



**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 12, 2023**

Members Present: Abby Simpson, Larry Bogue, Greg Thornton, Steve Harris, Steve Lenzo, Amandla Atilano-Roque, Julia Sands de Melendez

Members Absent: Sarah Bryarly, Andrea Perry

Alternates Present: Debbie Swanson, Kimberley Sherwood, Mike Sullivan

Staff Present: Britt Haley, Eric Becker, Kim King, Lonna Thelen, Anna White, David Deitemeyer, John Gebhart

Called to Order: Board Vice Chair Abby Simpson brought the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m.

Citizen Discussion

Susan Davies, Executive Director for the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), thanked staff that were able to join their member celebration at the Catalyst Campus last week. At their member meeting, TOSC honored Jim Davies and Carol Beckman from the Friends of Stratton Open Space. Ms. Davies invited everyone to join TOSC on their hike on Friday at Pancake Rocks, which will be hosted by the Rocky Mountain Field Institute to showcase the work they completed. Additionally, there will be a Scoop the Poop event on Saturday in Red Rock Canyon Open Space, Palmer Park, and in Manitou Springs. Finally, Ms. Davies asked for an update on the Urban Trail Rangers. Eric Becker, Park Maintenance and Operations Manager, informed Ms. Davies and the Board that the two new rangers will begin on Monday.

Approval of Minutes – September 14, 2023 meeting minutes.

Motion: To approve September 14, 2023 meeting minutes.

1st – Steve Harris, 2nd – Steve Lenzo, Approved, Unanimously, with Board member Julia Sands de Melendez abstaining.

Action Items

There were no action items on this agenda.

Presentation Items

Blodgett Master Plan Update (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect)

David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect, presented the Committee with the Blodgett Open Space (BOS) Master and Management Plan update. This presentation included presentation goals; where we are at in the process; project givens; highlights of project givens; site inventory and assessment; existing conditions; elevation; slope; aspect; vegetation; bighorn sheep habitat; habitat fragmentation; key habitat areas; initial public engagement findings; what has been hosted so far; public engagement – to date; virtual preference board results; ArcGIS Survey123 results; general survey results; the August 22, 2023 community work session; alternative approaches; BOS stats for consideration; public preferences; Alternative Concepts I and II; Alternative Concept I; Alternative Concept II; trailhead options; USDA USFS Pikes Peak Ranger District Blodgett Peak access; summary of community input from the August 22, 2023 community work session; public engagement overview; and finally, next steps.

[Link to Agenda Packet Here](#)

Staff Updates

Special Improvement Maintenance Districts Update (Presented by John Gebhart, Special Improvement Maintenance Districts Unit Administrator)

John Gebhart, Special Improvement Maintenance Districts Unit Administrator, presented the Board with the Special Improvement Maintenance Districts (SIMD) update. This presentation included a map showing where the districts are located throughout the City; background on how SIMDs are formed and funded; Colorado Avenue Gateway SIMD; revenues and responsibilities of the Colorado Avenue Gateway SIMD; Platte Avenue SIMD; revenues and responsibilities of the Platte Avenue SIMD; the Platte Avenue corridor study; Woodstone SIMD; revenues and responsibilities of the Woodstone SIMD; Old Colorado City SIMD; revenues and responsibilities of the Old Colorado City SIMD; the Old Colorado City special district study; Stetson Hills SIMD; revenues and responsibilities of the Stetson Hills SIMD; Norwood SIMD; revenues and responsibilities of the Norwood SIMD; xeric bed renovations; Briargate General Improvement District (GID); revenues and responsibilities of the Briargate GID; erosion control project; updated GID map; SIMD/GID funding comparison; and finally, various SIMD challenges.

[Link to Agenda Packet Here](#)

Staffing Update

Lonna Thelen, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager, announced that Daniel Gould has been selected as the Senior Landscape Architect, and will begin on November 13. Daniel has an extensive background in Planning and is currently a Senior Landscape Architect in the Planning Department.

As previously stated in the meeting, Eric Becker announced that two urban trail rangers will begin on Monday. Staff is still working on hiring the third ranger and getting them in place as soon as possible.

Other Updates

Britt Haley, Director, and Kim King, Assistant Director, made sure that the Board had the following events on their schedules:

- The annual Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services calendar reveal will take place on October 17th at Patty Jewett, beginning at 4:30 p.m.
- There is a Greyhawk Park Master Plan public meeting on October 18th at the Classical Academy North Campus. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m.
- The Acacia Park Ice Rink is opening for the 2023/2024 season on Friday, November 10th. Anna White, Staff Assistant, will forward additional information to the Board.
- The Acacia Park Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Friday, November 17th. Anna White will forward additional information to the Board.

Britt Haley, Director, announced that City Council has a Budget Work Session on Monday, where Department heads will present their recalibrated budgets to reflect the 3.43% reduction in the General Fund. Britt explained that one change for the Department is that Greyhawk Park will now be a two-phase approach for construction.

Board Business

Abby Simpson – Ms. Simpson provided a brief overview of the TOPS Working Committee meeting, where the Blodgett Master Plan update was also presented. She stated that one main concern to address is parking. Additionally, Ms. Simpson covered the Urban Trails Update that was presented at the TOPS Working Committee meeting.

Julia Sands de Melendez – Ms. Sands de Melendez thanked Board alternates Kimberley Sherwood and Debbie Swanson for volunteering with her during Creek Week.

Adjournment

Motion: Move to adjourn the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board meeting at 9:33 a.m.

1st – Steve Harris, 2nd – Steve Lenzo, Approved, Unanimously.