

MINUTES

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
June 12, 2014
1401 Recreation Way, CSC 80905

Board Members Present: Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, Scot Hume, Ron Ilgen, Alex Johnson, Mina Liebert, John Maynard, Hank Scarangella

CALL TO ORDER

Opening: Chair Hilaire called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m.

Chair Hilaire announced that Councilmember Jill Gaebler was present at the meeting.

CITIZEN DISCUSSION

City Auditorium: Dave Weesner, representing the Friends of the Historic City Auditorium, provided a brief update on the recent hail and flood damage; streetscape and landscaping; status of a seating grant; lighting project; 20th season Sack Lunch Serenade; and the anticipation of the restroom renovation project in 2014. Mr. Weesner submitted a letter from the Friends Group requesting to include the City Auditorium in the Parks Master Plan.

Trails and Open Space Coalition Report: Susan Davies, Executive Director of the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), provided the following:

- A newspaper article this week mentioned that Banning Lewis was potentially purchased by a local owner. TOSC is pleased.
- All trails, including City trails (i.e. Capt. Jacks Trail, Palmer Loop Trail) in the Bear Creek Watershed which were open prior to the September flooding will re-open the week of June 23rd. This was mentioned at a recent meeting regarding the Bear Creek Watershed.
- There is a potential procedure in place that would transfer Colorado Springs Utilities property known as Jones Park to a national park foundation, which would eventually go to the U.S. Forest Service.
- Dog Patrols - Animal control officers from the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region are on bikes riding trail systems in the area's regional parks and open spaces and enforcing "dogs on leash" law. Violators will be ticketed. TOSC created a "Parks are for the Dogs" brochure, which is a guide to dog parks and off-leash areas in Colorado Springs.
- Stratton Open Space has a new Board of Directors.
- A National Trails Day event was held at the Stratton Open Space on June 7th.
- The 20th Annual Starlight Spectacular is scheduled on June 14th at 9:00 p.m. The ride starts at 10:30 p.m. at the Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Charles Castle made a motion to approve the minutes from the [May 8, 2014](#) Board meeting. Motion seconded by Hank Scarangella and carried unanimously.

Ayes: Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, Scot Hume, Ron Ilgen, Alex Johnson, Mina Liebert, John Maynard, Hank Scarangella
Nays: None
Absent: None

ACTION ITEMS

1. Request on Behalf of the Cherokee Metro District to Construct and Maintain Park Improvements on City Park Property adjacent to the Rock Island Trail at Eastridge Park

Chris Lieber, Manager of Park Development and TOPS Program, said that the Cherokee Metropolitan District was requesting approval to develop park improvements on City owned property as part of the Eastridge Park improvements. The City-owned property is a segment of the future Rock Island Trail corridor. The proposed park improvements do not impede the future development of the Rock Island Trail.

The District has developed a district-wide Park Master Plan to guide the future of parks and recreation within the District boundaries. The District is located within an enclave of unincorporated area on the eastern side of Colorado Springs. The District's planning process has engaged the neighborhoods within the District through surveys and community meetings. Through this process, Eastridge Park has been identified for future improvements.

Eastridge Park is located between Constitution Boulevard and Palmer Park Road at the intersection of the Rock Island Trail. Use of a portion of the City-owned trail corridor is requested to expand Eastridge Park to provide additional space for a dog park and future ball field.

Parry Thomas from Thomas & Thomas provided a PowerPoint presentation. ([See presentation](#))

Chair Hilaire asked for public input but there was none.

Scot Hume made a motion to approve the Cherokee Metropolitan District to use a portion of the Rock Island Corridor for improvements to Eastridge Park. Motion seconded by Charles Castle and carried unanimously.

Ayes: Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, Scot Hume, Ron Ilgen, Alex Johnson, Mina Liebert, John Maynard, Hank Scarangella

Nays: None

Absent: None

2. Minor Amendment to the North Cheyenne Cañon Park Master Plan – Mt. Muscoco Trail and Chamberlain Trail Realignment

Chris Lieber, Manager of Park Development and TOPS Program, said that the Friends of North Cheyenne Cañon have requested a minor amendment to the North Cheyenne Cañon Park Master Plan to include the Mt. Muscoco Trail and the realignment of a portion of the Chamberlain Trail. The Mt. Muscoco Trail is an existing trail that is depicted on numerous historic and contemporary maps, but is absent from the current North Cheyenne Cañon Master Plan. The addition of the Mt. Muscoco Trail as an official designated trail will provide an additional trail within the park and enable the Friends of North Cheyenne Cañon to marshal funds and volunteers to maintain the trail. Medicine Wheel has requested a realignment to the Chamberlain Trail to provide an improved connection between the Stratton Open Space and North Cheyenne Cañon Park. The Chamberlain Trail corridor currently parallels the chain link fence around Gold Camp Reservoir and then follows the steep utility access road into Cheyenne Cañon Park. A realignment of the Chamberlain Trail will greatly enhance the trail user experience and provide a more sustainable alignment.

David Deitmeyer, Park Planner, provided a PowerPoint Presentation. ([See Presentation](#))

Bob Falcone, with the Friends of North Cheyenne Cañon, provided a PowerPoint Presentation. ([See Presentation](#))

Chair Hilaire asked for citizen input.

Susan Davies, Executive Director of the Trails and Open Space Coalition, and Jason Alwine, representing Medicine Wheel, spoke separately in favor of the proposed plan.

John Maynard made a motion to approve the proposed minor Master Plan amendment to the North Cheyenne Cañon Park Master Plan to include the addition of the Mt. Muscoco Trail and the realignment of the Chamberlain Trail. Motion seconded by Charles Castle and carried unanimously.

Ayes: Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, Scot Hume, Ron Ilgen, Alex Johnson, Mina Liebert, John Maynard, Hank Scarangella
Nays: None
Absent: None

3. Request by the Pikes Peak Pickleball Club for a Minor Master Plan Amendment to the Monument Valley Park Master Plan to Convert Existing Tennis Courts at Monument Valley Park South to Dedicated Pickleball Use

Chris Lieber, Manager of Park Development and TOPS Program, said that the Pikes Peak Pickleball Club made a request to convert the existing tennis courts in Monument Valley Park South to dedicated pickleball use. Mr. Lieber's PowerPoint presentation included both short-term and long-term options. ([See presentation](#))

Chair Hilaire asked for citizen input.

Steve and Ramona Boone, Co-Directors for the Regional Pickle Ball Club, provided a PowerPoint presentation. ([See presentation](#))

Judi Ingelido, representing the Friends of Monument Valley Park, said that the Friends group supports the courts being solely dedicated as pickleball courts.

Jeff Norton, Vice President of the Pikes Peak Pickleball Club, suggested a full conversion of the courts for pickleball. Otherwise the same issue will need to be discussed again next year.

Scot Hume made a motion to approve the proposed minor Master Plan amendment to the Monument Valley Park Master Plan to convert the five existing dual-use tennis/pickleball courts to thirteen (13) dedicated pickleball courts (four (4) east/west courts and nine (9) north/south courts) as a short term solution; however the Board would need to discuss a long term solution. Motion seconded by Charles Castle and carried unanimously.

Ayes: Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, Scot Hume, Ron Ilgen, Alex Johnson, Mina Liebert, John Maynard, Hank Scarangella
Nays: None
Absent: None

Break: 9:40 a.m.

Reconvened: 9:52 a.m.

4. Shooks Run Creek Improvements at John "Prairie Dog" O'Byrne Park

Chris Lieber, Manager of Park Development and TOPS Program, said that the Colorado Springs Public Works Department is requesting approval of the proposed repairs and improvements to Shooks Run Creek at John "Prairie Dog" O'Byrne Park. The September 11, 2013 flood event caused significant damage to existing retaining walls along the north side of the creek. The failure of these walls poses a serious risk to both private and public property.

Parry Thomas with Thomas & Thomas provided an overview of the proposed drainage improvements and associated impacts/benefits to O’Byrne Park through a PowerPoint presentation. ([See presentation](#))

Chair Hilaire asked for citizen input.

Gary Rapp, representing the Board of Directors of the Middle Shooks Run Neighborhood Association, said that they have participated in the public meeting. They have concerns regarding the aesthetics of the wall which will be replaced and the removal of approximately 90% of the landscape and trees along the creek. Without the screening of the trees, the wall will be much more noticeable. Mr. Rapp said that they are supportive of the project but they would like to have the trees back sometime in the near future. Also, they would like to see something which the Parks Department can maintain easily within their budget.

Alex Johnson made a motion to approve the proposed plans for improvements to the Shooks Run Drainage at “Prairie Dog” O’Byrne Park as presented. However, the Board recommended that the Shooks Run Project Team keep in contact with the Middle Shooks Run Neighborhood Association to make certain that their concerns are addressed. Motion seconded by Charles Castle and carried unanimously.

Ayes: Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, Scot Hume, Ron Ilgen, Alex Johnson, Mina Liebert, John Maynard, Hank Scarangella
Nays: None
Absent: None

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

➤ **Recognition of Comcast – Comcast Cares Day**

Karen Palus, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, said that this item is to recognize Comcast for their partnership and leadership in supporting the Spruce Up the Springs and the Spirit of the Springs programs. They had recently coordinated a “Comcast Cares Day” project at Monument Valley Park on April 26th. Approximately 150 volunteers worked on finishing the new playground, landscaping and general park beautification. A video of the project was shown.

Ms. Palus recognized Stephanie, Sales Manager, and Randy Cobb, Loyalty Manager, with a framed picture.

➤ **Staff Introductions**

Karen Palus, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, introduced Donna Nelson, Spirit of the Springs Specialist with the City, who has joined the Parks Department and Carly Kobasiar, the Department’s new Special Events Supervisor.

NOTE: Due to meeting conflicts, staff requested changes in the order of the agenda items as written.

PRESENTATION

➤ **Downtown Enhancements and Park Land Dedication Ordinance**

Karen Palus, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services introduced Bret Waters, Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of Emergency Management, who provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the “Imagine Downtown Colorado Springs Master Plan” and the Park Land Dedication Ordinance. ([See presentation](#)) Ryan Tefertiller, Manager of Land Development Review, was also present at the meeting to answer Board members’ questions.

ACTION ITEMS (Cont’d)

5. 2015 Proposed Golf Enterprise Fees and Charges

Dal Lockwood, Golf Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the proposed Golf Enterprise Fees and Charges for 2015. ([See presentation](#))

Chair Hilaire asked for public input but there was none.

Charles Castle made a motion to support of the fees and charges as shown in [Exhibit A](#), with flexibility and looking at other ways to increase income. Also requested a support letter be sent to City Council. Motion seconded by John Maynard and carried unanimously.

Ayes: Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, Scot Hume, Ron Ilgen, Alex Johnson, Mina Liebert, John Maynard, Hank Scarangella
Nays: None
Absent: None

6. 2015 Evergreen and Fairview Cemetery Fee and Charges

Will DeBoer, Cemetery Operations Supervisor, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the proposed Cemetery Enterprise Fees and Charges for 2015. ([See presentation](#))

Chair Hilaire asked for public input but there was none.

Charles Castle made a motion to support of the fees and charges as shown in [Exhibit A](#), with a support letter to City Council. Motion seconded by John Maynard and carried unanimously.

Ayes: Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, Scot Hume, Ron Ilgen, Alex Johnson, Mina Liebert, John Maynard, Hank Scarangella
Nays: None
Absent: None

7. 2015 Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Capital Improvement Projects Budget

Chris Lieber, Manager of Park Development and TOPS Program, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the 2015 Capital Improvement Projects Budget for the Parks Department. ([See presentation](#))

Chair Hilaire asked for public input.

Bill Koerner, with the Trails and Open Space Coalition, asked if the TOPS portion is the same as what was presented at the TOPS Working Committee meeting.

Mr. Lieber said yes; however, there had been some changes to the Conservation Trust Fund.

Alex Johnson made a motion to approve the 2015 CIP Budget as presented. Motion seconded by Charles Castle and carried by 8 to 1 vote. Scot Hume opposed.

Ayes: Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, Ron Ilgen, Alex Johnson, Mina Liebert, John Maynard, Hank Scarangella
Nays: Scot Hume
Absent: None

PRESENTATION (Cont'd)

➤ **Forestry Annual Report**

Jay Hein, City Forester, provided the Forestry Annual Report through a PowerPoint presentation. ([See attachment](#))

STAFF REPORT

Chris Lieber, Manager of Park Development and TOPS Program, Jon Carlson, SIMD Unit Administrator, Jay Hein, City Forester, and Karen Palus, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, reported on the following items: [\(See attachment\)](#)

- Wolf Ranch Community Park Update
- Mountain Shadows Park Renovation Update
- Hail Damage
- Switchback Proposal
- Sky Sox Update
- Spruce Up the Springs Projects:
 - Ute Valley Open Space: June 21st, 8:30 a.m.
 - Meadows Park Community Center: July 19th, 8:30 a.m.
- Ribbon Cuttings/Groundbreakings:
 - Groundbreaking for Playground Project at Mountain Shadows Park: June 21st
 - Groundbreaking for Creekside Project at America the Beautiful Park: June 28th, 9:30 a.m.
 - Ribbon Cutting at Tennis and Handball Center in Memorial Park: June 28th, 10:15 a.m.
- Joint Parks Board/TOPS Working Committee meeting to review the Park Master Plan: July 15th
- Media Information

BOARD BUSINESS

➤ **Board/Committee Reports and Remarks**

Stormwater: Vice Chair Feffer provided a brief update on the status of stormwater.

Joint City Council/Parks Board Meeting Follow Up: Board member Castle said that at the June 4th joint meeting between City Council and the Parks Board, President Pro Tem Merv Bennett, Council members Jan Martin and Jill Garbler said that they will work with Colorado Springs Utilities regarding a water program. Board member Castle suggested having a representative from the Parks Board and volunteered.

City Auditorium: Board member Castle said that staff is working on a Memorandum of Understanding.

Meadows Park Community Center: Board member Castle said that floors are being resealed; coffee house is ready; working to restore storage in back yard; working on PVC pipes for community gardens; and participated in Summer Camp programs.

➤ **Appointment of a Board Representative to the Lodgers and Automobile Rental Tax Committee**
Mina Liebert volunteered.

➤ **Status of Board Alternates:** Positions are currently being advertised. Deadline for applications is June 13th.

➤ **Election of 2014-2015 Chair and Vice Chair**

John Maynard made a motion to reelect Jackie Hilaire as the Board's Chair for the 2014-2015 term. Motion was seconded by Alex Johnson and carried unanimously.

Jackie Hilaire made a motion to reelect Gary Feffer as the Board's Vice Chair for the 2014-2015 term. Motion was seconded by Charles Castle and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the Board adjourned at 2:00 p.m.