



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

**Members Present:** Bob Falcone, Nancy Hobbs, Blaze Panariso, Bob Shafer, Stephanie Surch, Hank Scarangella, Paula Krantz, Wendy Thomas

**Members Absent:** Ingrid Richter

**Parks Board Liaisons Present:** Carol Beckman, Greg Thornton, Abby Simpson

**Parks Board Liaisons Absent:**

**Staff Present:** Eric Becker, Kim King, Kelly Rajab, Anna White, Melody Horbach, Scott Abbott, Erik Weitzel, Emily Duncan, Sara Arfmann, David Deitemeyer

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TOPS Working Committee Chair Bob Falcone brought the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

**Agenda Preview**

Committee Chair Bob Falcone announced the agenda for the meeting.

**Announcements**

Scott Abbott, Regional Parks, Trails and Open Space Manager, provided the following announcements:

- We have received a gold standard site designation for 16 parks in Leave No Trace. Gillian Rossi, Senior Park Ranger, really led the charge on this project to be recognized in this manner along with Park Ranger Mark Tatro. This is the first park system in the country to receive designation for so many park properties. Immediately following that, he announced local Girl Scouts have helped create artwork for trail signs with the Leave No Trace Gold Standard to display at trails and parks. This education piece will be pushed throughout the system.

Eric Becker, SIMD Administrator/Acting Parks Maintenance and Operations Manager, provided the following announcements:

- The first public meeting for Coleman park was on June 16 with over 100 attendees. It was originally scheduled in May, but moved to June 16 due to the snow storm.
- The grand opening of Panorama Park is officially set for August 20<sup>th</sup>.

Committee Chair Bob Falcone provided the following announcement:

- This is the last meeting for Parks Liaison Carol Beckman. He thanked Carol for her dedication and level of engagement. Most people do not understand how much time it requires to be on the committee, and Carol always went above and beyond.

Committee member Stephanie Surch provided the following announcement:

- This will be Stephanie's last meeting with the TOPS Working Committee as she has accepted a position with the Parks Department. She has been on the committee for about two years and appreciates everyone's efforts. She thanked the committee and stated she will just be on the other side of the dais as a grant writer for the city.

Committee Chair Bob Falcone announced we will see who the new liaison and committee member will be in the near future. Furthermore, he added Scott Abbott, Regional Parks, Trails and Open Space Manager, spoke on his latest podcast to discuss the issue of illegal trails being built in parks and open space. He stated he appreciates the joint effort for being so proactive on this issue.

Committee Vice Chair Nancy Hobbs mentioned she has noticed huge drainage pipes at the construction site on Rock Island Trail. She believes they are going to shut down some of the trail. Committee member Paula Krantz added that the TOSC newsletter announced the closure and have provided a map of a reroute. In addition, she inquired if Heatherdale Drive would also be closed. Emily Duncan, Trails Development Coordinator announced a trail closure alert was sent out right before the holiday weekend. Her understanding is that the trail itself is closed down, but the running shoulder to the side will be used as a detour. Heatherdale Drive is only used for mobilization and should remain open. Lastly, Nancy added there has been an increase of homeless tents on trail property. Scott Abbott mentioned they are almost everywhere at this point, and it has become quite challenging, but they will continue their best efforts.

Anna White, Staff Assistant, provided the following announcements:

- July is Parks and Recreation month so keep an eye out for announcements.
- It is the 25<sup>th</sup> year of TOPS; an event is being planned for September.
- Parks Board Liaison Carol Beckman's party will be next week at Red Rock Canyon Open Space, time to be determined.

### **Approval of Minutes**

June 1, 2022

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the June 1, 2022, TOPS Working Committee meeting with modifications requested.

1<sup>st</sup> - Nancy Hobbs, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Blaze Panariso, Approved Unanimously

### **Citizen Discussion**

Cory Sutela, Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates Executive Director, announced he is very excited about the potential master plan for Blodgett Peak. He is also very supportive of the Legacy Loop Reroute project. Moreover, he provided an update on the Cresta Bike Park which is anticipated for completion by the week of July 10, 2022. Medicine Wheel has contracted with FlowRide with significant support from city staff. David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect, has been a great partner throughout this project. Cory thanked Eric Becker, SIMD Administrator/Acting Parks Maintenance and Operations Manager, for his help on irrigation and other complexities

with the project. Lastly, he thanked Parks Board liaison Carol Beckman and Committee member Stephanie Surch's support and efforts for TOPS.

Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition Executive Director, announced her appreciation towards Scott Abbot for his collaboration with the community. She made a suggestion in the August meeting if there could be further discussion on how the community can address the illegal trails issue since TOPS properties are involved. In addition, she stated that at the last County Parks Board meeting, it was announced the Black Forest Section 16 lease would increase from \$500/year to \$22,000/ year starting in 2023 for ten years. This property has been leased to the county for the last 25 years and there is no money in the budget to cover the \$22,000. The property is 90 acres and TOSC has had more than 400 people participate in a survey and more than 50 people commenting on this change. The comments requested to not lose this property.

Committee Chair Bob Falcone added he appreciates the collaborative effort in different agencies. Regarding Black Forest Section 16, he requested a TOPS application be submitted and see what can happen. Committee member inquired who the county is leasing the property from. Susan Davies answered it is being leased by the State Land Board.

### **Action Items**

#### **Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services 2023 Proposed TOPS Capital Improvement Budget** (Presented by Kelly Rajab)

Kelley Rajab, Finance & Budget Analyst II, presented the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services 2023 Proposed TOPS Capital Improvement Budget Presentation to the TOPS Working Committee. This presentation included: TOPS Proposed 2023 CIP Budget; Informing the Budget Process; Assumptions based on forecast; TOPS Ordinance; January 2022 Revenue Report; TOPS Fund Future Revenue 2023-2025; TOPS Fund Summary 2021 Estimated Fund Balance; Preliminary 2023 Revenue; TOPS Administration; TOPS Maintenance; TOPS Trails Category; Bridge at Greenways at Sand Creek Park; Legacy Loop- South Railroad Bridge Connection; TOPS Parks Category; Boulder Park Landscaping; Grey Hawk Park Planning; Memorial Park Irrigation – West Prospect Lake; Oak Meadow Park – Playground replacement; TOPS Open Space Category; Stewardship Funding History; Stewardship Program Education; Stewardship Program Rangers; Stewardship Program Land Management; Stewardship Program Resource Management; TOPS Open Space Category; Black Canyon Open Space Snyder Quarry Reclamation; Fisher's Canyon Open Space Planning and Implementation; Corral Bluffs Cultural Resources Study; TOPS 2022 Fund Balance Estimate; Future 2022 Supplemental Blodgett/Pikeview Open Space Planning and Implementation; and lastly a slide for any questions from the Committee.

Committee member Blaze Panariso inquired if the contracts that are ongoing have something in them that allow increased prices. Kelly Rajab, Analyst II, Finance & Budget, replied it depends on the contract. Construction contracts do not because it is specifically bid out unless the scope of work changes. Other contracts such as mowing contracts have an inflation escalator built in

that is agreed upon prior to the finalized contract. Furthermore, committee member Blaze Panariso inquired if there is any work in the Capital Improvement Plan such as landscaping or irrigation done by the staff. Kelly replied these duties are contracted out.

Committee member Bob Schafer inquired what the \$1.8 million for Legacy Loop-South Railroad Bridge Replacement will be used for. Kelly replied that the funding source is a Public Works Grant, and the projected anticipated total balance is \$100 million. There will be a grant match provided to the city, and the funding will include several components of the railroad reroute. Deputy Public Works Director Gayle Sturdivant will attend Parks Board on July 14, 2022 and will be able to answer more detailed questions. Emily Duncan, Trails Development Coordinator, stated that because the grant application had to be submitted prior to implementation, Gayle Sturdivant anticipated (per phone conversation with Emily Duncan) that \$5.5 million over three years would be the highest anticipated budget for the project. Kelly Rajab added the cost of the work at Shooks Run Trail under/over the railroad would be much higher than \$5.5 million if Public Works were not partnering with this project.

Committee member Bob Shafer added there is great interest from the community to receive an overview of this project. He added he understands it is too early for an overview right now, but he believes it should be an agenda item sometime in the future. Committee member Stephanie Surch stated to keep in mind the Legacy Loop-South Railroad Bridge Replacement is such an imperative part of the project to complete. More information is much desired from the committee in the future. Lastly, she inquired if the masterplan for Chamberlain Trail includes a master plan for Fisher's Canyon. Kelly Rajab replied \$250,000 has been proposed in the 2023 Budget for Fisher's Canyon Open Space planning and implementation as \$180,000 - \$200,000 tends to be the range for planning and implementation for similar projects.

Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition Executive Director, inquired what the budgeted number is for Blodgett Open Space which is \$275,000. She also inquired what the proposed budget of \$250,000 for Chamberlain Trail will be used for. David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect, stated the funds will cover acquisition, planning and design, and construction. The stretch between Cheyenne Canyon and Broadmoor Bluffs segment of Chamberlain Trail is about 4.5 miles so there are some challenges to work through on the design, but we are getting close on it.

Cory Sutela, Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates Executive Director, verified the percentages for salary and benefits in each category: 87% in administration, 74% in maintenance, 0% in trails, 5% in parks, and 51% in open space of the budgeted amount (not the revenue available)

**Motion:** To move to recommend to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board this 2023 TOPS CIP budget as presented.

1<sup>st</sup>– Blaze Panariso, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Paula Krantz, Approved Unanimously

Link to PowerPoint

**Citizen Discussion**

There were no further comments at this time.

**Motion to adjourn**

1<sup>st</sup> Hank Scarangella –, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Stephanie Surch, Approved, Unanimously at 10:12 AM.