



**TOPS Working Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes - FINAL
Wednesday, September 5, 2018**

Members Present: Jason Alwine, Cathy Grossman, Nancy Hobbs, Lily Weissgold, Becky Wegner, Lee Milner, Jim Klever, Joe Lavorini, Jeff Mohrmann

Parks Board Liaisons Present: Carol Beckman, Mina Liebert

Parks Board Liaisons Absent: Jason Rupinski

Staff Present: Britt Haley, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Christi Mehew, Scott Abbott, John Stark

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Jason Alwine brought the meeting to order at 7:37 a.m.

Executive Session

In accord with the City Charter Art. III, §3-60(d) and the Colorado Open Meetings Act, C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(a and e), the TOPS Working Committee, in Open Session, is to determine whether it will hold a Closed Executive Session. The issues to be discussed involve determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations and instructing negotiators regarding a land acquisition matter. The Chair shall poll the TOPS Working Committee members, and, upon consent of two-thirds of the members present, may hold a closed executive session. If consent to the closed executive session is not given, the item may be discussed in open session or withdrawn from consideration.

Motion: To enter into a closed executive session.

1st – Nancy Hobbs, 2nd – Lily Weissgold, Approved, Unanimous

Motion: To end the closed executive session.

1st – Nancy Hobbs, 2nd – Becky Wegner, Approved, Unanimous

Citizen Discussion

Dave Schell, member of Friends of Red Rock Canyon (RRC), stated he has been involved with the Red Rock Canyon property since it was purchased. He has concerns about a trail at the bottom of the canyon that needs to be rerouted. The trail has been closed off due to erosion problems. The Friends of RRC want to protect the master plan and support having this area rehabilitated and a sustainable trail be completed.

David Valier, citizen, distributed a handout to the Committee that depicts the trail that Dave Schell was referring to at the bottom of the canyon. He stated the trail is important for users so they have an east to west crossing and encouraged members to visit the area.

Dan Downs, citizen, stated the water diversion system in the RRC area mentioned previously needs to be redesigned. The longer these issues continue the more damage will occur and the cost to fix it will increase. He requested that this topic be considered for the next TOPS meeting agenda.

Shanti Toll, citizen, stated this is the most important trail for users and is the east to west connection. The area is shady, beautiful, historic and feels like the heart of RRC open space. He requested a study be done on how to renovate this trail and the cost.

Glenn Pressman, citizen, stated he presented to the Committee in June and asked for a conservation easement on White Acres in RRC Open Space. The City Attorney was asked to make a presentation and a response has not been given. He requested that the conservation easement be on the October agenda as an action item whether or not the City Attorneys office gives a response. He would like the Committee's endorsement.

Committee discussion included: The Committee should wait to hear from the City Attorney's office before moving forward; Mr. Pressman has been waiting for almost a year on this item; the Committee can vote and take action; the item will need to go through the appropriate channels of approval; pursue trying to obtain information from the City Attorney's office and their position; and encourage a discussion between the City Attorney and the Committee.

Britt Haley, TOPS Program Manager:

- Stated Wynetta Massey, City Attorney and Lisa O'Boyle, Attorney, have been working on this item. She informed them that the Committee did not need a long written legal document and that a brief statement would be sufficient to provide guidance to the Committee. Lisa O'Boyle is on the TOPS October agenda to present the annual ethics presentation and this might be a good time to discuss the situation. She can request that Lisa O'Boyle be present for a discussion with the Committee during an executive session.
- The RRC connector trail can be on the October agenda as a presentation. Nancy Hobbs, TOPS Working Committee member, requested the distance of this trail.

Shanti Toll, citizen, stated he supports the conservation easement with or without the legal advice from the City Attorney's office.

Bill Koerner, citizen:

- Stated at the time RRC was purchased the intent was to include a conservation easement on White Acres. The City Attorney came forward and said it wasn't in the best interest of the City and they have now waited eight years which is inconceivable. They are concerned it could be sold and developed.
- He has noticed a lot of trash in the south area of RRC and this could be hazardous. He suggested the City consider an overall landfill modification to cover up the trash. Kurt Schroeder, Maintenance and Operations Manager, stated there are specific guidelines that the State places on the department on how landfill is to be managed. Britt Haley said this is a part of the reclamation plan regulated by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. She requested that Bill Koerner send her an email and she will forward it to

staff person in charge of reclamation activities and landfill.

Agenda Preview Committee Chair Jason Alwine announced the agenda for the meeting.

Announcements

- **Britt Haley**
 - Two Committee members will be leaving at the end of their term, Becky Wegner and Cathy Grossman. Thank you for their incredible service on the Committee over the years.
 - Two new Committee members and one alternate have been selected, Bob Falcone, Blaze Panariso and Paula Krantz (alternate). All three will be moving forward for approval of the Parks Board next week.
 - Last week the department received unanimous approval from City Council on the Blodgett Peak and Corral Bluffs acquisitions.
 - A Bioblitz will be held this weekend at Corral Bluffs. Hikes have been scheduled and people can sign up online. She is looking forward to bringing this report to the Committee.
 - She passed the CPRA (Colorado Parks and Recreation Association) test and is now a certified parks professional.

Lee Milner, TOPS Working Committee member, stated the PLDO committee has made recommendations and members can submit comments. He requested a PLDO presentation be on the TOPS agenda.

Approval of Minutes – July 11, 2018

Motion: To approve the minutes of the July 11, 2018 TOPS Working Committee meeting.

1st – Lee Milner, 2nd – Cathy Grossman, Approved, Unanimous

Presentations

TOPS Stewardship Season-End Update (Presented by Scott Abbott, Regional Parks, Trails and Open Space Manager and John Stark, TOPS Park Ranger Supervisor)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Committee discussion included: the TOPS Stewardship Program received the Blue Grama Award for Outstanding Environmental Education Program; a suggestion that Park Ranger uniforms should say TOPS on them; a request to know the information gathered from the rangers and distribute it to Friends groups, Home Owner Association's and social media; and social media blew up due to people putting hazards on trails to deter bikers.

Mike Scott, citizen, asked if the TOPS Stewardship program will change. John Stark, Park Ranger Supervisor, replied yes. This is a foundation that will be built upon and as the department acquires more properties programs will be increased.

Bill Koerner, citizen, stated the presentation was great and thank you to the TOPS Stewardship staff

for taking care of our open spaces. The local police have a challenge in policing the Incline. He asked if the department could increase the visibility of park rangers on weekends on the Incline as well as give them the ability to give tickets.

Citizen Discussion No additional citizens spoke at this time.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the TOPS Working Committee meeting at 10:03 a.m.

1st – Nancy Hobbs, 2nd – Jim Klever, Approved, Unanimous