



CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS

# **PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES (PRCS) ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

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Location: 1401 Recreation Way Colorado Springs, CO 80905

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Date: September 12, 2024

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Time: 7:30 a.m.

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## **I. MEETING ATTENDANCE**

- a. Members Present: Sarah Bryarly, Andrea Perry, Amandla Atilano-Roque, Larry Bogue, Greg Thornton, Julia Sands de Melendez, Steve Harris, Steve Lenzo
- b. Members Absent: Abby Simpson
- c. Alternates Present: Debbie Swanson, Kimberley Sherwood, Mike Sullivan
- d. Staff Present: Eric Becker, Lonna Thelen, Anna Bingman, Scott Abbott, Dennis Will

## **II. CALLED TO ORDER**

Board Chair, Sarah Bryarly, brought the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m.

## **III. CITIZEN DISCUSSION**

- a. Susan Davies, Executive Director for the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), said that her organization had recently met with the Colorado Springs Cycling Club. She informed the Board that the Club is very pleased with the work done at Templeton Gap. Next, she said the Club had some concerns about the challenges on the Greenway Trail when crossing Monument Creek. Lastly, Ms. Davies asked if there could be a port-a-john placed at the Legacy Loop Plaza, as it is a popular gathering place with no restroom.
- b. Cory Sutela, Executive Director for Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, invited the Committee to come out to the Fountain Valley School on September 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

- c. Council member David Leinweber stated that the City will be hosting some upcoming forums about addressing homelessness throughout the City. He stated that one common theme of the issues that have already been discussed is the lack of public restrooms; however, he said he understood the challenges of funding.
- d. Jim Lockhart, Conservation Chair of the Pikes Peak Group of the Sierra Club, informed the Board that Creek Week is coming up. From September 28<sup>th</sup> through October 5<sup>th</sup>, citizens can get involved in Creek Week clean up events throughout the city.

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 8, 2024 MEETING MINUTES**

- a. Motion: To approve the August 8, 2024 meeting minutes.
- b. First: Julia Sands de Melendez
- c. Second: Larry Bogue
- d. Approved, unanimously.

#### **V. ACTION ITEMS**

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

#### **VI. PRESENTATIONS**

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

#### **VII. STAFF UPDATES**

- a. Forestry Update (Presented by Dennis Will – City Forester)
  - 1. Dennis Will, City Forester, presented the Board with the Forestry update. This presentation included City Forestry responsibilities; what is EAB?; timeline of discovery; why are we concerned?; Colorado Springs street tree composition; signs; symptoms; tree planting; IRA Grant implementation; and finally, Saluting Branches.
- b. E-Bike Survey Report (Presented by Lonna Thelen, Design and Development Manager, and Scott Abbott, Regional Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Manager)

1. Lonna Thelen, Design and Development 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.
  - A suggestion was made to split up the categories of "support and strongly support" and "oppose and strongly oppose" so a better spread of response data could be displayed visually.
  - A request was made to obtain the number of individuals who had received an ADA accommodation through the Office of Accessibility to ride e-bikes on trails. Lonna Thelen said she would follow up with this information.
  - Lonna said she will continue working with staff and Leadership on this policy, and there will be a presentation next month on next steps.

c. TOPS Ordinance Formalization (Presented by Lonna Thelen, Design and Development Manager)

1. Lonna Thelen, Design and Development 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.

## **VIII. BOARD BUSINESS**

a. TOPS Working Committee Appointments (Presented by Lonna Thelen, Design and Development Manager)

1. Lonna Thelen, Design and Development Manager, informed the Board that TOPS Working Committee members Bob Falcone and Blaze Panariso had termed off the TOPS Working Committee after serving their second term. With their departure, Lonna stated that two alternate members of the Committee are ready to step on to the Committee as regular members. David Bundrick and Randy Courduff have served as alternate members since March, and Lonna feels confident in their services as regular members.
2. Motion: To approve the new appointments of TOPS Alternates David Bundrick and Randy Courduff to the TOPS Working Committee as presented.
3. First: Greg Thornton
4. Second: Julia Sands de Melendez
5. Approved, Unanimously.

b. TOPS Working Committee Liaison Selection

1. Board member Greg Thornton informed the Board that he would be stepping down from the TOPS Working Committee as a liaison for Open Space. Board member Amandla Atilano-Roque expressed interest in the position, and thus was selected as the new liaison for Open Space.

c. Other Business

1. Board member Larry Bogue informed the Board of some of the discussion about the e-bike presentation at the TOPS Working Committee meeting. Mr. Bogue suggested sending the Board the minutes from the next TOPS meeting to the Board so they can be informed of the discussion at the meeting ahead of time. Mr. Bogue then asked for an update on Coleman Park. Lonna Thelen answered that strategic movements are being made on the property, mostly by the Stormwater Enterprise (SWENT). Department staff and SWENT staff are looking at potential trail locations on either side of the creek, with SWENT at 30% channel design. Additionally, SWENT is looking at the placement of a pedestrian bridge over the creek. SWENT's goal is to have channel construction complete in 2027, and the Department can move from there.
2. Board member Greg Thornton informed the Board that WestFest will be taking place at the Westside Community Center on September 21<sup>st</sup> from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Additionally, Mr. Thornton informed the Board that The Funky Little Theater Company will be hosting a "Play Crawl" of short shows on October 12<sup>th</sup>.
3. Board Chair Sarah Bryarly said the irrigation work at Patty Jewett and Valley Hi golf courses looks like it's going really well. She is excited to see the improvements.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Motion: To adjourn the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board meeting at 9:28 a.m.
- b. First: Andrea Perry
- c. Second: Julia Sands de Melendez
- d. Approved, Unanimously