



**TOPS Working Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 7, 2024**

Members Present: Bob Falcone, Paula Krantz, Wendy Howe, Jeff Davis, Bob Shafer, Chelsea Gondeck

Members Absent: Hank Scarangella, Blaze Panariso

Parks Board Liaisons Present: Larry Bogue, Abby Simpson

Parks Board Liaisons Absent: Greg Thornton

Staff Present: Britt Haley, Lonna Thelen, Eric Becker, Kim King, Anna Bingman, Connie Schmeisser, Emily Duncan, David Deitemeyer, Jake Butterfield

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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

Lonna Thelen, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager, made the following announcements:

- The GOCO grant for Wild Horse Ranch was approved for \$2,000,000 instead of the original \$1,500,000. The official announcement and details on the formal celebration are to come, and the Committee will be informed.
- There will be no site tour in February.
- Lonna welcomed the three new members to the TOPS Working Committee. Emily Danti will be filling former member Ingrid Richter’s vacancy as a regular member. David Bundrick and Randy Courduff will be serving as the two new alternate members. Lonna provided a brief background on each new member, and why they were selected. Committee Chair Bob Falcone welcomed the new candidates, and thanked them for applying. Additionally, Bob spoke on the interview process and that all potential candidates had been great to meet, and made the selection very difficult. Bob is looking forward to working with the new members.
- An e-bike task force has been assembled to work towards a direction for e-bike use across the park system. The current plan is to host five to six meetings with the task force to talk about education, implementation, legal requirements, and resource protection. Once the task force has made their recommendation, there will then be a public input process, which will be evaluated for a final recommendation.

Approval of Minutes – January 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the January 10, 2023 TOPS Working Committee meeting.

1st – Paula Krantz, 2nd – Wendy Howe, Approved, Unanimously.

Citizen Discussion

Cory Sutela, Executive Director for Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, expressed support for the Blodgett Master Plan process and the opportunities for biking in the plan. Mr. Sutela also stated that he believes the Master Plan provides a fair balance between recreation and conservation. He did say his organization would like to see some language changes to the final plan concerning rogue trails, as well as some clarity on the adaptive management concept and if there is a public process associated with proposed larger changes.

Action Items

There were no action items on this agenda.

Presentations

Rocky Mountain Field Institute Year-in-Review (Presented by Carl Woody, Program Director for the Rocky Mountain Field Institute)

Carl Woody, Program Director for the Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI), presented the Committee with the RMFI Year-in-Review. This presentation included an overview of RMFI; photos of 2023 projects; how work is accomplished; TOPS Stewardship; TOPS Stewardship in 2023; 2023 objectives; volunteerism in 2023; volunteer groups; Stewardship crew; 2023 work stats; Red Rock Canyon Open Space; Stratton Open Space; and finally, 2024 programming.

[Link to Agenda Packet Here](#)

Grey Hawk Park Master Plan (Presented by Connie Schmeisser, Landscape Architect II)

Connie Schmeisser, Landscape Architect II, presented the Committee with the Grey Hawk Park Master Plan. This presentation included the project overview; site overview; themes and recommendations from the Park System Master Plan; neighborhood meeting #1; opportunity and constraints; public feedback from meeting #1; public feedback from online survey #1; neighborhood meeting #2; Initial Concept A; Initial Concept B; Initial Concept C; Initial Concept D; public feedback from meeting and survey #2; public meeting #3; final design; funding snapshot as of January 2024; and finally, next steps.

[Link to Agenda Packet](#)

2024 Project Look Ahead (Presented by Lonna Thelen, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager, David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect, Emily Duncan, Trails Development Coordinator, and Jake Butterfield, Capital Projects Manager)

Lonna Thelen, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager; David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect; Emily Duncan, Trails Development Coordinator; and Jake Butterfield, Capital Projects Manager, presented the Committee with the 2024 Project Look Ahead. This presentation included the TOPS CIP funding list; Jimmy Camp Creek Regional Park assessment and planning; Grey Hawk Park; Sand Creek Trail from Airport Road to Platte Avenue; Sand Creek Bridge at Greenways Park; Oak Meadows playground and parking lot renovation; projects in Austin Bluffs Open Space; projects in Blodgett Open Space; projects in Fishers Canyon Open Space; Chamberlain Trail; and finally, Open Space Wayfinding and Trailhead Kiosks.

[Link to Agenda Packet](#)

Citizen Discussion

Susan Davies, Executive Director for the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), asked what the number of undeveloped parks is, following construction of Grey Hawk Park. Connie Schmeisser, Landscape Architect II, stated that staff is revisiting the undeveloped inventory list. However, as it stands now, there are four or five neighborhood parks to be developed and three community parks to be developed. Next, Ms. Davies asked for an update on Coleman Park. Britt Haley, Director, said she would connect with Ms. Davies offline. Finally, Ms. Davies stated that CDOT is having some challenges with the Sinton Trail closure and users not respecting the partial closure. She urged trail users to respect closures and delays, otherwise there could be full closure for the duration of the project.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion to adjourn the TOPS Working Committee meeting at 9:00 a.m.

1st – Jeff Davis, 2nd – Wendy Howe, Approved, Unanimously.