Britt Haley, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, presented the Board with the Wild Horse Ranch Acquisition Opportunity. This presentation included the area map; the overview map; transaction information; photos of the property; and finally, considerations.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

Board member Dr. Daniel Bowan raised some concerns about the fund balance to purchase this property, stating he worried about spending a big portion of that balance with there being a chance that TOPS is not extended in the upcoming election. Dr. Bowan requested that this item not be considered for approval until after the results of the April election are known. Britt Haley said she could look into this option.

Staff Updates

General Updates

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

- Britt has asked Human Resources to prioritize hiring for the community centers ahead of the summer season, as well as the Urban Trail Ranger positions. Britt added that the Garden of the Gods Manager position received great interest and she is reviewing applications.
- The Department applied for an received a grant for \$1,700,000 for safety improvements at Memorial Park. This includes the installation of gates, security cameras, and more lighting.
- Britt stated that the next step of the TOPS campaign will be to submit “pro” and “con” statements to the City Clerk’s office. Additionally, the Mayor has encouraged Britt and staff to meet with mayoral candidates to inform them about the TOPS program if candidates reach out. Britt stated it is important for candidates to understand how important the program is to the City. Finally, Britt thanked Susan Davies for her organization’s work on the TOPS campaign.

Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager, gave the following updates:

- Kim introduced April Allen, the new Analyst II for Volunteer Coordination and Social Media. April has a robust background in marketing and volunteer coordination and is looking forward to her new role.
- Board member Dr. Daniel Bowan inquired about the status of the Senior Center as it is undergoing construction. Kim King gave a brief timeline of the Center and how it ended up under the jurisdiction of City Facilities. Our Department is coordinating with the YMCA and the Senior Center to provide services and programs during the closure. Dr. Bowan said he would like to see a recommendation made to City Council to see the Senior Center return to the Department.

Eric Becker, Park Maintenance and Operations Manager, informed the Board that the Department had received a grant that funded the purchase of two TrackChairs. These chairs will be used by the Regional Parks team in conjunction with the Therapeutic Recreation Program to help individuals with different abilities enjoy our park system.

Board Business

Greg Thornton – Mr. Thornton informed the Board that there is a new Pike Ride station at the Westside Community Center. Additionally, he let the Board know that the Westside Community Center Working Committee and staff have been working hard to develop the proposal process for programming and leased space at the Center.

Sarah Bryarly – Ms. Bryarly stated that the Coleman Park Master Plan public meeting went well, and the plan was well received. Board member Abby Simpson added to this statement that Connie Schmeisser, Landscape Architect II, had done a fabulous job running the public meeting.

Andrea Perry – Ms. Perry asked about the status of the Kettle Creek donation property. Britt Haley responded that it hasn't moved forward just yet, and she needs to meet with the family who wants to donate the land. She is looking forward to providing an update soon.

Dr. Daniel Bowan – Dr. Bowan asked about the status of the Forest Service closure on the Palmer Trail in Section 16. Eric Becker responded that the Forest Service was doing a geotechnical assessment. Eric will try to provide a better update once that assessment is complete.

David Siegel – Mr. Siegel said LART is evaluating the off-cycle requests currently.

Adjournment

Motion: Move to adjourn the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board meeting at 8:56 a.m.

1st – Larry Bogue, 2nd – Greg Thornton, Approved, Unanimously.

