



TOPS Working Committee Meeting
Virtual Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Members Present: Bob Falcone, Blaze Panariso, Nancy Hobbs, Ingrid Richter, Bob Shafer, Lee Milner, Paula Krantz

Alternates Absent: Scott Lewandowski

Parks Board Liaisons Present: Carol Beckman, Greg Thornton, Jason Rupinski

Staff Present: Britt Haley, Kurt Schroeder, Karen Palus, Kim King, Anna White, Emily Duncan

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TOPS Working Committee Chair Bob Falcone brought the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m.

Agenda Preview

Committee Chair Bob Falcone announced the agenda for the meeting.

Announcements

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

- City Council unanimously approved the Mountain Shadows Open Space acquisition, with second readings for the supplemental appropriation. She added that there was unanimous approval from the Mined Land Reclamation Board on Reclamation Plan Permit Amendment 4, upon which our contracts were contingent.
- There will be a site visit on July 15 between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. for the parcel Emily Duncan, Trail Development Coordinator, will be presenting on later in the meeting. Britt will send out more details. Everyone is required to drive to the site separately and practice social distancing while viewing the property.
- Staff is working hard on the budget. Charae McDaniel, Chief Financial Officer, will be presenting on the TABOR ratchet down effect to the Parks Advisory Board on July 9 and Britt encouraged TOPS Working Committee members to tune into the meeting for this presentation.
- Britt gave a shout out to Gillian Rossi, Park Ranger Supervisor, and the ranger team for their hard work cleaning up a very large homeless camp on the Incline Northern Return Trail.
- Britt announced that there would be an update on the Parks Infrastructure Analysis during the August meeting. Committee member Lee Milner asked if this analysis included trails and open space. Britt responded yes, and it includes every asset of the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department.
- Britt will be discussing some acquisition items with members on a two-person basis, instead of doing an executive session.

Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Director, gave the following COVID-19 update:

- El Paso County received its variance for indoor and outdoor operations, so we have been able to open more facilities.
- Sertich Ice Center will be able to add more operations under new variances.
- The Pioneers Museum will open sometime in the next week.
- The Manitou Springs Incline is still closed. Our department is still waiting on a response to a proposed free reservation system. We are hoping to hear by the next Manitou Springs City Council meeting on July 7.

TOPS Working Committee Chair Bob Falcone added that he had hosted Karen Palus on a podcast recently where they discussed the Incline.

Approval of Minutes – June 3, 2020

Motion: To approve the minutes of the June 3, 2020 TOPS Working Committee meeting minutes.

1st – Nancy Hobbs, 2nd – Ingrid Richter, Approved, Unanimously

Citizen Discussion

There was no citizen discussion at this time.

Presentations

Sand Creek Trail at Dublin Acquisition (Presented by Emily Duncan, Trails Development Coordinator)

Emily Duncan, Trail Development Coordinator, presented the TOPS Working Committee with the TOPS Trails Budget Transfer for Acquisition at Sand Creek Trail. This presentation included an overview of the parcel; a map displaying where the parcel is and current trail alignment; a picture of the parcel; the budget transfer information; and finally, an alternative trail alignment and cost if the acquisition is not approved.

[Link to PowerPoint presentation here](#)

Manitou Incline Northern Return Trail Update (Presented by Emily Duncan, Trails Development Coordinator)

Emily Duncan presented the TOPS Working Committee with an update on the Northern Incline Return Trail. This presentation included an overview of the current trail construction; a map showing the current return trail alignment; a map showing connectivity to the Ute Pass

Regional Trail; pictures of the trail as well as the recent camp cleanup on the trail; and finally, the project timeline.

[Link to PowerPoint presentation here](#)

Citizen Discussion

Susan Davies, Executive Director for the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), had a trail mixer for their members recently. Emily Duncan shared information about the 2B TABOR projects and funding, which was well received and Susan thanked Emily.

Motion to adjourn

1st – Nancy Hobbs, 2nd – Lee Milner, Approved, Unanimously