



CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS
**TRAILS, OPEN SPACES AND PARKS (TOPS)
WORKING COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Location: 1401 Recreation Way Colorado Springs, CO 80905

Date: September 4, 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, Anna Bingman, Scott Abbott

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 Department has officially closed on the 26th Street property.
- b. Britt Haley, Director, announced that this would be Committee Chair Bob Falcone and Committee member Blaze Panariso's final meeting, as they are both term limited. Britt thanked them both for their diligent service to the Committee over the last six years,

through virtual meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic, over \$11,000,000 in approved acquisitions, and two ballot initiatives among many other projects. Additionally, Britt thanked them for their time serving through both Department and Citywide leadership changes, including a new Mayor.

1. Both Committee Chair Bob Falcone and Committee member Blaze Panariso reflected on their time serving on the Committee, and thanked staff and fellow Committee members for their support over the years.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 7, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

- a. Motion: To approve the minutes of the August 7, 2024 TOPS Working Committee meeting.
- b. First: Blaze Panariso
- c. Second: Paula Krantz
- d. Approved, Unanimously.

VI. CITIZEN DISCUSSION

- a. Cory Sutela, Executive Director for Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, provided a few updates on trail projects that his organization has been working on in partnership with Department staff. Next, Cory invited the Committee to come out to the Fountain Valley School on September 20th and 21st for the first high school mountain bike league race being held on the Front Range. Medicine Wheel was involved with the construction of the new trails that the race will be held on.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

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

VIII. PRESENTATIONS

- a. E-Bike Survey Report (Presented by Lonna Thelen, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager, and Scott Abbott, Regional Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Manager)
 1. Lonna Thelen, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager, and Scott Abbott, Regional Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Manager, presented the Committee with the E-Bike Survey Report. This presentation included presentation topics; e-bike history; e-bike definitions; additional policy considerations; e-bike task force; about the e-bike survey; e-bike survey results; Alternative 1; Alternative 2; and finally, next steps.
 2. Comments, questions and discussion from the Committee included:
 - A Committee member asked why only Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes were considered in the survey. Lonna Thelen responded that staff wanted to focus

on the lower speed class bikes, and that the E-Bike Task Force had been asked to focus only on Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes.

- Committee members asked staff to consider how the use of e-bikes on the trails could alter already set master plans. Additionally, staff was asked to consider the use of e-bikes on trails in future master plans.
 - There was much discussion on the enforcement of e-bikes and other electronic powered modal devices, such as scooters. Britt Haley, Director, said that enforcement is a continuing conversation at the Leadership level with the Mayor on the topic. However, Britt said the focus of the current conversation and policy will pertain to only e-bikes, and not other devices, at this time.
 - Some Committee members encouraged staff to not focus on the different classes of e-bikes and how they can be distinguished, but rather how to make an overall policy, as e-bikes are already in high use on trails.
3. Lonna said she will continue to work with staff and Leadership on this policy, and the policy will be presented at the next meeting.

b. TOPS Ordinance Formalization (Presented by Lonna Thelen, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager)

1. Lonna Thelen, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager, presented the Committee with the TOPS Ordinance Formalization. This presentation included 27 years of Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOPS); Oak Meadows Park; Rock Island Trail; Ordinance Amendment Components; Ordinance Amendment; and finally, TOPS Funding Division.

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 9:08 a.m.
- b. First: Blaze Panariso
- c. Second: Bob Falcone
- d. Approved, Unanimously