

MINUTES

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
January 9, 2014
1401 Recreation Way

Board Members Present: Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, Dan Lewis, Mina Liebert, John Maynard, Hank Scarangella

Absent: Scot Hume, Alex Johnson

Alternate Present: Ron Ilgen

CALL TO ORDER

Opening: Chair Hilaire called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m.

CITIZEN DISCUSSION

Kaiser Permanente Walk & Wheel Grant: Brian Kates, Program Coordinator at Meadows Park Community Center, said that the City of Colorado Springs received a grant from the Kaiser Permanente's *Walk and Wheel* grant program for local governments in the amount of \$99,999. Of this amount, \$40,000 will go towards the Transit Division for Bike Month activities. The remaining amount will come to the Parks Department to support various programs such as trail counters, the Public Interest Fellowship Program with Colorado College, Community Center initiatives, City's strategic plan, AmeriCorp Vista Program, Kids on Bike, etc. Kaiser Permanente provided an additional \$20,000 grant for the Community Centers to support their health initiatives.

Both Chair Hilaire and Vice Chair Feffer suggested recognizing Kaiser Permanent at a future Board meeting or by sending a thank you letter to acknowledge their generosity.

City Auditorium Update: Dave Weesner, with the Friends of City Auditorium, said the following:

- The Holiday Season Sack Lunch Serenades were well attended.
- The Friends are currently working with the Downtown Partnership for a series of first Friday events until May. They have asked the businesses in the downtown area to stay open late while the City Auditorium provides programs (i.e. silent movie, organ performance, etc.). The April program will coincide with Lon Chaney's birthday (April 4th) with additional activities such as tours, displays, silent movie, etc.).
- The 2014 budget includes \$300,000 for restroom improvements.
- The City Auditorium is a "most fabulous indoor park" in the city of Colorado Springs.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dan Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2013 Board meeting. Motion seconded by Charles Castle and carried unanimously.

Ayes: Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, Dan Lewis, Mina Liebert, John Maynard, Hank Scarangella

Nays: None

Absent: Scot Hume, Alex Johnson

CHANGE TO AGENDA/POSTPONEMENT

Chair Hilaire announced the postponement of the Ceremonial Item (*Recognition of Donors for the Sertich Ice Center Score Board for G.E. Johnson Construction and Little Caesars Pizza*) to the February 13th meeting.

STAFF REPORT

Karen Palus, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services; Kim King, Manager of Recreation and Administration; Kurt Schroeder, Manager of Park Operations and Development; and Chris Lieber, Manager of Park Development and TOPS Program, reported on the following items:

- **City Event Coordinator:** Ms. Palus introduced Brianna Goodwin, City-Wide Events Coordinator, who was under the Economic Vitality Division, but has recently moved to the Parks Department through a reorganization. Ms. Goodwin will continue her work with the city-wide special events.
- **Discover Colorado Springs - 2014 Calendar Reveal:** The Parks Department held its first annual photo contest in November 2013. The public submitted over 200 photos of the most loved parks and natural areas. From these many submissions, a committee of citizens selected the top photos for the 2014 calendar, which is a tribute to the community's parks, trails and open spaces. The winners of the 2014 *Discover Colorado Springs* calendar will be revealed on January 14th, 6:30 p.m. at the Gill Foundation. The 2014 Parks calendar was underwritten by Timberline Landscaping.
- **TOPS Update:**
 - The January TOPS Working Committee meeting has been rescheduled for January 15th, which will be a tour to a potential acquisition property, located just north of Colorado Springs.
 - The February agenda will include continued discussion regarding conservation easements.
 - TOPS capital projects are moving forward. The tennis center at Memorial Park is near completion. A contractor for playground installations has been selected. A public process for each playground will be scheduled in February.
 - A public process for the Ute Valley Park Management Plan will be scheduled in late February to early March.
- **2014 Budget Update:** The 2014 Budget has been approved. The City Administration is moving forward with it as proposed with the exception of a couple of items which are currently being reviewed by the City Attorney's Office. These items include segregation from five to twelve "Departments" and the proposed increase in Park Water Funding from the General Fund Reserve, which is continuously being discussed.

All of the Parks Department's CIP funding is intact in the budget. Additional dollars have been received for maintenance of rights-of-way and medians for contract services; \$50,000 towards the Forestry Division's back logs; and two ranger/safety patrol positions at the Garden of the Gods Park.

Board member Maynard suggested having a joint meeting between City Council and Parks Board to include a water discussion.

- **NRPA/Macy's Inc. Donation Program:** The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is partnering with Macy's, Inc. on a donation program supporting local parks. This is a national customer engagement program conducted by Macy's, Inc. through 681 Macy's stores whereby customers are asked at the time of checkout if they would like to make a donation to support a local park. Garden of the Gods Park was selected for this program. This program will commence on March 7, 2014 and end on March 31, 2014. Macy's will be matching the first \$250,000 raised, dollar-for-dollar. Distribution of the donation check is anticipated to occur by June 2, 2014.
- **Recap on Acacia Park Ice Rink:** The Ice Rink was open for six weeks from just before Thanksgiving to January 5, 2014. There were approximately 9,500 skaters during the six-week period and generated approximately \$78,000 in revenue. Staff is currently working on the final numbers. The Ice Rink is scheduled to be removed after January 10th.

The Ice Rink was a partnership project between the City, Colorado Springs Utilities and the Downtown Partnership. A debriefing with the Downtown Partnership is scheduled on January 10th. In general, the Ice Rink was very successful and received many positive comments. The Ice Rink is expected to be brought back in 2014 with increased activities in Acacia Park sponsored by the Downtown Partnership.

Board member Castle suggested recognizing the partners at the February Board meeting.

Vice Chair Feffer made a comment that the Ice Rink was very successful with the Downtown merchants and citizens. A plan for additional activities in the park would be a good idea.

- **Update on City Auditorium Grant Opportunities:** The 2014 Budget includes \$300,000 for a restroom upgrade at the City Auditorium. Staff is planning to submit a grant application to the State Historic Fund for a grant for seating improvements in the main arena. The application is due by April 1st. The Auditorium had actually received a grant for seating in 2006; however, it had to be turned back because City Council was considering selling the Auditorium at that time.

In terms of the grant application, staff is taking into consideration and looking at the Auditorium from the perspective of recognizing its historical significance and the fact that it is a historical asset to the community, but it is also a usable and viable venue. Staff needs to balance these views and discuss how to approach the improvements with stakeholders prior to the RFP process for the restroom restoration. The Friends group, along with other groups which are interested in the City Auditorium, will be included in the process.

- **Update on Red Rock Canyon Open Space Parking Lot Concerns:** At the last Board meeting during Citizen Discussion, a concern regarding increased break-ins at Red Rock Canyon Open Space was addressed. Staff contacted the Gold Hill Police Division and requested assistance. Since then, the police have patrolled the area in unmarked vehicles and have made arrests. The Police Department responds as they can but especially when there are specific issues which are addressed directly to them. Staff will provide statistical information on crimes in the park system when the information becomes available from the Police Department.

Staff also mentioned that a couple of years ago, there were thefts of backflow preventers. At that time the Parks Department lost over thirty backflows in the park system. Since that time the Department has caged and chained each of the backflows. This effort has prevented the loss of backflows in parks; however, recently backflow theft has increased with fifty-five homes impacted.

- **Update on Bike/Pedestrian Master Plan:** This is a partnership effort with a number of communities working together under the umbrella of the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG). The overall approach for the Bike/Pedestrian Master Plan is a regional approach. This will be an important project to the City of Colorado Springs because there are a number of elements and components which need to be in place for the bike ways and pedestrian network to function as a regional system. At the same time both on-street and off-street bike and pedestrian systems need to work together well. The approach to this project is to identify major regional corridors, as well as on-street and off-street bike and pedestrian systems, then integrate both to make it work. The public process is underway.

The Parks Department would like to be a part of this regional plan but also have a standalone plan, specifically for the City of Colorado Springs, that fits with the overall concept to take and implement.

Brian Vitulli with the PPACG Transportation Program, provided a brief synopsis of the overall project and schedule as follows:

- Every four years, PPACG updates its regional transportation plan, which encompasses looking at the entire transportation network (i.e. roads, bike uses, transit system, non-motorized system, etc.).
- The last non-motorized system was reviewed in 2006.
- PPACG has developed a unique approach to the non-motorized transportation system plan. PPACG is partnering with the City of Colorado Springs, Woodland Park and El Paso County, which all have contributed funds to review the plan regionally as well as focusing on their own municipalities.
- The City of Colorado Springs' Bike Master Plan was last completed in 1996. This effort is to update that master plan.
- The Bike/Pedestrian Master Plan process began in July 2013 and is expected to be completed in July 2014. After that, this master plan will be incorporated into the regional transportation plan in December 2014.
- The Bike/Pedestrian Master Plan process included reaching out to the community; trying to identify all stakeholders (i.e. school districts, health community, bicycle and pedestrian advocates, trail organizations, neighborhood organizations, etc.).

- The process began with a focus group identifying some of the issues. Many members in the Focus Group are also a part of the Stakeholders Task Force.
 - The Technical Task Force consists of staff from various departments in government offices (i.e. Public Works, Planning, Engineering, Parks, etc.).
 - The first public meetings were completed in December 2013 with various cities (i.e. Monument, Fountain, Colorado Springs and Woodland Park). The next series of public meetings will be in spring 2014.
 - PPACG has a project website, which is interactive for citizens to provide comments: walkbikeconnect.org.
 - A draft report is projected to be completed in late spring with the final plan completed this summer.
 - PPACG is partnering with the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC) regarding an economic analysis of the bicycle impacts for the Pikes Peak Region. TOSC has been conducting surveys with retail bicycle shops, bicycle industry, etc. regarding economic impacts.
- **Mountain Shadows Neighborhood Park Update:** The Board approved an amendment to the Mountain Shadows Park Master Plan in March 2013. The intent of the Department was to break ground for a portion of the park on June 26th, which was the anniversary date of the Waldo Canyon fire; however, that did not happen. In the past several months, staff has been evaluating what capacity there is for private fundraising. Also, the model which the Department was moving forward with for the master plan project was largely based on funds which were to be raised privately, primarily by Colorado Springs Together. Unfortunately, the fundraising effort did not come to fruition. The overall cost to renovate the park is approximately \$900,000. Therefore, staff would like to propose to move forward with a scaled-down project in phases.

The Department was successful in obtaining a grant for making improvements to the playground area. The matching dollars are coming from School District #11. In addition, there is an effort underway to create and develop a memorial within the park. The funding for the memorial has been raised privately. In order to move the memorial project forward, a location needed to be identified. The current location for the playground and a shelter was identified as the location for the memorial. This will move the playground and a shelter to the basketball court area, which meant foregoing the basketball court for the time being. During this phase, the signage for the loop trail for the Everett's can take place, though the loop will be modified slightly.

Matt Mayberry, Manager of Cultural Services, said that the Memorial Committee, chaired by Nora Gledich, has been meeting over the past year. The Memorial Committee created a subcommittee to develop a judging process to evaluate the submissions of the art for the memorial. Last October, the committee published a call for entries through the Western Arts Federation's website, callforentry.org. Eighty-six artists responded from all over the world requesting information. Five potential artists were selected. They were given a \$300 stipend to submit a formal proposal. A public meeting is scheduled on January 10th, 6:00 p.m. at the Front Range Alliance Church for the public to review the art work and to provide their feedback. After that, the committee will meet to make a final decision. Currently, the committee has \$39,000, which was raised through a public auction from the "Ashes to Art" project. The committee would like to unveil the memorial in June 2014, which will be the second anniversary of the fire.

Mr. Lieber said that a number of builders have been contributing towards the memorial fund in order to advance the project.

- **North Cheyenne Cañon Flood Repair Update:** Staff provided an update on the projects at North Cheyenne Cañon as follows:

- A gate has been installed on the east side of Gold Camp Road to manage the construction site. This gate will also be a permanent tool which will be used to close the road on an as-needed basis (i.e. 4th of July).
- The U.S. Forest Services has made a number of improvements on the roadway (i.e. placement of bolders on the edge, new guard rail, new culvert, new drainage, washout repair, upper parking lot expansion, etc.).

- The Mt. Cutler Trail has been repaired. Trees and debris have been moved and a bridge on the trail has been inspected and opened.
- The shoulder along Cheyenne Cañon Road has been repaired.
- Six to eight feet of sediment in different areas has been removed in the South Cañon area.
- The South Cañon Trail has been repaired.
- To date, the Department has spent approximately \$225,000 in North Cheyenne Cañon. Staff will apply for a FEMA grant close to this amount. However, it will take 18 to 24 months for FEMA's response regarding the reimbursement. The U.S. Forest Service spent over \$1,000,000. Additional work needs to be done in this area, especially on Gold Camp Road.
- There will be a contract for \$125,000 for debris removal system-wide (i.e. Garden of the Gods, Palmer Park, Pikes Peak Greenway, etc.). In addition, there will be another contract for several hundred thousand dollars for permanent improvements in certain areas.
- The Department will seek Mitigation Funds from FEMA for two buildings in Harland Wolf Park (Harland Wolf Historic Home and a 70's vintage structure with a damaged foundation). Staff will also seek an emergency grant from GOCO.

In response to Vice Chair Feffer's questions, Linda Carter with Seven Falls provided a brief update on the status of Seven Falls. They are still working with engineers and contractors to open Seven Falls by June 1, 2014. In the meantime, they are continuing with rebuilding efforts.

PRESENTATION

➤ **Camp Creek Drainage Project Update**

Kurt Schroeder, Manager of Park Operations and Development, provided an update on the Camp Creek Drainage project. To date, two public meetings have been held: October 2013 with 150 participants and December 2013 with 60 participants.

The consultant team's focus on the project is an area along the 31st Street ditch as well as Camp Creek, as it travels through Garden of the Gods Park and passes through Rock Ledge Ranch. The Parks Department's concern is what happens in Garden of the Gods and Rock Ledge Ranch.

At the December meeting, the consultants proposed multiple ideas and asked for public feedback. One proposal within Garden of the Gods and Rock Ledge Ranch was a debris/sediment collection basin with access out of the Glen Eyrie property. Feedback from the public on this was generally positive. The consultants also proposed a detention basin just south of that in order to retain some of the water. Their goal was to get as many residents and businesses out of the flood plain as possible along 31st Street as well as to protect the historic Rock Ledge Ranch. Another proposal was potentially raising Gateway Road as much as seventeen feet in order to create a natural obstruction whereby water can accumulate and be retained before heading downstream. Another component which impacts the Department is the creation of four detention areas in the big field area which is located in front of Rock Ledge Ranch. These would be gently rolling slopes. Also, proposed was softening the 90° turn which goes underneath Chambers Way.

There were a number of proposals for the Pleasant Valley area from the 31st Street ditch: deepening the ditch considerably; steepening the side walls and putting up walls on either side; improving the current ditch but deepening it; widen it by taking an on-street bike lane off the street and put it in the ditch; and completely enclosing the ditch and putting in box culverts to carry the water underground and head it toward Fountain Creek. A third component of the project was addressing what happens when it confluences with Fountain Creek. Feedback from the public was that they like the ditch. However, they were not in favor of Rock Ledge Ranch retaining water.

A major issue is that the consultants' hydraulic studies show a different amount of water (2,000~3,000 cfs) then what has been identified by FEMA (4,500~5,000 cfs) as 100-year flood.

The next meeting has been scheduled for February 25th, 6:00 p.m. at Coronado High School.

Break: 9:30 a.m.

Reconvened: 9:45 a.m.

6:00 AM	0	0	0	0	26.75	30.01	41.1	32.63	100	0	0	0
7:00 AM	0	0	0	0	28.23	44.9	51.1	49.33	52.83	0	0	0
8:00 AM	11.73	12.7	19.72	20.31	44.39	57.87	61.38	60.07	55.02	22.08	19.83	8.89
9:00 AM	17.58	14.8	28.93	37.45	59.39	66.29	70.29	68.69	58.64	38.94	29.4	12.43
10:00 AM	23.65	15.37	35.92	45.54	62.51	70.31	69.01	68.34	57.59	47.49	32.06	7.34
11:00 AM	30.89	19.71	40.82	45.23	55.04	58.46	58.93	60.59	55.86	46.46	36.25	11.81
12:00 PM	26.89	18.83	41.21	45.88	51.4	52.55	55.84	55.6	47.34	46.16	34.12	5.22
1:00 PM	20.78	9.18	36.35	37.89	43	45.35	44.28	43.53	37.96	35.23	26.22	2.02
2:00 PM	10.87	4.74	25.23	26.24	42.78	40.15	42.49	43.85	32.42	28.15	16.43	0.9
3:00 PM	2.39	1.5	21.24	29.79	50.79	50.26	48.55	52.95	38.79	23.24	2.94	0.17
4:00 PM	0.14	0.3	8.71	31.9	67.79	69.74	62.04	68.68	37.06	14.58	0.37	0.14
5:00 PM	0	0.16	1.53	14.74	39.02	53.67	46.73	42.53	8.75	1.18	0.3	0
6:00 PM	0	0	1.12	1.39	3.54	7.77	8.27	7.99	1.6	0.04	0	0
7:00 PM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.54	3.33	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	13.26	8.33	23.81	30.53	46.69	51.62	52.02	52.42	40.1	28.28	18.32	4.13

Weekend Hours	Yield Jan	Yield Feb	Yield Mar	Yield Apr	Yield May	Yield Jun	Yield Jul	Yield Aug	Yield Sep	Yield Oct	Yield Nov	Yield Dec
6:00 AM	0	0	0	0	33	66.47	63.91	61.61	0	100	0	100
7:00 AM	0	0	0	1.16	50.59	64.65	61.09	62.3	72.98	0	0	100
8:00 AM	28.42	27.57	27.83	59.73	53.07	65.1	61.84	63.54	58.09	47.77	52.17	20.72
9:00 AM	30.4	33.33	40.86	59.57	71.65	86.86	81.39	83.97	57.22	53.63	52.54	28.31
10:00 AM	46.95	39.42	43.66	78.17	77.45	82.26	77.7	83.32	74.37	72.64	65.66	28.34
11:00 AM	47.79	47.91	55	86.14	77.25	79.55	70.1	79.36	72.98	72	75.05	36.95
12:00 PM	45.15	33.57	44.18	82.09	72.2	72.47	65.94	77.46	68.02	73.12	66.95	33.68
1:00 PM	30.05	29.38	35.99	74.86	64.44	61.65	54.09	60.56	53.87	55.6	50.79	22.31
2:00 PM	13.17	12.71	28.16	65.49	57.54	59.29	55.24	62.09	45.27	44.86	30.91	19.01
3:00 PM	2.74	2.77	11.66	47.76	42.07	48.68	43.98	44.86	34.56	31.24	13.49	8.43
4:00 PM	0.25	0.66	4.28	27.41	29.8	37.35	36.03	35.99	21.18	12.05	2.95	4.56
5:00 PM	0.16	0.39	0.29	10.52	12.21	24.31	18.69	14	4.32	0.36	0	1.11
6:00 PM	0	0.1	0	3.7	4.52	7.8	4.32	2.1	0.4	0.11	0	0
7:00 PM	0	0	0	0	0	2.5	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	22.42	19.97	26.52	54.34	52.04	58.78	54.15	57.63	46.58	43.27	38.08	18.74

2014 Budget

Patty Jewett		Valley Hi	
Revenue	\$ 2,075,118	Projected Revenue	\$ 1,153,596
Expenses	\$ 2,073,113	Projected Expenses	\$ 1,272,992

Point of Sale (POS) System

- Compared to last year in the same time frame (May-December), 397 more reservations were made using the internet, which produced 1,111 more rounds.

Mobile Application

- A mobile application has been added on smartphones for the golf courses in 2014. It provides information regarding GPS yardage; interactive scorecard; tracking scoring stats; tee time booking; food and beverage menu; receiving last minute deals; live leaderboards; tracking favorite golf games; Facebook sharing; and round history.

Capital Projects in 2013

Patty Jewett and Valley Hi golf courses had a number of capital projects completed.

FIRST Tee program

Implementation of the FIRST Tee program has been accomplished at Valley Hi golf course with a very large initial class of over 175 youth. Mayor Bach presented a check in the amount of \$15,000 to the First Tee program from his Golf Tournament fundraiser ceremony.

BOARD BUSINESS

➤ **Board/Committee Reports and Remarks**

Park Master Plan Process: Board member Maynard said that the master plan is in an evaluation/survey stage this month.

LART Committee: Chair Hilaire said that she will miss the meeting this month.

Art Commission: Chair Hilaire said that the Art Commission will meet on a monthly basis until the exhibit is ready at the Airport. The Art Commission will be curating art exhibits at the Airport. The exhibits will be in the baggage handling area. The next meeting is scheduled on January 21st.

Pioneers Museum Board: Vice Chair Feffer said that the Board is meeting this afternoon.

Meadows Park Community Center Partnership: Board member Castle said that the Meadows Park Community Center Partnership and the Colorado Community Center Collaborative meetings were held on January 8th. These were annual meetings to summarize 2013 and discuss plans for 2014. Copies of the PowerPoint presentations from both meetings were sent to staff for review.

Citizens' Transportation Advisory Board: Board member Liebert said that the Citizens' Transportation Advisory Board will meet in February.

No Smoking Ordinance in Parks: In response to Board member Scarangella's question, Kurt Schroeder, Manager of Park Operations and Development, said that the "No Smoking" signs have been approved and the locations have been identified. The signs should be installed by February. Staff also met with the Tobacco Education Coalition, which is very supportive of the program.

Karen Palus, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, said that a presentation from the Tobacco Education Coalition is scheduled for the next meeting. They will present a certificate to the Parks Department for the passage of the No Smoking ordinance. Also, a public event called "Kicking Butts" will be scheduled in the near future.

Board member Castle requested to invite staff from the Police Department to the next Board meeting.

Note of Appreciation: Karen Palus, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, thanked the Board members, the Trails and Open Space Coalition, and John Demmon, President of the Friends of Garden of the Gods, for their support during the Budget process and their continued support of

the Department.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the Board adjourned at 10:20 a.m.