

CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS

TRAILS, OPEN SPACES AND PARKS (TOPS) WORKING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Location: 1401 Recreation Way Colorado Springs, CO 80905

Date: August 7, 2024

Time: 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

I. MEETING ATTENDANCE

- a. Members Present: Bob Falcone, Paula Krantz, Wendy Howe, Jeff Davis, Bob Shafer, Chelsea Gondeck, Hank Scarangella, Blaze Panariso, Emily Danti
- b. Alternates Present: Randy Courduff, David Bundrick
- c. Parks Board Liaisons Present: Abby Simpson, Larry Bogue
- d. Parks Board Liaisons Absent: Greg Thornton
- e. Staff Present: Britt Haley, Lonna Thelen, Eric Becker, Kim King, Julie Lafitte, Scott Abbott, David Deitemeyer, Caitlin Moldenhauer

II. CALLED TO ORDER

Committee Chair Bob Falcone brought the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

III. AGENDA PREVIEW

Committee Chair Bob Falcone announced the agenda for the meeting.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Lonna Thelen, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager, made the following announcements:
 - 1. There will not be a site visit this month.
 - 2. The Oak Meadows Park playground renovation is complete. There will be a ribbon cutting on August 29th at 10:30 a.m., and everyone is welcome to join.
 - 3. The e-bike survey has closed. There will be a presentation on results and outcomes next meeting.

- b. Scott Abbott, Regional Parks, Trails and Open Space Manager, announced that a large-scale fire mitigation project would begin in Stratton Open Space in the next few weeks. The Department is working with the Colorado Springs Fire Department's Mitigation Section and City Forestry to mitigate over 260 acres. Stratton Open Space will remain open during the mitigation work, however there may be intermittent closures of different areas of the park. Scott thanked his staff for their contributions to the project. Additionally, there is a project page on the City website with more information.
- c. Councilmember David Leinweber stated that he serves on the Colorado Springs Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee. He said that this Committee would like staff and the TOPS Working Committee to consider the cost of funding for wildfire mitigation when discussing the costs of potential future acquisitions.
- d. Committee member Jeff Davis asked if the planned neighborhood walk of Fishers Canyon Open Space that was cancelled due to weather, had been rescheduled. David Deitemeyer, Senior Program Administrator, responded that the rescheduled tours would be happening later that day, with one tour at 10:00 a.m., and three other tours being offered between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 10, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

- a. Motion: To approve the minutes of the July 10, 2024 TOPS Working Committee meeting.
- b. First: Bob Shafer
- c. Second: Paula Krantz
- d. Approved, Unanimously with Committee member Blaze Panariso abstaining.

VI. CITIZEN DISCUSSION

- a. Susan Davies, Executive Director for the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), stated that her organization is in favor of the proposed parking lot improvements in parks that were introduced in the new 2C initiative that will be on the November ballot. Ms. Davies also provided an update on TOSC's "One Bag Challenge," adding that a good portion of the trash people are picking up seems to be from gender reveal celebrations.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

- a. There were no action items on this agenda.

VIII. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Cheyenne Mountain State Park Update (Presented by Jason Hagan, Park Manager for Cheyenne Mountain State Park)
 1. Jason Hagan, Park Manager for Cheyenne Mountain State Park, presented the Committee with the Cheyenne Mountain State Park update. This presentation included the park map; staffing, visitation and revenue; fire mitigation; the Keep Colorado Wild Pass; terrain hopper program; and finally, the future campground loop.
- b. Ethics Code and Open Meetings Law Training (Presented by Caitlin Moldenhauer, Associate Attorney – Corporate Division for the Office of the City Attorney)
 1. Caitlin Moldenhauer, Associate Attorney - Corporate Division for the Office of the City Attorney, presented the Committee with Ethics Code and Open Meetings Law Training. This presentation included the City Code of Ethics; covered persons; advisory opinion; gifts; gift exceptions; conflicts of interest; Open Meetings Law: and finally, Open Meetings Law: Notice.

IX. CITIZEN DISCUSSION

- a. There was no additional citizen discussion at this time.

X. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Motion: To adjourn the TOPS Working Committee meeting at 8:17 a.m.
- b. First: Wendy Howe
- c. Second: Blaze Panariso
- d. Approved, Unanimously