



**TOPS Working Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 6, 2022**

Members Present: Blaze Panariso, Bob Falcone (virtual), Nancy Hobbs, Bob Shafer, Stephanie Surch, Wendy Thomas, Hank Scarangella, Paula Krantz, Ingrid Richter, Jeff Davis (Alternate)

Parks Board Liaisons Present: Carol Beckman, Greg Thorton

Parks Board Liaisons Absent: Abby Simpson

Staff Present: Anna White, Melody Horbach, Kurt Schroeder, Britt Haley, David Deitemeyer, Erik Weitzel, Kim King, Anna Cordova, Scott Abbott, Cassie Melvin, Vanessa Zink, Matt Mayberry

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TOPS Working Committee Vice Chair Nancy Hobbs brought the meeting to order at 7:32 A.M.

Agenda Preview

Committee Vice Chair Nancy Hobbs announced the agenda for the meeting.

Announcements

David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect, made the following announcement:

- Fisher’s Canyon phase II has officially closed and would like to thank everyone for their assistance through this process

Paula Krantz, committee member, made the following announcement:

- The motorless morning event at Garden of the Gods will be on Saturday, April 30th from 5 AM – 12 PM and would love for everyone to join

Nancy Hobbs, Vice Chair committee member, made the following announcement:

- Blue Moon Run Series/ Brian Kates – at Pinon Valley Park

Anna White, staff, made the following announcement on behalf of Karen Palus, Director of Parks, Recreation, & Cultural services:

- Next week at Parks Advisory Board on April 12th, we will be honoring 8 volunteers, including committee member Paula Krantz. It will start at 9 AM and will be at 1401 Recreation Way.

Britt Haley, TOPS Program Manager, made the following announcements:

- Per protocol, she would like to ensure there are no objections that Vice Chair Nancy Hobbs is conducting the meeting as Committee Chair Bob Falcone is virtual

- She is excited for TOPS Working Committee members to participate in a site tour at Jimmy Camp Creek. The tentative time is every third Wednesday from 3-5 PM. Council members and Parks Board members are more than welcome to join, but would like to avoid inviting the public to ensure those who are attending are able to experience it fully
- This will be Kurt Schroeder's final TOPS meeting due to his upcoming retirement. It has been a wonderful 41 years

Approval of Minutes

March 2, 2022

Motion: To approve the minutes of the March 2, 2022, TOPS Working Committee meeting with changes per Committee member Stephanie Surch's revisions.

1st - Paula Krantz, 2nd - Stephanie Surch - Approved: 8-1, Abstained - Wendy Thomas

Citizen Discussion

Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition, announced at TOSC's last advocacy meeting, there was a discussion regarding a status update on Jimmy Camp Creek and Corral Bluffs. Those at the meeting inquired if the Jimmy Camp Creek Master Plan is in the works, and strongly reiterated to be very careful with the property as the land is extremely important.

Morgan Wideburg, citizen, discussed she is trying to bring trail running and biking opportunities together. She would like to understand the TOPS properties better, specifically the impact on trails for those who participate in trail running and biking. One of the races she is currently working on is called the 100-miler, and it takes people back to the Pike National Forest, wrapping into the city, Palmer Park, Austin Bluffs, Ute Valley, and many more. Furthermore, she would like to understand passive recreation a little bit better, specifically the impact special events have on TOPS properties. Lastly, she would like to reiterate these events always give back to the community monetarily, such as to RMFI, TOSC, Medicine Wheel, and more.

Presentation Items

Jimmy Camp Creek Informational Presentation (Presented by Britt Haley, Matt Mayberry, Cultural Services Manager, and Anna Cordova, Parks Department Archaeologist)

Britt Haley, TOPS Program Manager, Matt Mayberry, Cultural Services Manager, and Anna Cordova, Parks Department Archaeologist, presented the Jimmy Camp Creek Informational Presentation to the TOPS Working Committee. This presentation included: General Context Map; Unique Features and Opportunities; Property Planning Overview; Park Planning Practical Considerations; Cultural and Scientific Landscape; Prehistoric Timeline; Historic Timeline; What

is Archaeology?; Archaeological and Cultural Resources; Types of Resources; What Does Mitigation Look Like?; and finally, a conclusion slide for any questions pertaining to the presentation.

Right before questions regarding the presentation, Britt Haley mentioned the K-T boundary that is outlined in red at Jimmy Camp Creek on the map passed around to the TOPS Working Committee members. The red line on the map signifies the K-T boundary and where it is exposed. The K-T boundary is the area of geology that shows exactly when the asteroid hit the Earth that caused the dinosaurs to die off, leaving a thin iridium layer across the entire Earth. It is extremely rare to have the K-T boundary exposed, and it is exposed at Jimmy Camp Creek.

Committee member Hank Scarangella brought up concern regarding whether there will be specific access to Jimmy Camp Creek and Corral Bluffs for the public in the future. If there is likely to be very little public access, he believes that will cause a difficult balancing act of preserving the property and providing public access.

Committee member Stephanie Surch stated this is a wonderful presentation with a lot of important information. She stated she did not know much about Jimmy Camp Creek until a few months ago. After living in Colorado Springs for ten years, she had no idea that this amount of archaeological significance existed at this property. She inquired to the staff regarding if there would be a risk allowing passive recreation in this area. She echoed Committee member Scarangella's comments on how to balance preserving the property and allowing public access. Matt Mayberry responded he certainly believes risk is a concern. It will be essential to find paths where people will want to go that mitigate the potential impact it will have on the site. Because most people will want to be on the archaeological site, it will be a difficult act to preserve the property while also providing public access. Anna Cordova added when she asked the same concern to Dr. Holly Norton, Colorado State Archaeologist, and the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, she provided some examples at the four corners area with great success and mentioned there is going to be some give and take with the archaeological sites.

Committee member Ingrid Richter inquired on updates regarding Norwood's development plans and the proposed location of Banning Lewis Ranch Parkway. Britt Haley responded that Norwood has hired AECOM to do some initial planning for their entire Banning Lewis Ranch holdings, called a framework plan. It is a pre-planning activity where they have put some of those roads and uses down on the map, but they have been clear that this is just a framework plan and it is flexible. What can be seen on their preliminary planning is that Banning Lewis Ranch Parkway basically has the south boundary of Jimmy Camp Creek property. Banning Lewis Parkway will go through that area and may or may not be sited right on the property's boundary depending on what City of Colorado Springs can acquire. The representatives of Norwood have indicated they are willing to discuss additional acquisition. This is a big opportunity and a great time for the program to explore what we can be achieved for that area so the residents of Eastern Colorado Springs have a balance of open space opportunities when compared to the residents of Western Colorado Springs.

Committee Vice Chair Nancy Hobbs inquired on the estimate of the archaeological survey work that would need to be done on the property, and what exactly is a peeled tree. Anna Cordova responded in the past the tree bark would be peeled by native people to get to the cambium layer for the calcium content which is enormous even on a small amount. It is a great source of calcium mostly used for medicinal purposes. Because of this, peeled trees can be found at roughly head height on the property as women usually performed this task. In response to the estimate done on the property, Matt Mayberry added all the sites that are currently eligible need to be revisited and a general survey would also be required. The travel consultation, the revisit, and the general survey is extraordinarily complex and expensive, roughly \$50,000 to begin.

Committee member Wendy Thomas added she understand Jimmy Camp is a little different as this property was gifted to the City. Furthermore, she said Jimmy Camp has extraordinary cultural and natural resource value and there is no way to qualify this value in terms of monetary value. She inquired what the definition and the intended use of a PK zoning is and would like to know how homeowners are going to use or not going to use this site as well. Moreover, she mentioned she wonders why there is so much pressure to master plan a site that is so unique to the community rather than focusing on acquisition at other sites that would more fully lend themselves to the type of passive recreation uses people are expressing on the eastern side of Colorado Springs. Britt Haley thanked Committee member Thomas, who has over thirty-five years of experience in land use planning, as a Council member asked a similar question. She added across the United States, there are fascinating places people can access and appreciate. With Committee member Thomas' expertise, it allows staff to develop a better idea on what that balance would be on preserving the land and recreational use.

[Link to PowerPoint](#)

TOPS 25 Celebration (Presented by Vanessa Zink, Senior Communications Specialist)

Vanessa Zink, Senior Communications Specialist, presented the TOPS 25 Celebration to the TOPS Working Committee. This presentation included: Objective; Communication Goals; Key Topics; Key Moments; Channels; Implementation; and Faces of TOPS.

[Link to PowerPoint](#)

Citizen Discussion

There were no further comments at this time.

Motion to adjourn

1st –Bob Schaffer , 2nd – Paula Krantz, Approved, Unanimously at 9:37 A.M.