

CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS

# **WESTSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER WORKING COMMITTEE MINUTES**

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Location: 1628 West Bijou Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904

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Date: October 17, 2024

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Time: 2:00 p.m.

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## **I. MEETING ATTENDANCE**

- a. Members Present: Justin Trudeau, Liz Lopez Vaughan, Susan Baldwin, Tena Jelinek, Kathy Perry, Nancy Bernard
- b. Members Absent: Ann Petit, Judy McKay-Harbert
- c. Alternates Present: Sarah Grant
- d. Alternates Absent: N/A
- e. Parks Advisory Board Liaisons Present: Greg Thornton
- f. Staff Present: Felicia Barnhart, Mark Snow, Young Shin

## **II. CALLED TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Justin Trudeau brought the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

## **III. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Justin Trudeau announced that Sarah Grant will move from an alternate position to a voting committee member.

## **IV. CITIZEN DISCUSSION**

Rich Lins recognized that Committee minutes have been posted on the community board. He asked of the status of the \$10,000 that the previous operator left for the Center to use. He encouraged each Committee Member be a connection point to all activity groups at the Center- to check in and stay informed from the user side.

Kathy Perry mentioned the YMCA Senior Center suspended Silver Sneakers classes during September - October 2024 and expressed thanks that WCC staff were able to quickly secure exercise during the break. Kathy is concerned that when the Senior Center returns to their space on Hancock Avenue, Silver Sneakers will not be available

at WCC and wants to find a way to ensure Silver Sneakers remains an activity at the center.

## **V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 19, 2024, MEETING MINUTES**

- a. Motion: To approve the September 19, 2024, meeting minutes.
- b. First: Liz Lopez Vaughan
- c. Second: Nancy Bernard
- d. Approved, unanimously.

## **VI. ACTION ITEMS**

There were no action items on this agenda.

## **VII. PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentation items on this agenda.

## **VIII. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

Working Committee Strategic Plan Discussion

- a. Community Survey Update
  1. Committee Chair Justin Trudeau shared 35 surveys had been completed so far and presented those results to the Committee.
  2. Results are comprised of hard copies completed and returned to the front office, online submissions, and during WestFest. Liz mentioned she administered surveys at West Middle School's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash.
  3. The Committee brainstormed ways to reach non-Center users and increase survey completion participation.
- b. Focus Groups
  1. Next steps after the survey will be to conduct a strategic plan. However, Committee members agreed to conduct focus groups and wait to dive into the strategic plan until after the holiday season.
- c. Adopt-a-Trail
  1. Greg mentioned we would lead the charge of WCC becoming an Adopt-a-trail sponsor for Midland Trail between 8<sup>th</sup> Street and 21<sup>st</sup> Street. He wants to see Westside residents participating in cleanups.
  2. Greg plans to work with Jamie to schedule a first clean-up event.

## **IX. STAFF UPDATES**

Facility Operations: Campus ADA /Roof and Gutter/HVAC Improvement Update; Staffing Update; West Elementary/Middle School Birthday Bash – October 11, 4 to 7 p.m.; Pumpkins in the Park – October 19, 12 to 4 p.m.; programs and leases update

- a. Felicia Barnhart, Park Operations Administrator, provided the following updates:
  1. A contractor has been selected for the HVAC improvements and will be announced soon. ARPA funds are being used to pay for the improvements; this will not be a WCC expense.
  2. Staff completed building monitor seasonal interviews. Staff hope to make an offer soon.
  3. West Elementary and Middle School celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Committee Vice Chair Liz Lopez Vaughan volunteered to help Nathan man a table. It was estimated that roughly 70 people approached the table, mostly youth.
  4. Susan Baldwin and Parks Advisory Board Liaison Greg Thornton will be manning a WCC booth at Pumpkins in the Park at Bancroft Park on October 19<sup>th</sup>.
  5. Felicia Barnhart read a programs and leases report written by Jamie Bequette.
  6. Mark mentioned multiple Working Committee members have reached their 2-year term. He asked those mentioned if they wanted to renew. Kathy Perry, Justin Trudeau, Liz Lopez Vaughan, and Tena Jelenik have all asked to serve another 2-year term. Mark will take these names to the November Parks Board meeting to seek renewal approval.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Motion: To adjourn the Westside Community Center Working Committee meeting at 3:28 p.m.
- b. First: Justin Trudeau
- c. Second: Greg Thornton
- d. Approved, Unanimously