



**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, July 11, 2024**

**Members Present:** Sarah Bryarly, Abby Simpson, Greg Thornton, Steve Harris, Amandla Atilano-Roque, Julia Sands de Melendez, Andrea Perry, Steve Lenzo, Larry Bogue  
**Alternates Present:** Kimberley Sherwood, Debbie Swanson, Mike Sullivan  
**Staff Present:** Britt Haley, Eric Becker, Kim King, Lonna Thelen, Anna Bingman, Emily Duncan, Scott Abbott, Matt Mayberry, Anna Cordova, Jake Butterfield, Corey Farkas, Gayle Sturdivant

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**Called to Order:** Board Chair Sarah Bryarly brought the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

**Citizen Discussion**

Keith Thompson, Executive Director for the Colorado Springs Mountain Bike Association (COSMBA), presented the Department with a check for \$7,600 for trail work on the Captain Morgan's Trail and Ladders Trail in North Cheyenne Cañon. Mr. Thompson thanked staff for their help in making the trail improvements so successful and noted that the improvements have become the face of mountain biking in Colorado Springs. Britt Haley, Director, thanked Mr. Thompson and COSMBA for their partnership with staff on this project.

Susan Davies, Executive Director for the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), informed the Board that El Paso County's Parks Board had approved the Jones Park master plan. Ms. Davies commented that County staff had done a nice job of compromising on certain elements of the plan and finding creative opportunities.

Carol Beckman, citizen, stated that she had emailed the Board about other municipalities and their mechanisms for funding parks. Ms. Beckman stated that she hoped that park impact fees would continue to be a discussion amongst staff and the Board, especially due to the Parkland Dedication Ordinance (PLDO) changes made in 2021. Ms. Beckman noted that while there have not been changes in the cost of housing, the level of service had been decreased. Developers are required to provide land to include other amenities, like streets, so they should be required to provide land for parks rather than fees in lieu. Next, Ms. Beckman asked for an update on the PEO Chapter House. Britt Haley, Director, responded that she had received an email from the Golden Lotus Foundation that stated they had not had time to respond to her requests, which essentially meant there was no agreement. Britt said there is further conversation to come.

Cory Sutela, Executive Director for Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, provided an update on the trail work his organization is helping to complete on the Chutes Trail. Mr. Sutela thanked staff for their continued coordination. Next, Mr. Sutela said there was a walk-through with Parks staff and members of the Fire Department at Stratton Open Space for the upcoming fire mitigation project in the area. The intended area for mitigation has not had mitigation in the past.

Ron Ramsey, citizen, is happy to see forward movement towards an e-bike policy. He hoped that if the issue makes it to a ballot initiative, that it be worded in such a way that the general public can truly understand e-bikes and the benefits of allowing them on trails system-wide.

**Approval of Minutes – June 13, 2024 meeting minutes.**

**Motion: To approve the June 13, 2024 meeting minutes.**

1<sup>st</sup> – Julia Sands de Melendez, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Steve Lenzo, Approved, Unanimously, with Board member Andrea Perry abstaining.

**Partner/Community Items (Time Certain 9:30 a.m.)**

**2C Extension Updates to Parks** (Presented by Gayle Sturdivant, Deputy Public Works Director, and Corey Farkas, Public Works Division Manager)

Gayle Sturdivant, Deputy Public Works Director, and Corey Farkas, Public Works Division Manager, presented the Board with the 2C Extension Updates to Parks. This presentation included what 2C has done; what is 2C; why 2C is necessary; importance of maintenance; citizen pothole complaints; submitted damage claims; 8 years of 2C; how 2C is managed; 2015 system condition; 2020 system condition; current system condition; projected system condition; system condition projected through 2035; 2C methodology; what’s next for 2C; draft ballot language; 2C (2025 to 2026) look-ahead; park facilities; and finally, useful sources of information.

**Action Items**

There were no action items on this agenda.

**Presentation Items**

There were no presentation items on this agenda.

**Staff Updates**

**Garden of the Gods Water Line Project** (Presented by Matt Mayberry, Cultural Services Manager)

Matt Mayberry, Cultural Services Manager, presented the Board with the Garden of the Gods Water Line Project presentation. Anna Cordova, Garden of the Gods Manager, and Jake Butterfield, Capital Projects Coordinator, also joined the presentation. This presentation included the agenda; project goals; phase one and two; phase three; phase four; estimated timeline for detour; horse re-route; project mission; next steps; and finally, the project team.

**Legacy Loop Update** (Presented by Emily Duncan, Trails Development Coordinator)

Emily Duncan, Trails Development Coordinator, presented the Board with the Legacy Loop Update. This presentation included the Legacy Loop overview; Rock Island Trail; Pikes Peak Greenway; Shooks Run connection: the last gap; Shooks Run connection: easement acquisition; Shooks Run connection: easement/property acquisition; Shooks Run connection: conceptual design options; Shooks Run connection: funding/partnership opportunities; other City projects; looking ahead; and finally, where to find additional project information.

**Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) Projects Update** (Presented by Emily Duncan, Trails Development Coordinator)

Emily Duncan, Trails Development Coordinator, presented the Board with the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) Projects Update. This presentation included what PPRTA is; completed PPRTA II trail projects; underway PPRTA II trail projects; future PPRTA II trail projects; future PPRTA III trail projects; proposed trail corridors under PPRTA III; and finally, where to find additional project information.

**Urban Trail Ranger Team (UTRT) Update** (Presented by Scott Abbott, Regional Parks, Trails and Open Space Supervisor)

Scott Abbott, Regional Parks, Trails and Open Space Supervisor, presented the Board with the Urban Trail Ranger Team (UTRT) Update. This presentation included the fully staffed UTRT; presence on trails; mapping illegal camps and trash locations; and finally, collaborations with other departments and organizations.

**Staffing Update/New Staff Introductions**

Matt Mayberry, Cultural Services Manager, introduced Anna Cross as the new Park Operations Administrator at Rock Ledge Ranch.

Britt Haley, Director, announced that Stephanie Surch had resigned from her position as an Analyst II for Grants.

Eric Becker, Park Maintenance and Operations Manager, announced that he and Lonna Thelen, Design and Development Manager, had met with Andy Richter, who is the Public Works Asset Manager, to get his feedback on a potential Asset Manager for the Department.

### **Other Updates**

Eric Becker, Park Maintenance and Operations Manager, announced that there will be a potential ballot item for citizens who live near the Old Colorado City corridor, which would create a new district stretching from I-25 to Manitou Springs.

Lonna Thelen, Design and Development Manager, announced that the e-bike survey has received over 3,000 responses, and over 2,500 cards with information on how to provide input have been passed out. Additionally, Lonna explained that e-bikes and other types of multimodal transportation are permitted on park property, including trails, with an ADA accommodation. If a citizen needs this accommodation, they can reach out to the Office of Accessibility, who will then issue a sticker to go on the bike or other multimodal device. The stickers can be picked up at the front desk with the proof of issuance from the Office of Accessibility.

Anna Bingman, Staff Assistant, reminded the Board that July is Parks and Recreation Month. In celebration, there will be Music in the Park at Panorama Park on Friday, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The Board was also invited to join staff for ice cream events celebrating Parks and Recreation Professionals Day: July 16<sup>th</sup> at the main office from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., or July 18<sup>th</sup> at Palmer Park from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Finally, Anna reminded the Board that they can vote once a day for Panorama Park as the People's Choice Award through the 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Board Business**

#### **Election of Board Chair and Vice Chair**

Per the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board policies and procedures, the Chair and Vice Chair roles are selected every July.

Board member Larry Bogue nominated current Vice Chair Abby Simpson to continue serving in her role as Vice Chair. Board member Greg Thornton seconded the nomination. Vice Chair Abby Simpson accepted the nomination. After a vote, Vice Chair Abby Simpson was approved to continue serving in her role as Vice Chair.

Board member Andrea Perry nominated current Chair Sarah Bryarly to continue serving in her role as Chair. Board member Steve Lenzo seconded the nomination. Chair Sarah Bryarly accepted the nomination. After a vote, Chair Sarah Bryarly was approved to continue serving in her role as Chair.

### **Other Business**

Steve Lenzo – Mr. Lenzo asked for an update regarding Waldo Canyon access in conjunction with other jurisdictions. Lonna Thelen, Design and Development Manager, responded that she would find out more information about this and report back to Mr. Lenzo. Next, Mr. Lenzo asked if there can be an update on Coleman Park as a future agenda item. Finally, Mr. Lenzo noted that there are a significant number of trees in the Cottonwood Creek Park area that seem to be dying of Emerald Ash Borer beetles, and asked if Forestry has a plan to replace these trees. Anna Bingman, Staff Assistant, stated that she would reach out to Dennis Will, City Forester, for more information on this. In addition to Mr. Lenzo’s question, Board Chair Sarah Bryarly suggested that there be a Forestry update on a future agenda.

### **Adjournment**

**Motion: Move to adjourn the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board meeting at 11:41 a.m.**

1<sup>st</sup> – Larry Bogue, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Julia Sands de Melendez, Approved, Unanimously.