

MINUTES

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
May 8, 2014
1401 Recreation Way, CSC 80905

Board Members Present: Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, Alex Johnson, John Maynard, Hank Scarangella

Absent: Scot Hume, Mina Liebert

Resigned: Dan Lewis

Alternate Present: Ron Ilgen

CALL TO ORDER

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

Chair Hilaire announced that a Presentation item, "Gossage Park Dirt Jump Course Proposal", will be postponed to a future meeting per the request by the presenter.

CITIZEN DISCUSSION

Shooks Run Parks: Nancy Strong, Vice President of the Shooks Run Neighborhood Association, said that the neighbors are concerned about the state of the parks within the Shooks Run neighborhood ("Prairie Dog" Frank O'Byrne Park, North and Middle Shooks Run Parks and Frank Waters Park). A couple of years ago, a renovation plan for portions of these parks was discussed with staff (i.e. changing turf areas to lower water grass mix, etc.); however, the parks have been neglected. Ms. Strong said that the neighbors have been doing a lot of work in the parks (i.e. regular clean ups, xeriscape, working on invasive tree species and planting native trees, planning music series, etc.) and that they are willing to partner with the Parks Department to bring back the parks to a condition which they can be proud of and take care of.

Disc Golf: Gary Camp, representing disc golf, requested to have more disc golf courses in Colorado Springs. Mr. Camp said that an acre is needed per hole, which means 18 acres is required for a 18-hole course. He requested to have more disc golf courses in Colorado Springs (i.e. five to seven courses) even if it takes a couple of years to build them.

Board member Maynard said that three courses are being considered at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Charles Castle made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 13, 2014 Board meeting. Motion seconded by Alex Johnson and carried unanimously.

Ayes: Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, Alex Johnson, John Maynard, Hank Scarangella

Nays: None

Absent: Scot Hume, Mina Liebert

Hank Scarangella made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 10, 2014 Board meeting. Motion seconded by Charles Castle and carried unanimously.

Ayes: Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, Alex Johnson, John Maynard, Hank Scarangella

Nays: None

Absent: Scot Hume, Mina Liebert

ACTION ITEMS

1. Request on Behalf of Nor'wood Development to Approve the Proposed Wolf Ranch Master Plan Amendment

Chris Lieber, Manager of Design, Development and TOPS, introduced Meggan Herrington, Principal Planner with City Development Review, who provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the proposed master plan amendment. ([See attached presentation](#))

Nor'wood Development has requested a major amendment to the Wolf Ranch Master Plan. The proposed Master Plan Amendment includes relocation of the master planned community park site to an alternative location within the Wolf Ranch Master Plan area. The proposed amendment does not include or require any changes in parkland dedication requirements.

The Wolf Ranch Master Plan was originally approved in 2001 and has been amended several times, including a minor adjustment in the location of the master planned community park site in 2005. In 2005 the School District 20 K-12 campus was moved from the west side of the master plan to its current location at the southeast corner of the Wolf Ranch Master Plan. In 2005 the Parks Board approved Nor'wood Development's request to adjust the location of the community park site due to the relocation of the K-12 school campus.

The current Wolf Ranch Master Plan identifies a 26.31-acre community park site near the intersection of Tutt Boulevard and Wolf Village Drive. The Master Plan Amendment proposes an alternative location for the community park to be located along Cottonwood Creek just south of Research Parkway, adjacent to the proposed School District 20 K-12 campus.

The current community park site and the proposed community site are owned by Nor'wood Development. The current community park site has not been dedicated to the City; therefore, the City does not have an ownership interest in the existing park site. As required in the Wolf Ranch Annexation Agreement and District Service Plan, Nor'wood Development is responsible for dedicating a community park site to the City.

The proposed Wolf Ranch Master Plan Amendment includes 26.97 acres of neighborhood parkland, a 25.47 acre community park, and 267.13 acres of open space and trail corridors (only partial credit is given for open space and trail corridor dedication). In addition, the Master Plan identifies 11.32 acres of metro district pocket parkland (no parkland credit is given for the metro district pocket parks). Consistent with the current Wolf Ranch Master Plan, the proposed Master Plan amendment includes five public neighborhood parks and one public community park site. In accordance with the adopted 2005 Wolf Ranch Master Plan, the City is responsible for constructing and maintaining three of the neighborhood parks and the community park. The Old Ranch Metropolitan District is responsible for constructing and maintaining two neighborhood parks, the open space areas, trail corridors and pocket parks within the Wolf Ranch Master Plan area.

Dedication of the five neighborhood parks, the community park, trails corridors and open space areas will meet the required park land dedications within Wolf Ranch. Several additional parks exist within the Wolf Ranch Master Plan are metro district pocket parks. The pocket parks are constructed and maintained by the Old Ranch Metropolitan District for the benefit and enjoyment of District residents and the general public, but do not receive park credit.

Given the current backlog of park development and limited capital and operating revenue, it is highly unlikely that Wolf Ranch Park Community Park will be developed in the near future by the Parks Department.

The Wolf Ranch Master Plan amendment is being administered through the City's Land Use Review Department. A public meeting was held within the Wolf Ranch neighborhood at the Ranch Creek Elementary School on March 12, 2014. Post cards were sent to addresses within 1,000 ft. of both the current park site and the proposed park site. The site has been posted with signs identifying the

proposed Master Plan Amendment with meeting dates and locations. The Land Use Review Department has been receiving comments from the neighborhood and surrounding community.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting also provides an opportunity for public comment. Meeting notices were sent to neighbors and signs were posted at both locations (current and proposed park sites) in advance of this meeting. In addition, Nor'wood Development had posted meeting notifications on social media networks within the Wolf Ranch Development regarding this meeting.

This item is expected to be considered by the Planning Commission on July 17, 2014. It is anticipated that City Council will consider the proposed Master Plan Amendment in August 2014.

City staff has received numerous comments, both in favor and in opposition to the proposed Master Plan Amendment. The majority of comments received from neighbors who reside in close proximity to the current community park site have expressed strong opposition to the proposed master plan amendment. All comments received to date were included in the Board packet.

Staff has reviewed the proposed Master Plan Amendment and evaluated the proposed community park site. The proposed community park site substantially meets the goals and objectives of the 2000 Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Master Plan. The proposed community park site is suitable for future park development – offering advantages such as proximity to open space, buffers from adjacent residential areas, and potential shared uses with the adjacent School District 20 K-12 campus. The proposed park site will serve a significant number of existing and future residents within the two-mile service radius, including an estimated 16,126 residents that are not currently being served by other community park sites. Staff recommended approval of the location of the proposed community park site as presented.

Ralph Braden with Nor'wood Development provided a PowerPoint presentation. ([See presentation](#))

Don Smith, Consultant for School District 20, was present at the meeting to provide answers to Board members' questions.

Citizens who spoke "FOR" the Wolf Ranch Master Plan Amendment included: Mary Ann Peterson; Yvette Berakis; and Grace Corrington.

Chair Hilaire announced that the Board will break at this time and when they return, they will go to the Ceremonial Item since that is a time certain item at 10:00 a.m. After that, the Board will resume with "Request on Behalf of Nor'wood Development to Approve the Proposed Wolf Ranch Master Plan Amendment" item.

Break: 9:51 a.m.

Reconvened: 10:05 a.m.

CEREMONIAL ITEM (at 10:00 a.m.)

➤ **Recognition of the Incline Friends**

Sarah Bryarly, Landscape Architect, recognized the Incline Friends for their support and donation for the Manitou Incline. Ms. Bryarly said that the Friends group hosted numerous volunteer projects; held several successful fundraising events; and were the #2 fundraiser through the 2013 Indy Give! campaign program.

On behalf of the Incline Friends, Sandy Yukman presented a check in the amount of \$60,000 towards the Enhancement Project at the Incline and said that the Friends group will continue to work with the Parks Department. Tim Bergsten and Janice Black with the Incline Friends were also present at the meeting.

Ms. Bryarly said that the above donation will go into a Gift Trust account for the Incline.

1. Request on Behalf of Nor'wood Development to Approve the Proposed Wolf Ranch Master Plan Amendment (Continued)

Chair Hilaire reiterated the Board's purview on this item.

Citizens who spoke "AGAINST" the Wolf Ranch Master Plan Amendment included: Gayle Wentling; Kelly Peterson; John Zentner; Terry Owens; Ray Schindles; Randy Whittington; Laura Schofield; Cindy O'Connor; and Ji Young Smith.

Matt Veits, Keith Kirkby and Johnny Lee Smith, who were also against the Wolf Ranch Master Plan provided a PowerPower presentation. ([See presentation](#))

The following citizens signed in to speak; however, they left the meeting prior to being called: Alex Tovar; Cecile Whittington; Justin Churchill; John Shirtz, Andrew Awtry; John Hart; Jon Rubinfeld; Jean Carlson; and Patty Kanaby.

John Maynard made a motion to approve the location of the proposed community park site as proposed within the Wolf Ranch Master Plan Amendment, incorporating the staff's recommendation. Motion seconded by Charles Castle.

Board member Maynard said that the reason for his motion is that "the vision that the Parks Board and staff have for a community park is different from what the residents have expressed for a park which would be located within their neighborhood. I believe that a community park should be developed much more intensively than what the residents would desire. Looking at features such as lighting, parking, traffic, noise, adult uses versus youth uses, programmed activities, including tournaments, etc., these are disruptive to neighborhoods when they are as close as where some of the neighbors attending this meeting are to this particular park."

Board member Maynard said that "it is important for community parks, whenever possible, to have arterial street access served by a traffic signal, which the proposed park has versus the existing park. I'm concerned from a park standpoint that if we were trying to develop this park and go through a neighborhood planning process we would not be able to develop this based on your input the way we think the community needs for it to be developed, and that's with a fairly intensive use. I see a lot of opportunity with the School District and more opportunity with the K-12 site than the elementary site. Infill sites are difficult and this is becoming an infill site. I would advise you that a certain number of single family homes, park and a trail system are better for you as a community than one that is a vacant lot that no one knows when it is going to be developed."

Board member Maynard said that when he visited this site without any information he had a totally different impression. He said that "the first impression was that a community park does not sit very well across from an elementary school site. Secondly, the street, Tutt Boulevard, I thought it was going to be an arterial street and the traffic calming that's there would promote a pedestrian access to the school, I thought that they were going to put another two-lanes on this instead of looking at Briargate Parkway. That's the vision which I had. There are fewer existing residents around the park today than anticipated. My number one concern is that Cordera trail needs to be connected to the elementary school because that's the service area of the school and to walk through an open field is probably inappropriate. There needs to be a formal connection and the sooner that happens, the better and I think there's a program now in place. Second question is how many existing residents will continue to have either open space or park adjacent to them and the proposal which I've seen from a developer, which is the purview of the City Planning Department addresses that to my satisfaction. I'm encouraged by the commitment by the developer to essentially perform on the Metropolitan District parks and those are the reasons why I support the change."

The Board voted on the above motion and carried by a 5 to 1 vote.

Ayes: Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, John Maynard, Hank Scarangella

Nays: Alex Johnson
Absent: Scot Hume, Mina Liebert

Break: 11:52 a.m.
Reconvened: 12:02 p.m.

NOTE: Board member Maynard left the meeting at 11:52 a.m. and returned at 12:30 p.m.

2. Request to Site Two Pieces of Public Art on Property

Paul Gesterling, Development Director for Pioneers Museum, said that the Downtown Partnership is coordinating two new donations of art pieces and was seeking approval from the Parks Board to place these pieces on Parks property in the Downtown area. The Public Art Commission reviewed and approved the donation requests at their May 6, 2014 meeting.

The two pieces were described as follows:

- 1) "Purple Coneflowers" by artist Christopher Weed is proposed to go in the Nevada Avenue median immediately west of City Hall. This is a memorial sculpture honoring Judy Noyes, a former City Council member and vocal advocate for the arts. The piece is the first planned purchase from the newly designated Judy Noyes Memorial Sculpture Purchase Fund. The fund is administered by Community Ventures, the non-profit board of the Downtown Partnership. Once the purchase is completed and the sculpture conveyed into the museum's outdoor sculpture collection, Community Ventures will also transfer the mandatory 10% maintenance fee.
- 2) "Play Date" by artist Melanie Piech is on display in Acacia Park as part of the current "Art on the Streets" exhibition. The sculpture and its location were selected as part of the jury process last spring. The artist has elected to donate the sculpture to the permanent collection when the exhibit ends in June. The sculpture is proposed to remain in its present location. The artist is conveying the sculpture directly into the public art collection and will pay the 10% maintenance fee.

Mr. Gesterling's PowerPoint presentation included full descriptions of both sculptures, along with images. ([See presentation](#))

Charles Castle made a motion to accept the proposed locations for the above sculpture donations. Motion seconded by Alex Johnson and carried unanimously.

Ayes: Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, Alex Johnson, Hank Scarangella
Nays: None
Absent: Scot Hume, Mina Liebert, John Maynard (absent during this item)

3. Camp Creek Drainage Project

Kurt Schroeder, Manager of Park Operations and Development, presented this item.

Camp Creek originates in a large watershed severely burned in the 2012 Waldo Canyon Fire. The drainage corridor extends through Garden of the Gods Park and Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site, then down the median of 31st Street through the Pleasant Valley neighborhood to a confluence with Fountain Creek near U.S. Highway 24.

Summer 2013 rains produced high water levels, significant erosion and debris deposits in Garden of the Gods and Rock Ledge Ranch. Runoff and debris produced by the storms also damaged the lining of the large concrete channel along 31st Street that carries the creek through the Pleasant Valley neighborhood. The existing channel lacks the capacity to handle a 100-year flood, and a large number of homes and businesses within the adjacent mapped flood plain are at risk of flooding during a large storm event. The concrete lining in portions of the channel along 31st Street is in poor

condition and requires frequent repairs. Both the channel and about half of the bridges that cross it, including the Gateway Road bridge, have been identified by the City as needing major repairs or replacement.

The City hired local engineering firm Wilson and Company to head up a project team to study the corridor and work with the community to develop solutions that are both technically sound and responsive to community desires. It was stressed to the consultant team that the drainage corridor is not only home to the National Natural Landmark Garden of the Gods, but also Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site - a property on the National Register of Historic Places. As a result, flood protection measures would need to be sensitive to the special characteristics of both properties.

Four public meetings were held to gather input from the community regarding their support, or lack of support, for a variety of options that could address the flows that would be expected during a 100 year flood event. Options within Garden of the Gods included possible detention facilities in the grassy field east of Rock Ledge Ranch, the raising of Gateway Road by seventeen feet to create a detention area and accommodate a new bridge structure for Camp Creek, and creation of a detention area at the north end of the park where debris had already been deposited during 2013. At one point in the process white poles with orange tops were placed along the sides of Gateway Road to visually illustrate how high Gateway Road might be raised.

In addition to the public meetings, the consultant groups reached out to specific stakeholder groups that included Friends of Garden of the Gods, Rock Ledge Ranch Living History Association, the Native American community, and Garden of the Gods Visitor Center among others.

At the third public meeting, three alternative designs were presented, followed by group discussion and response to the designs from meeting attendees. The alternatives were based in part on the community's responses to five design concepts presented at the second meeting. The recommended plan was formulated as a result of all the information and feedback received by the consultants throughout the process.

A well-attended fourth public meeting was held on April 29th where the recommended plan was unveiled to the public. The recommended plan includes solutions to address the flooding and erosion issues that exist throughout the drainage corridor and will take all homes along the watershed out of the flood plain. It also eliminated any detention east of Rock Ledge Ranch, reduced the need to raise Gateway Road to approximately six feet where it crosses Camp Creek, protected an apricot and Cottonwood tree adjacent to the road, and created a detention area at the north end of the park.

On behalf of Wilson and Company consultant team, Tweed Kezziah and Vance Fossinger provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Camp Creek Drainage Improvement Plan. ([See presentation](#))

Chair Hilaire asked for public input but there was none.

Alex Johnson made a motion to approve the recommended modifications for Camp Creek within Garden of the Gods Park and Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site and supports implementation of the proposed work. Motion seconded by Charles Castle and carried unimously.

Ayes: Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, Alex Johnson, John Maynard (returned to meeting during this item), Hank Scarangella
Nays: None
Absent: Scot Hume, Mina Liebert

4. USL Pro Soccer Proposal

Kurt Schroeder, Manager of Park Operations and Development, provided a brief background of the United Soccer League.

In September, 2013, the Parks Department was approached by Mr. Nick Ragain of Ragain Sports regarding the possible use of Sand Creek Stadium at Coleman Park as the home field for a United Soccer League (USL) Pro Soccer franchise that Ragain Sports was interested in acquiring. Ragain Sports had been investigating possible locations along the front-range and were very interested at locating their franchise in the Colorado Springs area. They had identified Sand Creek Stadium at Coleman Park as a venue that, with modification, would satisfy USL league requirements for a team's home field. Pursuant to that first contact and their initial review of the facility, Ragain Sports began a more in depth assessment of whether the Sand Creek facility would be an acceptable venue that could be reasonably brought up to the required league standards. During this period of time Ragain Sports continued the necessary steps to acquire the Franchise.

On December 5th, the United Soccer League Pro Division officially awarded Ragain Sports an expansion franchise to be located in Colorado Springs. The team is planning to begin league play during the 2015 season. At that point, Ragain Sports doubled its efforts to work with the City and the department to secure the necessary agreements to accommodate their use of Sand Creek Stadium. City Legal, Finance, and Real Estate departments entered the discussion to assure that any and all issues were being worked through in the creation of the operational and lease agreement.

At the April 10, 2014 Park Advisory Board meeting Nick Ragain of Ragain Sports presented to the Board the team's aspirations, timeline, and future vision for the team's operations. Work continues by City staff on the lease/joint use document that will outline Ragain Sports use of the facility, improvements to be made by Ragain Sports, value to be returned to the public by the team (permanent facility improvements, youth clinics conducted by coaches and players, free youth tickets, etc.), insurance and liability issues, and other specifics appropriate to protect the City and the public's interest in the facility.

On May 6, 2013, the Department conducted a public meeting to gauge the adjacent community's acceptance of the proposed use. Only four people attended the meeting. City Legal, Finance, Real Estate and Park staff are meeting weekly with Ragain Sports to discuss the particulars of the agreement and other development and operational issues related to their use of the facility. Ragain Sports has submitted a Special Event Economic Impact Model to the City which is currently being reviewed by staff. Due to the unique nature and complexity of the agreement staff will be taking it to City Council for their approval. Ragain Sports is working with a specific and aggressive timeline dictated by requirements of the USL and the necessary improvements they need to perform on the facility. A pro soccer franchise calling Colorado Springs home will bring additional attention to our community, provide a new recreational amenity for our citizens to enjoy, will bring additional tourism revenue into our town, and builds on Colorado Springs' reputation as a healthy, active and sports oriented community. Park staff is requesting the Park Advisory Board's support of the concept to enter into a lease/joint use agreement with Ragain Sports for their use of Sand Creek Stadium at Coleman Park as home field for a USL Pro Soccer franchise.

Staff recommends that the Board support the creation of a lease/joint use agreement with Ragain Sports to locate a USL Pro Soccer franchise at Sand Creek Stadium at Coleman Park.

Nick Ragain, of Ragain Sports, provided a PowerPoint presentation. ([See presentation](#))

Chair Hilaire asked for public input but there was none.

Charles Castle made a motion to support the creation of a lease/joint use agreement with Ragain Sports to locate a USL Pro Soccer franchise at Sand Creek Stadium at Coleman Park. Motion seconded by Hank Scarangella and carried unanimously.

Ayes: Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, Alex Johnson, Hank Scarangella
Nays: None
Absent: Scot Hume, Mina Liebert, John Maynard (left the meeting during this time at 1:40 p.m.)

Karen Palus, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, said that due to light attendance at the first public meeting, the Department will conduct another meeting.

Mr. Schroeder added that meeting notices, which included a public meeting as well as this Board meeting, were sent to all those who live within 1,000 ft. of the park who may potentially be impacted.

PRESENTATION

➤ **Pikes Peak Regional Stormwater Task Force Presentation**

Rachel Beck and Dave Munger with the Pikes Peak Regional Stormwater Task Force, provided a PowerPoint presentation which included the stormwater crisis; stormwater Task Force; research and input and proposed solution. ([See presentation](#))

➤ **Manitou Incline Presentation**

Sarah Bryarly, Landscape Architect, provided a PowerPoint presentation which included a brief history of the Incline; Incline facts; Incline users; existing conditions of the Incline ties; Incline/Barr connector trail; landowners and cities requirements and contributions; Federal Railroad Act and the Incline; next steps with construction; next steps for public outreach; and the Incline Friends. ([See presentation](#))

This item will be presented to City Council at their next meeting.

➤ **Preliminary 2015 PR&CS CIP Budget**

Chris Lieber, Manager of Design, Development and TOPS, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding a preliminary CIP budget for 2015, which included the Conservation Trust Fund; the Park Land Dedication Ordinance (PLDO) fund; the General Fund; and the Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOPS) fund as well as the projects which are associated with each fund. ([See presentation](#))

The proposed 2015 PR&CS CIP Budget will be brought back to the Board at the next meeting for review and action.

➤ **2015 PR&CS Fees and Charges Methodology**

Kim King, Manager of Recreation and Administration, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding a methodology for the 2015 Fees and Charges. Ms. King explained the Fees and Charges process, which included surveys with public and private entities; philosophies associated with pricing; and applying a strategy to determine how best to provide services effectively and efficiently. ([See presentation](#))

The proposed 2015 PR&CS Fees and Charges will be brought back to the Board at the next meeting for review and action.

*NOTE: Board member Maynard came back to the meeting at 3:15 p.m.
Board member Scarangella left the meeting at 3:30 p.m.*

➤ **2013 Turf Reduction Update**

Kurt Schroeder, Manager of Park Operations and Development, provided a PowerPoint presentation on turf reduction efforts from 2013. ([See presentation](#))

NOTE: Per Board member Maynard's request, Chair Hilaire moved the City for Champions item under Board Business at this time.

BOARD BUSINESS

➤ **City for Champions - Letter of Support**

Board member Maynard said that after the initial presentation of the City for Champions by Bob Cope, he asked that this item be added on the agenda for the Board to discuss providing a letter of support. His intention of the letter was, with the Board's consensus, to show general support for the concept of the City for Champions as a benefit to the community and was to comment that the Board understands that the Council will fully vet the financial issues which have not been vetted yet. Board member Maynard said that this is different from a blanket support for City for Champions. He felt that the Council has a duty to look at this from a financial standpoint and he trusts that they will do so accurately but for the community to say that this is a wonderful opportunity and that we need to continue to pursue it, then Board member Maynard thinks that deserves the Board's support. The four projects mentioned in the City for Champions all relate in some respect to the Parks Department (i.e. park functions; the facilities that would be adjacent to America the Beautiful Park; etc.).

Chair Hilaire said that the Board packet included two emails which were in support of the City for Champions and eleven against, which included a letter from Council member Joel Miller. ([See attached](#))

After a brief discussion, there was a consensus by the Board to send a letter of support.

Karen Palus, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, said that it would be up to the Board to draft the letter and that staff would forward the letter.

Chair Hilaire requested that Board member Maynard draft the letter.

NOTE: Board member Maynard left the meeting at this time.

STAFF REPORT

Kurt Schroeder, Manager of Park Operations and Development, and Karen Palus, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, reported on the following items:

➤ **Buffalo Soldiers Memorial Update**

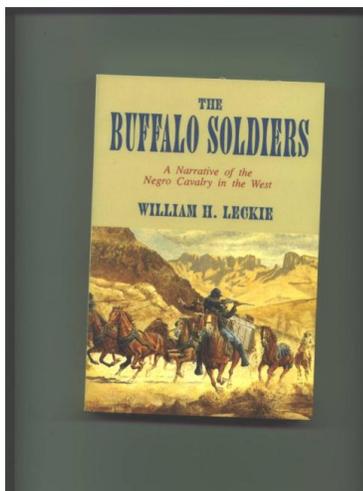
Will Breazell, Chair of the Buffalo Soldier Community Memorial Project, provided the following information through staff:

UPDATE FOR PARK and REC BOARD - MAY 8, 7:30 Since our last meeting with Me and Henry Allen, Co chair January 13, 2014, I am providing the follow update as a public record:

Sample of planned memorial before you. (I hope to show mini version of memorial)

- Committee of 8-9 citizens meets monthly, two Buffalo Soldiers experts providing historical guidance
- Commissioned local artist (Rod Mench)
- Project completion date now June 2016, 150th anniversary of the Buffalo Soldier congressional authorization
- El Pomar Foundation and Pikes Peak Community Foundations assisting with effort
- Support letters from Superintendent D-11; D-11, Director Bob Null; June Waller, President of Savvy Seniors, and Dr. Joe Barrera, Black Latino Coalition
- Establish fundraiser websites in collaboration with the Pikes Peak Community Foundation
- Donor Appreciation Breakfast will be August 20th, 7-8 am, Antler Hilton Hotel, CS, CO
- Draft invitation letter to Former Secretary of State and Retired General Colin Powell
- Walton Foundation Donation Inquiry

- Would like Colorado Springs Park and Recreation Board to formally authorize the NE corner of Memorial Park for the Buffalo Soldier Memorial



Primary Book Ref



Memorial Guide

➤ **Bear Creek Watershed**

At this time the Bear Creek Watershed remains closed. This includes High Drive, Bear Creek Canon Park, Captain Jack's Trail at its start in North Cheyenne Canon Park, and the Palmer Loop. Signs alerting people of the closures are located at all the major access points into the identified areas. The comment period for the NEPA process being conducted by the US Forest Service has ended and the feedback is being reviewed at this time. Based on input Park staff has received from a wide variety of park and trail users, staff is exploring the possibility of opening portions of the closed areas to access some trails that possibly may not compromise the integrity of the watershed area or negatively impact the habitat of the Greenback Cutthroat Trout. The areas being considered would also require limited effort to repair damage that was caused by the rain events of 2013. In order to open these specific and limited areas, staff will be seeking concurrence from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Forest Service. No specific timeline has been set for arriving at any agreement although it is hoped that some action may be taken prior to the start of the summer season.

Staff met with CSU and US Forest Service to discuss possibly opening the lower portion of High Drive so that the Palmer Loop, which comes up through Section 16 then jumps down to High Drive, can be opened while controlling the further access into the watershed. Palmer Loop should be opened by Memorial Day.

➤ **2014 Best of the Springs**

[\(See attachment\)](#)

➤ **County-Wide Parks Board Meeting**

May 14th, 12:00 noon at the Fountain Creek Nature Center (320 Peppergrass Lane, Fountain, CO 80817)

➤ **Spruce Up the Springs Projects:**

- Palmer Park: May 17th, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon (Tie in with National Kids to Parks Day Proclamation)
- Skyview Sports Complex Ribboncutting Ceremony at 10:00 a.m. on May 14th (Pending Mayor's confirmation)
- National Trails Day at Stratton Open Space: June 7th, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
- Ute Valley Open Space: June 21st, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

➤ **Joint City Council and Parks Board Meeting (Second meeting)**

May 22nd, 11:00 a.m. at the Pioneers Museum. Consultants will present the Parks Master Plan.

➤ **Media Information**

📄 **Article from the Gazette**

- "Iconic park tops for thieves – Vehicles targeted at Garden of the Gods", April 17, 2014
- "Guest Column: City needs an academic study of its history", April 22, 2014
- "2014 Best of the Springs", April 22, 2014
- "City: Tell us about your ideal Park – Officials ask residents to help shape a new master plan of park maintenance, growth", April 29, 2014
- "Timepiece treated to TLC – 114-year-old community clock returns to Pioneers Museum plaza after restoration", April 30, 2014
- "Camp Creek flood plan unveiled -- Project calls for more 'naturalistic' channel along 31st Street", April 30, 2014

📄 **Article from Colorado Springs Independent**

- "City cuts, chips to make green spaces healthier Forest, meet trees", April 16, 2014

📄 **Article from KOAA**

- "Neighbors Approve of \$37 million Camp Creek Overhaul Project", April 30, 2014
- "Give your input: Colorado Springs ten year parks master plan in the works", April 30, 2014

📄 **Article from KOAA**

- "Undeveloped park in Colorado Springs explained -- City provides details on why Jimmy Camp Creek Park isn't open", May 1, 2014
- "Community weighs in on master plan for parks", May 1, 2014

BOARD BUSINESS (Cont'd)

➤ **Board Member Resignation (Dan Lewis)**

Board member Lewis resigned on April 28, 2014.

➤ **Board Recommendations to City Council**

- Appointment of Board Alternate (Ron Ilgen) to a Regular position.
- Recruit and Secure Two Board Alternates

➤ **Upcoming Vacant Positions on TOPS Working Committee**

- Chair Ian Kalmanowitz is term limited. June will be his last meeting.
- Paul Franco will not request for a reappointment.
- One alternate resigned.
- The Interview Team will consider moving an Alternate to a Regular position.
- Vacant positions will be advertised.

NOTE: Board member Scarangella came back to the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

➤ **Board/Committee Reports and Remarks**

Pioneers Museum Board: Vice Chair Feffer said that the Museum consolidated its Boards and the Museum Advisory Board has been dissolved through that process.

Meadows Park Community Center (MPCC): Board member Castle sent the following information to staff via email:

- Mayor Bach and his wife, Suzi, will be going to the Meadows Park Community Center for a half-day of fun and presentation on Saturday, July 19th, 8:00 a.m.-12 noon. Fitness zones, Concrete Couch, Bike Bin, Common Grounds meeting room, community BBQ, etc.
- Summer Camp sign up for 70 kids taking place now – June 2nd-July 24th. Volunteer positions still open.
- Wi-Fi router needed in new Common Grounds room since MPCC cinder-block walls hinder signals.
- Report next month about 100 Academy High School kids working 2 hours to do 25 projects.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the Board adjourned at 4:10 p.m.