



**TOPS Working Committee Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, April 5, 2023**

**Members Present:** Bob Falcone, Wendy Thomas, Blaze Panariso, Bob Shafer, Paula Krantz, Hank Scarangella, Wendy Howe, Jeff Davis

**Members Absent:** Ingrid Richter

**Alternates Present:** Chelsea Gondeck, Ellen Senf

**Parks Board Liaisons Present:** Larry Bogue, Greg Thornton, Abby Simpson

**Staff Present:** Britt Haley, Kim King, Eric Becker, Anna White, David Deitemeyer

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TOPS Working Committee Chair Bob Falcone brought the meeting to order at 7:31 A.M.

**Agenda Preview**

Committee Chair Bob Falcone announced the agenda for the meeting.

**Announcements**

Britt Haley, Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Director, announced that there would no site visit in April.

Committee Chair Bob Falcone congratulated Britt Haley and the rest of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services staff on the successful passing of Issue 1, thus extending the TOPS Program another twenty years. The Issue passed with a 78% approval rating, which Britt stated was phenomenal and a true testament of the love that citizens have for their parks, trails and open spaces. Britt thanked Susan Davies, Executive Director for the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC) for their contributions to the campaign, especially through educating the public on what is TOPS. Britt also extended her heartfelt thanks to the entire Committee, for their part in advocating for TOPS and helping to educate citizens on its mission.

**Approval of Minutes – March 1, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the March 1, 2023 TOPS Working Committee meeting.

1<sup>st</sup> – Blaze Panariso, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Wendy Howe, Approved, Unanimously, with Committee member Hank Scarangella abstaining.

**Citizen Discussion**

Susan Davies, Executive Director for the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), shared her enthusiasm about Issue 1 passing, and thanked everyone for their kind words. Ms. Davies added that this is a time to reflect on the compromises that were made to get to the final language of the ballot measure, and that we should try to parlay this success into future

successes in funding for parks. Committee member Paula Krantz thanked Ms. Davies again, stating that TOSC's website was a fantastic resource for information during the campaign.

Cory Sutela, Executive Director for Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, expressed the same excitement about the successful passing of Issue 1. His organization is also extremely pleased with the support from the community for TOPS. Next, Mr. Sutela informed the Committee that he has been working with April Allen, Analyst II for Community and Multimedia, and had signed a working agreement as a Friends group.

## **Presentations**

### **Election Update** (Presented by Britt Haley, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director)

Britt Haley, Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Director, provided a verbal update on the election results to the Committee. In addition to the comments that had already been made by Committee members, the public, and staff, Britt informed the Committee that staff had been working on a transition binder that would be given to the new mayor following the runoff election, which will be on May 16, 2023. Britt has identified key priorities and initiatives within that binder so the new mayor is able to hit the ground running once in office.

### **Blodgett Master Planning Update** (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect)

David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect, presented the Committee with the Blodgett Planning Update. This presentation included a map of Blodgett Open Space; a drone photo of the open space; the Master Plan team; photos of the property; the scope of work; and finally, the tentative timeline. David also took a moment to thank Committee members Hank Scarangella and Wendy Howe for volunteering to be representatives of the TOPS Working Committee during the master planning process. Additionally, David said he has been in touch with stakeholders and they are informed of the process, as well.

[Link to Agenda Packet Here](#)

### **Palmer Trail Update** (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect)

David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect, provided the Committee with an update on the status of the Palmer Trail. Along with visuals of the area before and after the slide, David explained that the Forest Service had just completed an assessment of the slide and are discussing next steps. While the slide is stabilized, the trail closure won't be open for a few more weeks.

[Link to Agenda Packet Here](#)

### **Citizen Discussion**

Committee Chair Bob Falcone asked what the next steps for Coleman Park are. Britt Haley, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, responded that there is going to be ground truthing happening, along with other geotechnical work. The results of this will drive the direction of the master plan. Staff will keep the Committee informed with updates.

Susan Davies, Executive Director for TOSC, mentioned that Panorama Park had seen quite a bit of vandalism in the form of graffiti, and asked for an update. Eric Becker, Park Maintenance and Operations Manager, confirmed the vandalism. Maintenance staff is aware of the graffiti and working on removal. Additionally, there are cameras in the park and Eric is working with the Colorado Springs Police Department on next steps. Staff will inform the Committee if any arrests are made.

Committee member Paula Krantz informed the rest of the Committee that the Colorado Springs Mountain Biking Association is having a launch party at Red Leg Brewery on the upcoming Saturday.

**Motion to Adjourn: Motion to adjourn the TOPS Working Committee meeting at 8:30 a.m.**

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