

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
March 13, 2014
1401 Recreation Way, CSC 80905**

ACTION ITEMS

1. International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial Site Expansion

Kurt Schroeder, Manager of Park Operations and Development, said that on June 13, 2013 Thomas and Thomas presented a proposed modifications to the Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial to the Parks Board. At that time, the Board's feedback included modification of the wording on the sign to assure that Memorial Park was mentioned and that it was clear that it was a City of Colorado Springs Park and not just the IAFF Memorial. The request was also made to assure that there was a view corridor from the intersection so that the sculpture was easily visible. Since that meeting Thomas and Thomas has refined the plan, has reviewed those modifications with Park staff, and garnered the approval of the design by the IAFF Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial Committee.

Michael Smaldino, a member of the IAFF, introduced Jeremy Kroto, President of the Local IAFF, and Red Ronny, retired fire fighter from Littleton, Colorado, who were present at the meeting:

[Mr. Smaldino's presentation is attached.](#)

BREAK: 9:15 a.m.

RECONVENED: 9:25 a.m.

[A PowerPoint presentation by Leslie Thomas and Jim Houk with Thomas and Thomas is attached.](#)

Board member Hume thanked Thomas and Thomas for including "City of Colorado Springs Memorial Park" on the sign.

In response to Board member Liebert's question regarding the maintenance of the trees which are proposed, Mr. Schroeder said that the new design takes a lot of the grass area out, thus saving in water costs. The trees which are proposed will take some time to be established. After that, maintenance will be minimal because they will be on a drip system, which is the most efficient way to water trees. Mr. Schroeder did not feel that this would increase the water cost significantly, if any at all. The Memorial and the new landscape plantings will be maintained by the IAFF.

Ms. Thomas added that a new irrigation system which will be more efficient with water will be designed.

In response to Chair Hilaire's questions, Ms. Thomas said that the new landscape planting area will more likely be xeriscape.

Mr. Houk said that the entire footprint will be redesigned to take out blue grass and use hybrid. They will work with staff regarding this.

In response to Board member Hume's question regarding a soccer field to the east, Ms. Thomas said that there is a drain inlet which separates the field from the Memorial. Mr. Schroeder added that no activities are scheduled during the Memorial Service.

In response to Board member Liebert's question regarding the size of the Memorial, Mr. Houk said that the size of the existing Memorial is 90' across and the proposed Memorial is 120' across.

Chair Hilaire asked for public input but there was none.

John Maynard made a motion to approve the proposed modifications of the IAFF Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial as presented and support the implementation of the new design. Motion seconded by Scot Hume and carried unanimously.

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

2. Request on Behalf of Rivers Development to Approve the Proposed Trails at Forest Meadows Neighborhood Park Master Plan located within the Woodmen Heights Master Plan

Chris Lieber, Manager of Park Development and TOPS Program, said that Rivers Development has requested approval of the Trails at Forest Meadows (4.5 Acre) Neighborhood Park, which is located northeast of Woodmen and Vollmer Roads. The Trails at Forest Meadows is a total of 86.37 acres, part of the approved Woodmen Heights Master Plan, which falls within the Woodmen Heights Metropolitan District, and is bounded by Black Forest Road on the west, Cowpoke Road on the South, and Vollmer Road on the east. Metropolitan District is responsible for constructing and maintenance of the park.

Staff has review the park plan and said that the developer meets the Parks Department's criteria for a neighborhood park. Staff recommended approval of the Trails at Forest Meadows Park Master Plan.

[A PowerPoint presentation by Brian Kniep with Rivers Development is attached.](#)

In response to Vice Chair Feffer's questions, Mr. Kniep said that the total acreage of the park is 4.5 acres and what the Rivers Development is proposing is consistent with what expectation has been given from the existing and future property owners. Rivers Development is following what was originally promised by the original developer.

Chair Hilaire asked for citizen input.

Audrey Hoover with Live Well Colorado Springs, asked how the location of the garden would be conducive to the students accessing it during school days when they are in session.

Mr. Kniep said that they are discussing a community garden with the Pikes Peak Urban Gardens (PPUG). The garden will be accessible from the school. They will discuss interactions with students and how they can help during growing season when the students are out of school.

John Maynard made a motion to approve the Trails at Forest Meadows Master Plan, in accordance with the Ownership and Maintenance language of the Annexation Agreement; that the Developer will construct all park elements within Filing 4 lot development; zone the parcel PK; dedicate this 4.5 acre park land to the Woodmen Heights Metropolitan District; with the Woodmen Heights Metropolitan District having full maintenance responsibility. Motion seconded by Charles Castle and carried unanimously.

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

3. Request on Behalf of La Plata Communities to Approve the Proposed Farm Master Plan Amendment (formerly: Allison Valley Ranch Master Plan)

Chris Lieber, Manager of Park Development and TOPS Program, said that La Plata Communities has requested an amendment to (the) Farm Master Plan (formerly known as Allison Valley Master Plan), consisting of 475 acres of land located between Interstate 25 and Voyager Parkway, north of InterQuest Parkway, to include changes to the land dedication and park credit calculation.

La Plata Communities has submitted to the Planning and Community Development Department this Master Plan Amendment, Planned Unit Development Plan (for Filings 1a, 1b, 1c, and 2) with corresponding Plat applications. The new proposed Master Plan requires a parkland dedication of 21.83 acres.

Staff reviewed the proposal and was supportive of the amended plan. Mr. Lieber recommended approval of the proposed Farm Master Plan Amendment. He said that the Board's recommendation will be forwarded to the Planning Commission then it will ultimately go to City Council for their action.

[A PowerPoint presentation by Angela Essing with La Plata Communities is attached.](#)

In response to Board member Lewis' question regarding if a single track mountain bike can be put in the mouse habitat, Ms. Essing said no.

In response to Board member Hume's comment regarding the playable fields being far in distance, Ms. Essing said that Mary Kyer Park and Da Vinci school both have fields.

In response to Board member Maynard's question regarding ballfields, Ms. Essing said that is not included in the master plan. Instead, they are proposing two mountain bike track and/or dog parks.

Board member Maynard said that La Plata is at the leading edge, heading in a different direction with a concept of a linear park. He said that he endorses the concept/plan and asked for staff's input on the change in the direction with the treatment of the code in the past.

Board member Maynard asked if Ms. Essing had consider a trail connection that would go along the east part of the property and suggested to create a loop from the northeast corner down to the Greenway.

Ms. Essing said that they have contemplated that. There is a trail, which is a bit more internal sidewalks and internal trails behind two rows of homes but this was too small to be included in the master plan as well as a trail which leads to school.

Board member Maynard said that there is an existing walking area around the detention pond, a trail to the south would be important as well.

Ms. Essing said that the neighbors have expressed a connection so they are working with them to provide one in that area (i.e. a trail easement and/or utilities easement).

Board member Castle thanked Ms. Essing for changing the concept for parks and for the trail which connects to apartments and commercial area.

Board member Liebert agreed with other Board members' comments regarding the change in the park planning and being creative. She commented on the amenities and connectivity to opportunities throughout the neighborhood which creates a true sense of a community.

Chair Hilaire asked if there is a neighborhood trail on the high point/reflective point. She said that linear park is a good idea.

Chair Hilaire asked for public input.

Bill Koerner, with Trails and Open Space, asked if there was a picture of how LaForet trail fits into bigger plan of trails in this area.

Ms. Essing said no. However, she explained the trail will be connected on a map.

Board member Maynard said that Parks Board will see the connection to the east, almost to Hwy 83. That is under design at this time.

Chair Hilaire ask staff to respond to Board member Maynard and Vice Chair Feffer's question regarding the change in the concept.

Mr. Lieber said that the proposed master plan include unique attributes. The original master plan met the park land credits with a park and trails. During the amendment process they discussed where the best locations would be for the park or the acreage would be relocated. The new master plan divides the acreage in different locations; however, but the Department is preserving the neighborhood park size and the scale. One of the significant compromises was the question regarding the ballfield and turf space. The neighbors in this area would have to go to Mary Kyer Park for that feature. Otherwise all other amenities are different, unique and distributed in different ways (i.e. playgrounds for different age groups, etc.). Mr. Lieber said that future requests will be similar to this master plan, with a change and trend. One has to think about the recreation areas as having multiple purposes. First and foremost, recreation must serve those purposes. However, there is also a value in connectivity. For example, trail corridors are more than just trail tread. It is the experience which one has on the way. There is also a value in water quality. This is a storm water conveyance system but how can this also be amenities and provide opportunities to link, in this case to Air Force Academy and with other developments to the east and west. Another unique piece to this master plan is that all of the open space in this area will certainly make the trail experience seem like a lot more than just a narrow thread through a community. The Department is not providing any credits for the mouse habitat since access is prohibited.

Board member Lewis said that developers in Lowry and Stapleton in Denver used this model. The entire area is connected through a linear park and turned the neighborhood into a connected group of houses and destination spots which are accessible through something other than motor vehicle travel. Therefore, this is an attractive option.

Chair Hilaire asked if there had been any concerns regarding the relocation of the school by the neighbors.

Ms. Essing said that there are no homes in this area.

Board member Maynard asked if the Department anticipates this concept to be a future vision for master plans and how the Board may deal with parks.

Mr. Lieber said that should be a part of the Board's discussion. Each master plan is unique and attributing factors need to be reviewed. This concept may not be appropriate for all developments. However, in this case, staff felt it appropriate because of LaForet trail, which is a critical link in the master plan.

Mina Liebert made a motion to approve the proposed Farm Master Plan Amendment with newly balanced land dedications per the Annexation Agreement for 21.83 acres of parkland to be built by the Developer, owned and maintained by the created District with exception of the LaForet Trail (physical trail) maintenance which will be the responsibility of the City of Colorado Springs. Motion seconded by Charles Castle and carried unanimously.

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

4. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Memorial at Memorial Park

Sarah Bryarly, Landscape Architect, said that in December of 2013, EMS presented a concept for the Memorial to the Parks Board and to receive the Board's input. Since then, EMS has refined the design concept and incorporated the Board's input in the design. The design has been reviewed and approved by the Arts Commission. EMS is now seeking formal approval from the Parks Board for the Memorial as a precursor to an extensive fundraising campaign. Staff recommended approval of the EMS Memorial as presented.

[Ms. Bryarly's presentation is attached.](#)

In response to Chair Hilaire's question regarding a comment from the Art Commission regarding skateborder issues, Ms. Bryarly said that Chevos Studios is looking into preventing those issues and keeping the area quite.

Chair Hilaire asked for public input but there was none.

Charles Castle made a motion to approve the EMS Memorial as presented. Motion seconded by Dan Lewis and carried unanimously.

Ayes: Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, Scot Hume, Dan Lewis, Mina Liebert, John Maynard

Nays: None

Absent: Alex Johnson, Hank Scarangella

5. Board Support for an Application for a 2014 Colorado State Forest Service Forest Restoration Grant for Forest Health Improvements in North Cheyenne Cañon

Jeff Webb, Senior Analyst, said that in 2009 the Colorado General Assembly approved HB 09-1199 providing funding for forest restoration projects that protect water supplies (including watersheds, water storage and water delivery systems) and that reduced the threat of large high intensity fires. The Colorado State Forest Service provided these funds in the form of grants to public landowners and land managers. Mr. Webb requested Board approval to pursue this grant to conduct forest restoration work in approximately 110 acres of North Cheyenne Cañon near the Starsmore Discovery Center. He also requested a letter of support if the Board approved this item. ([See attached presentation](#))

In response to Board member Lewis' question regarding the type of work which needs to be conducted, Mr. Webb provided examples of the treatment (i.e. increasing spacing of the oak brush, removing timber stands where dense, some machine work, etc.).

Board member Hume suggested refining other locations as well such as University Park open space.

Chair Hilaire asked if the CSU's contribution can offset the water next year.

In response to Vice Chair Feffer's questions, Mr. Webb said that this particular grant covers public land only. However, there are other grants available which Seven Falls can be eligible. Staff can reach out to them regarding the grants.

In response to Board member Castle's questions, Mr. Webb said that staff forester has identified the treatment locations within 110 acres in North Cheyenne Cañon. These areas which have been identified are considered where the highest impacts are. Regarding funding from CSU, the more funds are contributed towards the match the less amount comes from the Parks Department.

Chair Hilaire asked for public input but there was none.

Mina Lieber made a motion to approve the Department to pursue a Colorado State Forest Service Forest Restoration Grant in the amount of \$150,000 for forest health improvements in North Cheyenne Cañon. Motion seconded by Charles Castle and carried by a 6 to 1 vote. Board member Lewis opposed.

Ayes: Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, Scot Hume, Mina Liebert, John Maynard

Nays: Dan Lewis

Absent: Alex Johnson, Hank Scarangella

MINUTES

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
March 13, 2014
1401 Recreation Way, CSC 80905

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

Absent: Hank Scarangella, Alex Johnson

Alternate Present: Ron Ilgen

CALL TO ORDER

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

CITIZEN DISCUSSION

Palmer Park Gates Project: Denise Steinbach, with the Guardians of Palmer Park, requested to replace the gates at the entrances to Palmer Park on Maizeland Avenue and Paseo Road. This gate was installed after the 1997 master plan but it needs to be replaced. It has motor issues and does not close properly. This has been discussed with Parks staff.

Ms. Steinbach said that the Guardians of Palmer Park was formed in 2009. Since then, they have been supporting the Parks Department by organizing and conducting various projects in Palmer Park (i.e. trash pickup, rebuilding trails, painting picnic tables, basic maintenance, etc.). In 2013, they provided over 2,000 volunteer hours and had over 200 volunteers during a Spruce Up the Springs project. They also raised \$10,000 to replace the gate.

In response to Board member Lewis' question, Ms. Steinbach said that access to the Park at night and a possible relocation of the gate will be discussed with staff.

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

Bear Creek Watershed Area: TOSC has been receiving a number of concerns from the community regarding a potential closure of the historic trails due to the greenback cutthroat trout, which is an endangered species in this area. TOSC will provide their position to the U.S. Forest Service and make a request to City Council to examine the Colorado Springs Utilities property which is in the middle of the watershed, which is proposed to be closed, including all the trails. There will be a number of groups which will request to reopen the Palmer Loop trail, which is currently closed. Ms. Davies suggested that the Parks Board should consider sending a letter to City Council supporting the trail users' concerns.

TOSC is embarking on an effort with a number of partners to try to elevate bicycle advocacy in the region. This is a good time to do this since the City is focusing on active transportation and it has created the Active Transportation Advisory Committee to promote non-motorized travel (i.e. walking, hiking, bicycling, etc.).

On March 11th, the El Paso County Commissioners approved changes to the County Parks Rules and Regulations to allow open carry of weapons in all county parks. TOSC did not take a position on this item. However, TOSC made a request for the County to consider banning smoking in all County parks.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Hilaire said that Board member Scarangella made a request to amend the February 13, 2014 minutes as follows via email since he was not able to attend the meeting.

Replace the last paragraph on Page 8 and the first sentence on Page 9 with the following information in bold face.

~~In response to the Board members' questions, staff provided the following responses:~~

- ~~—The Department needs to remove the existing playground and a shelter structure as well as redesign the area for the memorial.~~
- ~~—The action which staff was seeking from the Board is to approve the art proposal.~~

Board member Scarangella questioned the City's obligations for site prep or other actions related to the Mountain Shadows Memorial and asked to clarify the Board's action required for this item.

Mr. Mayberry responded by stating that there is still a lot of work that needs to be done such as removing the existing playground and a shelter structure and redesigning the area for the memorial (i.e. landscaping around it, the sculpture itself, etc.). There is no time line.

Karen Palus, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, said that Colorado Springs Together is currently fundraising to bridge the gap in the project budget. Once the funds are raised the Department can put those pieces together.

In response to a question regarding the Board's action, Mr. Mayberry said that the Board is being asked to approve the art proposal for the location in the park.

Charles Castle made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2014 Board meeting with the above amendment. Motion seconded by Scot Hume and carried unanimously.

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

CEREMONIAL ITEMS

➤ **Kaiser Permanente Colorado Springs Walk and Wheel Grant: A Collaboration Between Parks, Transit and Kaiser Permanente to Expand Active Walking and Biking in Colorado Springs**

Brian Kates, Parks Operations Administrator at Meadows Park Community Center, said that the City of Colorado Springs received a \$100,000 Walk and Wheel grant from Kaiser Permanente to improve infrastructure and create new programs designed to support active transportation in Colorado Springs. This grant will help Colorado Springs expand its efforts to support walking and biking across its region. The grant application proposed a project scope that would:

- Create six new community-wide cycling events.
- Expand the number of locations for Bike to Work Day, from three to four locations.
- Build two first-of-their-kind "Bicycle Library Workshops" at the Community Centers.
- Add a number of bike racks to popular parks.
- Expand the Department's Bicycle Counter program.
- Fund a Colorado College Public Interest Fellowship Program (PIFP) Fellow to support the Department.
- Fund staff to support the Transit Division's Bike to Work Day initiative.
- Hire a 2015 Parks Department AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer.

In addition, Kaiser Permanent provided an additional \$20,000 for the *Colorado Community Center Collaborative*, which is an effort to support the community centers, particularly in the areas of wellness, health and engaging people in under-served communities.

Mr. Kates introduced Nikki McComsey and Daniel Byrd with Kids on Bikes who will be involved with this two-year grant; Craig Blewitt from the City's Transit Division; and Steve Baron, Senior Director of Operations with Kaiser Permanente.

Craig Blewitt, Transit Services Manager, said that this was a collaborative effort between the Parks Department and the Transit Division. Of the \$100,000, \$40,000 will be utilized by the Transit Division to expand their Bike to Work Day and Bus to Work Day initiatives throughout the year. Mr. Blewitt recognized Vicki McCann, PR Marketing Supervisor from Transit, who was involved with this project. (The remaining \$60,000 will be used for Parks Department initiatives.)

Steve Baron, Senior Director of Operations with Kaiser Permanente, said that the mission of Kaiser Permanente is to provide high quality affordable healthcare services and to improve the health of their members in the community which they serve. Grants such as these are provided by Kaiser Permanente to help to support the City of Colorado Springs and the Parks Department with their goals to promote healthy active living and life styles for the citizens of Colorado Springs. Mr. Baron said that the actual amount of the grant was \$99,999. However, he added a dollar bill to make it an even \$100,000.

Mr. Baron presented an oversized check in the amount of \$99,999 to Chair Hilaire and Karen Palus, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services.

PRESENTATION

➤ **Pickleball Update**

Jeff Norton with the Pikes Peak Pickleball Association said that his presentation is to provide an update on the progress which the group has made in the past two and a half months with their partners towards the objective of a dedicated pickleball facility for Colorado Springs.

Mr. Norton said that the Pickleball group is interested in only one thing, which is to be able to propagate the sport (pickleball) in Colorado Springs and make Colorado Springs the center piece in the Front Range for the sport.

Mr. Norton said that he and the pickleball partners who were present at the meeting were there to discuss converting Monument Valley Park tennis courts into a dedicated pickleball venue. This has been their focus and the concept was presented to the Parks Board on May 10, 2012. The group provided an update in September 2012 with the same concept and again in December along with the financial results from the September tournament. Mr. Norton said that all partners agree that they have a requirement that they are trying to satisfy. If there is a better solution than Monument Valley Park, the group is open to entertain that idea. The group has 190 people who have been focusing on Monument Valley Park as the center piece and the location for pickleball in Colorado Springs for four years now. If they need to go to another location that would be fine; however, there are some pressing issues which need to be understood and worked out with the Parks Department and the Parks Board.

Mr. Norton mentioned that Judy Angelito, Friends of Monument Valley Park; Karen Brandner, Tennis Pro at Broadmoor and President of the Pikes Peak Tennis Association; Jeff Mosher, Colorado Springs Sports Corporation; and Cheryl McCullough from Colorado Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau, who were present at the meeting. He also mentioned Roger Bruggeman, President of the Pikes Peak Pickleball Association; however, he was not present at the meeting. Mr. Norton said that "all these five organizations have basically been partnering and try to figure out a way to make this happen".

[Mr. Norton's presentation is attached.](#)

Chair Hilaire said that this is a presentation item therefore it does not require an action by the Board at this time. Staff has to engage in a Request for Proposal (RFP) process for the tournament in order to understand all of the parameters. Also, our public process needs to be followed associated with how alternate location will be evaluated. After that, this item will come back to the Board as an action item.

In response to Board member Lewis' question regarding how long the pickleball community has been coming to the Parks Board with a request for pickleball courts, Mr. Norton said three years.

Board member Lewis asked why the Department is still going through this process after three years.

Karen Palus, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, said that the Department built pickleball courts at Monument Valley Park. However, these are shared courts with tennis. Approximately \$40,000 was spent on conversion of multiuse courts in 2012 and for minor repairs under warranty after the first pickleball tournament last year in order to have these courts ready for their tournament in 2013. When the pickleball group made a presentation to the Parks Board in November 2013, it was agreed to put it through the public process at the conclusion of the City-wide Parks master plan. At that time, the Department was also going through the budget process. Pickleball was not included in the budget since there were many other projects ready to go. From that, pickleball was brought to City Council. The Council had an opportunity to add pickleball to their budget decision; however, there was not support from City Council to add this project. Pickleball was unsuccessful with the Lodgers and Automobile Rental Tax (LART) Committee on two separate occasions. The LART Committee suggested that the pickleball group come back for future opportunities with regards to their tournament but not for a capital project. Staff had stated to the pickleball group that a public process is required, as we do with any other facilities; it will follow after the city-wide parks master plan is completed.

Mr. Norton said that the Parks Master Plan is scheduled to be finished and presented to City Council in August, which meant that they will lose the opportunity to compete for a regional tournament location.

Ms. Palus said that staff will be meeting with Mr. Norton and representatives from the Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Colorado Springs Sports Corporation to discuss a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the tournament, the best location for the tournament, etc.

In response to Board member Lewis and Hume's questions, Mr. Norton said that the Department should do a temporary fix for the tournament then go through a process for a permanent fix for pickleball courts. The initial cost for pickleball courts was \$225,000 to \$325,000, based on the Parks Department's estimate from a contractor. The pickleball group has \$10,000 to do the striping and painting for a temporary fix. The Department will need to do the minor repairs to the courts.

Ms. Palus said that this item had initially been a \$350,000 project and that a temporary solution which Mr. Norton mentioned above had not been discussed. However, there had been a discussion regarding utilizing the Skyview Sports Complex (i.e. twelve courts, wind barrier, two championship courts, etc.). This would cost approximately \$40,000. The concern for this site is wind. This option would not require a public process.

Chair Hilaire said that in general, the Board is in support of the pickleball. However, it needs to follow the public process and the Board needs to have the background information and staff recommendation prior to this item coming back to the Board for action.

Board member Maynard suggested the following information to be included when this item comes back as an action item:

- The new idea today is permanently converting tennis courts to pickleball courts. Therefore, this would be vetted and the Board should have a report regarding this. Some tennis advocates are in favor of the conversion and some are not.
- The cost for the conversion and the funding source. If the funding is taken from the projects which are currently on the priority list then what happens to those projects (i.e. Manitou Incline, Venezia Park, etc.).

Mr. Maynard made a comment that if the Department's funding for water is freed up then many projects on the priority list could be completed.

Vice Chair Feffer said that this item had been discussed as a \$350,000 project; however, the discussion has changed. The short-term issue is the tournament and the long-term issue is the permanent courts for the pickleball.

In response to Vice Chair Feffer's comment regarding a joint use of the courts by tennis and pickleball groups, Karen Brandner, with the Pikes Peak Community Tennis Association, said that they are in support of the conversion of tennis courts to pickleball courts in Monument Valley Park. They are satisfied with the courts at Memorial Park, which have recently been renovated. They would not want to have these courts striped for pickleball. Ms. Brandner said that pickleball sport is within their mission; enhancing life style of the community.

Vice Feffer said that originally, the tennis community was not in favor of having pickleball lines at Monument Valley Park. At that time, tennis group was using the courts at Monument Valley Park because the condition of the tennis courts at Memorial Park was worse than at Monument Valley Park.

In response to Board member Castle's question regarding economic impact to the community, Mr. Norton said that details were provided to the Board after the September tournament. Essentially, the pickleball group received 145 registrations (105 from out-of-state) and the group generated \$12,000 in revenue. It was estimated that the community generated approximately \$166,000 for a four-day tournament.

Board member Liebert said that staff should consider utilizing funds for a short-term solution would be the most practical way and prioritize placement of future pickleball courts.

Chair Hilaire asked for public input.

Judy Angelito, Secretary of the Friends of Monument Valley Park, said that the Friends group Board is in supports of placing/keeping the pickleball courts in Monument Valley Park. It enhances the park and includes more people in the park, which makes people feel safer being in the park.

Chair Hilaire suggested that staff include the maintenance cost of the courts when the item comes back for action.

Ms. Palus said that as the Department goes through the process, staff will address the tournament since there is urgency and it has a decision factor. The Department currently does not have the funds for the pickleball courts, including for the short-term solution. Staff will determine the appropriate time for funding (i.e. during or outside of the Budget process). Staff will also provide the priority list to the Board. Staff supports pickleball request; however, it will follow the appropriate public process.

➤ **I-25 / Cimarron Interchange Project Discussion**

Chris Lieber, Manager of Park Development and TOPS Program, said that this item is to provide an overview of the replacement of the I-25 / Cimarron interchange as proposed by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). The park-related interest on this project are in and around this area, which include America the Beautiful Park; a number of trails in the area (i.e. Pikes Peak Greenway, trails along the westside of the Fountain Creek, Midland Trail, master planned trail corridor which follows the Creek on both sides); and the facilities which are currently existing, planned and proposed for this area.

[A PowerPoint presentation by Dave Watt, Resident Engineer with CDOT, is attached. And Slide](#)

The project is to improve safety; improve capacity; provide six lanes on I-25; and improve interchange operations. Compatibility of I-25/US 24 corridor will accommodate future ramps and future Hwy 24 expansion.

Mr. Watt said that this is a presentation at this time. When the item returns as an action item, CDOT will seek for the Board's concurrence to relocate the Midland Trail along Fountain Creek and no sound wall along I-25 to shield off America the Beautiful Park. The decision regarding no sound wall was made by the Parks Board in 2004.

Board member Hume said that currently you go from the playground across a small pedestrian bridge, roundabout bike trail then through the railroad corridor then on to the Midland Trail. He asked if the proposal is to do away with that and move the trail along the Fountain Creek?

Mr. Watt said that currently, there is an overpass over Fountain Creek just east of I-25. This will be tied back into Fountain Creek trail system on the north side of Fountain Creek and go underneath I-25 then it will tie into the Midland Trail where it connects back at 8th Street and US 24. On a map, Mr. Watt explained where the trail would be closed, where Tier 1 trail connection is on 8th Street and US 24, a section of the trail which will remain, a proposed Tier 1 trail along Chestnut Street, and the area on the north side which the existing Midland Trail will be tied to Colorado Avenue. This is being discussed with the Parks Department staff.

In response to Board member Hume's comment regarding the change in use pattern at America the Beautiful Park from north side to south side Mr. Watt explained the crossing which will remain, the two connections where there will be access to the middle of the park, a location on the map which will be tied to the existing trail system and an additional crossing, which is being discussed at this point.

Board member Hume said that his preference would be to leave the former railroad underpass then add along the trail.

Kathleen Krager, with the City Traffic Engineer Department, said that there will be additional changes in the future with the pedestrian and bicycle movements within America the Beautiful Park. A large project is planned for construction of a pedestrian/bike overpass over the railroad tracks and lining up with Vermijo, midpoint of America the Beautiful Park. A long-term bike facility in the railroad area is to be able to provide a trail usage along Midland Trail then connect Midland Trail all the way into Manitou Springs. Regarding commuter bicycles, CDOT will provide bike lanes along Colorado Avenue. Construction of the first segment will begin in 2016. Therefore, the long range planning for the west side is to provide Midland Trail for the trail users, Colorado Avenue for the commuter users then bracket America the Beautiful on either side.

Board member Maynard said that US 24 interchange with I-25 could be a primary access to Downtown as a result of this improvement and asked if a treatment from Cimarron to Wahsatch and possibly beyond had been considered, such as making it similar to Auraria Parkway and with an attractive access.

Ms. Krager said that she will be involved with a Downtown master plan process and how Cimarron will look and feed into downtown will be a part of the plan.

In response to Board member Maynard's question regarding the Parks Board's role in this project, Mr. Lieber said that CDOT is requesting the Board's input on the project. When the Environmental Assessment was completed in 2004, there was a lot of discussion by the Parks Board regarding the sound wall, visibility from America the Beautiful Park, preserving views, and trail connections. This project is moving forward with the Board's input from 2004. The current Board members have an opportunity to provide input on the trail. Currently, Midland Trail crosses 8th Street, 21st Street and 31st Street in the master plan. These options will remain. However, what is ultimately being proposed is being able to go under US 24 at 8th Street and 21st Street. Staff recommended the Board's consideration of this proposal.

Vice Feffer said that CDOT wants to move people from east to west by getting them off of the interstate. Ms. Krager's comment regarding the concept of Auraria Parkway into Downtown is a good idea. Combing these two is very important.

In response to Board member Castle's question regarding homeless situation, Mr. Watt said that CDOT, Parks Department, Stormwater Enterprise and a local developer have worked together on a restoration effort at Fountain Creek. The restoration effort will continue at various sections of Fountain Creek and Monument Creek (i.e. restoring riparian habitat and make that more of an amenity, etc.).

Board member Castle requested for a copy of the presentation.

In response to Board member Liebert's question regarding wayfinding signs, detour and redirection, Ms. Krager said that both Traffic Engineering and Parks Department will be working on those.

Mr. Watt said that they will continue to work with the Parks Department staff regarding the project.

ACTION ITEMS

- 6. International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial Site Expansion**
Kurt Schroeder, Manager of Park Operations and Development, said that on June 13, 2013 Thomas and Thomas presented a proposed modifications to the Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial to the Parks Board. At that time, the Board's feedback included modification of the wording on the sign to assure that Memorial Park was mentioned and that it was clear that it was a City of Colorado Springs Park and not just the IAFF Memorial. The request was also made to assure that there was a view corridor from the intersection so that the sculpture was easily visible. Since that meeting Thomas and Thomas has refined the plan, has reviewed those modifications with Park staff, and garnered the approval of the design by the IAFF Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial Committee.

Michael Smaldino, a member of the IAFF, introduced Jeremy Kroto, President of the Local IAFF, and Red Ronny, retired fire fighter from Littleton, Colorado, who were present at the meeting:

[Mr. Smaldino's presentation is attached.](#)

BREAK: 9:15 a.m.

RECONVENED: 9:25 a.m.

[A PowerPoint presentation by Leslie Thomas and Jim Houk with Thomas and Thomas is attached.](#)

Board member Hume thanked Thomas and Thomas for including "City of Colorado Springs Memorial Park" on the sign.

In response to Board member Liebert's question regarding the maintenance of the trees which are proposed, Mr. Schroeder said that the new design takes a lot of the grass area out, thus saving in water costs. The trees which are proposed will take some time to be established. After that, maintenance will be minimal because they will be on a drip system, which is the most efficient way to water trees. Mr. Schroeder did not feel that this would increase the water cost significantly, if any at all. The Memorial and the new landscape plantings will be maintained by the IAFF.

Ms. Thomas added that a new irrigation system which will be more efficient with water will be designed.

In response to Chair Hilaire's questions, Ms. Thomas said that the new landscape planting area will more likely be xeriscape.

Mr. Houk said that the entire footprint will be redesigned to take out blue grass and use hybrid. They will work with staff regarding this.

In response to Board member Hume's question regarding a soccer field to the east, Ms. Thomas said that there is a drain inlet which separates the field from the Memorial. Mr. Schroeder added that no activities are scheduled during the Memorial Service.

In response to Board member Liebert's question regarding the size of the Memorial, Mr. Houk said that the size of the existing Memorial is 90' across and the proposed Memorial is 120' across.

Chair Hilaire asked for public input but there was none.

John Maynard made a motion to approve the proposed modifications of the IAFF Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial as presented and support the implementation of the new design. Motion seconded by Scot Hume and carried unanimously.

Ayes: Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, Scot Hume, Dan Lewis, Mina Liebert, John Maynard

Nays: None

Absent: Alex Johnson, Hank Scarangella

7. Request on Behalf of Rivers Development to Approve the Proposed Trails at Forest Meadows Neighborhood Park Master Plan located within the Woodmen Heights Master Plan

Chris Lieber, Manager of Park Development and TOPS Program, said that Rivers Development has requested approval of the Trails at Forest Meadows (4.5 Acre) Neighborhood Park, which is located northeast of Woodmen and Vollmer Roads. The Trails at Forest Meadows is a total of 86.37 acres, part of the approved Woodmen Heights Master Plan, which falls within the Woodmen Heights Metropolitan District, and is bounded by Black Forest Road on the west, Cowpoke Road on the South, and Vollmer Road on the east. Metropolitan District is responsible for constructing and maintenance of the park.

Staff has review the park plan and said that the developer meets the Parks Department's criteria for a neighborhood park. Staff recommended approval of the Trails at Forest Meadows Park Master Plan.

A PowerPoint presentation by Brian Kniep with Rivers Development is **attached**.

In response to Vice Chair Feffer's questions, Mr. Kniep said that the total acreage of the park is 4.5 acres and what the Rivers Development is proposing is consistent with what expectation has been given from the existing and future property owners. Rivers Development is following what was originally promised by the original developer.

Chair Hilaire asked for citizen input.

Audrey Hoover with Live Well Colorado Springs, asked how the location of the garden would be conducive to the students accessing it during school days when they are in session.

Mr. Kniep said that they are discussing a community garden with the Pikes Peak Urban Gardens (PPUG). The garden will be accessible from the school. They will discuss interactions with students and how they can help during growing season when the students are out of school.

John Maynard made a motion to approve the Trails at Forest Meadows Master Plan, in accordance with the Ownership and Maintenance language of the Annexation Agreement; that the Developer will construct all park elements within Filing 4 lot development; zone the parcel PK; dedicate this 4.5 acre park land to the Woodmen Heights Metropolitan District; with the Woodmen Heights Metropolitan District having full maintenance responsibility. Motion seconded by Charles Castle and carried unanimously.

Ayes: Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, Scot Hume, Dan Lewis, Mina Liebert, John Maynard

Nays: None

Absent: Alex Johnson, Hank Scarangella

8. Request on Behalf of La Plata Communities to Approve the Proposed Farm Master Plan Amendment (formerly: Allison Valley Ranch Master Plan)

Chris Lieber, Manager of Park Development and TOPS Program, said that La Plata Communities has requested an amendment to (the) Farm Master Plan (formerly known as Allison Valley Master Plan), consisting of 475 acres of land located between Interstate 25 and Voyager Parkway, north of InterQuest Parkway, to include changes to the land dedication and park credit calculation.

La Plata Communities has submitted to the Planning and Community Development Department this Master Plan Amendment, Planned Unit Development Plan (for Filings 1a, 1b, 1c, and 2) with corresponding Plat applications. The new proposed Master Plan requires a parkland dedication of 21.83 acres.

Staff reviewed the proposal and was supportive of the amended plan. Mr. Lieber recommended approval of the proposed Farm Master Plan Amendment. He said that the Board's recommendation will be forwarded to the Planning Commission then it will ultimately go to City Council for their action.

[A PowerPoint presentation by Angela Essing with La Plata Communities is attached.](#)

In response to Board member Lewis' question regarding if a single track mountain bike can be put in the mouse habitat, Ms. Essing said no.

In response to Board member Hume's comment regarding the playable fields being far in distance, Ms. Essing said that Mary Kyer Park and Da Vinci school both have fields.

In response to Board member Maynard's question regarding ballfields, Ms. Essing said that is not included in the master plan. Instead, they are proposing two mountain bike track and/or dog parks.

Board member Maynard said that La Plata is at the leading edge, heading in a different direction with a concept of a linear park. He said that he endorses the concept/plan and asked for staff's input on the change in the direction with the treatment of the code in the past.

Board member Maynard asked if Ms. Essing had consider a trail connection that would go along the east part of the property and suggested to create a loop from the northeast corner down to the Greenway.

Ms. Essing said that they have contemplated that. There is a trail, which is a bit more internal sidewalks and internal trails behind two rows of homes but this was too small to be included in the master plan as well as a trail which leads to school.

Board member Maynard said that there is an existing walking area around the detention pond, a trail to the south would be important as well.

Ms. Essing said that the neighbors have expressed a connection so they are working with them to provide one in that area (i.e. a trail easement and/or utilities easement).

Board member Castle thanked Ms. Essing for changing the concept for parks and for the trail which connects to apartments and commercial area.

Board member Liebert agreed with other Board members' comments regarding the change in the park planning and being creative. She commented on the amenities and connectivity to opportunities throughout the neighborhood which creates a true sense of a community.

Chair Hilaire asked if there is a neighborhood trail on the high point/reflective point. She said that linear park is a good idea.

Chair Hilaire asked for public input.

Bill Koerner, with Trails and Open Space, asked if there was a picture of how LaForet trail fits into bigger plan of trails in this area.

Ms. Essing said no. However, she explained the trail will be connected on a map.

Board member Maynard said that Parks Board will see the connection to the east, almost to Hwy 83. That is under design at this time.

Chair Hilaire ask staff to respond to Board member Maynard and Vice Chair Feffer's question regarding the change in the concept.

Mr. Lieber said that the proposed master plan include unique attributes. The original master plan met the park land credits with a park and trails. During the amendment process they discussed where the best locations would be for the park or the acreage would be relocated. The new master plan divides the acreage in different locations; however, but the Department is preserving the neighborhood park size and the scale. One of the significant compromises was the question regarding the ballfield and turf space. The neighbors in this area would have to go to Mary Kyer Park for that feature. Otherwise all other amenities are different, unique and distributed in different ways (i.e. playgrounds for different age groups, etc.). Mr. Lieber said that future requests will be similar to this master plan, with a change and trend. One has to think about the recreation areas as having multiple purposes. First and foremost, recreation must serve those purposes. However, there is also a value in connectivity. For example, trail corridors are more than just trail tread. It is the experience which one has on the way. There is also a value in water quality. This is a storm water conveyance system but how can this also be amenities and provide opportunities to link, in this case to Air Force Academy and with other developments to the east and west. Another unique piece to this master plan is that all of the open space in this area will certainly make the trail experience seem like a lot more than just a narrow thread through a community. The Department is not providing any credits for the mouse habitat since access is prohibited.

Board member Lewis said that developers in Lowry and Stapleton in Denver used this model. The entire area is connected through a linear park and turned the neighborhood into a connected group of houses and destination spots which are accessible through something other than motor vehicle travel. Therefore, this is an attractive option.

Chair Hilaire asked if there had been any concerns regarding the relocation of the school by the neighbors.

Ms. Essing said that there are no homes in this area.

Board member Maynard asked if the Department anticipates this concept to be a future vision for master plans and how the Board may deal with parks.

Mr. Lieber said that should be a part of the Board's discussion. Each master plan is unique and attributing factors need to be reviewed. This concept may not be appropriate for all developments. However, in this case, staff felt it appropriate because of LaForet trail, which is a critical link in the master plan.

Mina Liebert made a motion to approve the proposed Farm Master Plan Amendment with newly balanced land dedications per the Annexation Agreement for 21.83 acres of parkland to be built by the Developer, owned and maintained by the created District with exception of the LaForet Trail (physical trail) maintenance which will be the responsibility of the City of Colorado Springs. Motion seconded by Charles Castle and carried unanimously.

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

9. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Memorial at Memorial Park

Sarah Bryarly, Landscape Architect, said that in December of 2013, EMS presented a concept for the Memorial to the Parks Board and to receive the Board's input. Since then, EMS has refined the design concept and incorporated the Board's input in the design. The design has been reviewed and approved by the Arts Commission. EMS is now seeking formal approval from the Parks Board for the Memorial as a precursor to an extensive fundraising campaign. Staff recommended approval of the EMS Memorial as presented.

[Ms. Bryarly's presentation is attached.](#)

In response to Chair Hilaire's question regarding a comment from the Art Commission regarding skateboarder issues, Ms. Bryarly said that Chevos Studios is looking into preventing those issues and keeping the area quite.

Chair Hilaire asked for public input but there was none.

Charles Castle made a motion to approve the EMS Memorial as presented. Motion seconded by Dan Lewis and carried unanimously.

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

10. Board Support for an Application for a 2014 Colorado State Forest Service Forest Restoration Grant for Forest Health Improvements in North Cheyenne Cañon

Jeff Webb, Senior Analyst, said that in 2009 the Colorado General Assembly approved HB 09-1199 providing funding for forest restoration projects that protect water supplies (including watersheds, water storage and water delivery systems) and that reduced the threat of large high intensity fires. The Colorado State Forest Service provided these funds in the form of grants to public landowners and land managers. Mr. Webb requested Board approval to pursue this grant to conduct forest restoration work in approximately 110 acres of North Cheyenne Cañon near the Starsmore Discovery Center. He also requested a letter of support if the Board approved this item ([See attached presentation.](#))

In response to Board member Lewis' question regarding the type of work which needs to be conducted, Mr. Webb provided examples of the treatment (i.e. increasing spacing of the oak brush, removing timber stands where dense, some machine work, etc.).

Board member Hume suggested refining other locations as well such as University Park open space.

Chair Hilaire asked if the CSU's contribution can offset the water next year.

In response to Vice Chair Feffer's questions, Mr. Webb said that this particular grant covers public land only. However, there are other grants available which Seven Falls can be eligible. Staff can reach out to them regarding the grants.

In response to Board member Castle's questions, Mr. Webb said that staff forester has identified the treatment locations within 110 acres in North Cheyenne Cañon. These areas which have been identified are considered where the highest impacts are. Regarding funding from CSU, the more funds are contributed towards the match the less amount comes from the Parks Department.

Chair Hilaire asked for public input but there was none.

Mina Lieber made a motion to approve the Department to pursue a Colorado State Forest Service Forest Restoration Grant in the amount of \$150,000 for forest health improvements in North Cheyenne Cañon. Motion seconded by Charles Castle and carried by a 6 to 1 vote. Board member Lewis opposed.

Ayes: Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, Scot Hume, Mina Liebert, John Maynard
Nays: Dan Lewis
Absent: Alex Johnson, Hank Scarangella

NOTE: Chair Hilaire asked to provide the "Grants Update" first under the Staff Report.

STAFF REPORT

Chris Lieber, Manager of Park Development and TOPS Program, Jeff Webb, Senior Analyst, David Deitemeyer, Landscape Architect, Kurt Schroeder, Manager of Park Operations and Development, and Karen Palus, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, provided report on the following items:

➤ **Grants Update**

See presentation.

Board member Lewis requested an email response regarding the details of expenses for Manitou Incline (\$700,000), Legacy Loop (\$4 million) and Fitness Zone (\$120,000) projects. He would like to know what is costing those amounts for these projects.

In response to Vice Chair Feffer's question regarding the requirements for the Legacy Loop project grant, Mr. Webb said that there are requirements such as time line for the project completion, which is three years; using grant funds only for this project only since their goal was expanding access to trails and parks for youth and family; providing status reports, etc.

In response to Vice Chair Feffer's question if Board member Lewis had concerns regarding the grant process, Board member Lewis said that as a small business owner and a citizen, he needs to be responsible and monitor the budgetary projections of the City government.

In response to Bill Koerner's (Trails and Open Space Coalition) question regarding if the overall project included a connection to the Shooks Run trail and to the Greenway, Mr. Webb said that would be the goal.

➤ **Update on Parks Master Plan**

The Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Planning process continues to advance. A community survey has been randomly distributed to residents throughout the community. Preliminary results of the survey will be available in early April. The consultant team and staff are continuing to focus on inventory and analysis of the park system. Our next Park Master Plan Task Force Meeting and Technical Team Meeting are scheduled for April 2, 2014. A community-wide public meeting will be held on April 30, 2014 at 6:30 pm at the City Auditorium. For additional information regarding the Master Plan process, please visit our project website at www.springsgov.com/parksmasterplan.

➤ **Staff Announcement**

Mr. Lieber introduced two staff from the Design and Development Division:

- David Deitemeyer accepted a permanent position as Park Planner II.
- Julie Lafitte, Administrative Technician: New employee to the Parks Department. Previously worked in City Administration.

➤ **FEMA Update**

There have been a total of 22 FEMA project worksheets submitted to FEMA and 5 project worksheets pending completion. Once FEMA approves the project worksheet, the State then reviews and approves the projects before funding is released to the City. The first of the States flooding funds have been awarded to the City. From a Parks project standpoint, we are completing the remained debris removal by the end of the week. The vast majority of the FEMA project reporting has been completed in the Pikes Peak Region leading to the official closure of the FEMA Public Assistance Office in Colorado Springs March 5th, 2014. The next steps for Parks include beginning the planning for the coordination and completion of the permanent repairs. Parks anticipates the permanent repairs will be completed in accordance with the FEMA deadline of March 14, 2015 – 18 months after the event.

Sarah Bryarly said that staff will be providing a formal presentation regarding the Incline at the April meeting.

NOTE: Dan Lewis left the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

➤ **Bear Creek Watershed Update**

The City and Colorado Springs Utilities are working cooperatively with the US Forest Service to determine the long term management of the watershed, including protecting the federally-threatened greenback cutthroat trout, while providing appropriate recreational opportunities. As part of this NEPA process, the US Forest Service has a formal comment period open until March 27. Comments may be submitted to: bcc@fs.fed.us by March 27 and will be considered in the final decision. Additional project information at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/psicc>. You can click on "Bear Creek Watershed Assessment & NEPA" at the bottom of the page.

On Tuesday, February 25th, the partnering agencies hosted an open house to gather input from the public and provide an update on the alternative actions to address the issues at hand with the greenback cutthroat trout and damage caused by the September rains. 179 people attended the meeting. The Board has been provided a copy of the information that was presented at the various stations that were set up for the open house and a listing of frequently asked questions concerning the project.

➤ **Camp Creek Drainage Update**

On Tuesday, February 25th, the City and consultants Wilson and Company hosted a meeting to present alternatives for addressing drainage and flooding concerns within the Camp Creek drainage as it flows through Garden of the Gods Park, Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site, and the Pleasant Valley neighborhood within the 31st Street drainage channel. Over 100 people attended the meeting and were invited to select the option they preferred, and to identify what would make them like or dislike the presented options more or less. The consulting group has taken the input and will be identifying the option that was determined most favorable by the attendees. A recommended project option will be presented at the next public meeting that will be held April 29th. The Board has been provided copies of the handouts presented at the meeting held on February 25th.

➤ **Macy's Partnership with NRPA to Support Garden of the Gods Park - "Heart Your Park" Fundraising Program**

Macy's, Inc. is partnering with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) on a donation program supporting local parks nationwide. Garden of the Gods Park has been chosen for this program. The "Heart Your Park" fundraising program, which began on March 7th will run through March 31st. Macy's will match up to \$250,000 throughout the 550 stores. 100 percent of the donations will benefit Garden of the Gods Park from the Chapel Hills Macy's.

➤ **Top 10 Mountain Bike Cities in North America: Colorado Springs on top 10 list for mountain biking in the U.S**

On March 5th, KXRM (Fox 21 News) announced that Colorado Springs made a top 10 list for one of the best places for mountain biking in the United States. The list was made by "singletracks.com", which is a website dedicated to the sport of mountain biking.

Other cities included Los Angeles, California; Boston, Massachusetts; Phoenix, Arizona; Vancouver, British Columbia; San Jose, California; Salt Lake City, Utah; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Augusta, Georgia/South Carolina; and Chattanooga, Tennessee.

➤ **City Staff Appointments**

On March 5th, Mayor Bach announced that he has appointed Wynetta Massey as City Attorney and Dan Gallagher as Aviation Director for the Colorado Springs Regional Airport. Also, Bret Waters, current Director of the Office of Emergency Management, has taken on the additional role of Deputy Chief of Staff. Pursuant to the City Charter, City Council has up to 90 days to confirm the appointments.

➤ **Joint Parks Board and TOPS Working Committee Retreat**

The meeting has been scheduled on April 2nd, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon at the El Pomar Penrose House.

➤ **Upcoming Events**

- 6th Annual Lyrical Lounge – Poetry Competition: March 14th, 6:00 p.m. at the City Auditorium
- Daddy Daughter Dance: April 5th, 6:00 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel
- Arbor Day Ceremony: April 22nd, 11:00 a.m. at the Pioneers Museum (Tree planting in Alamo Park)

➤ **Joint City Council and Parks Board Meeting**

This meeting has been postponed until April. An invite will be sent as soon as date is confirmed with Council staff.

➤ **2014 Parks Project List**

- The Parks Project List was distributed to Board members. This list included projects which are currently underway, pending funding or projects which have receive funding for 2015.
- A significant amount of work has been accomplished through the Design and Development Division.
- Some projects are getting close (i.e. Venezia Park, which needs \$7.8 million)
- Manitou Incline: If this project does not receive a full grant funding then the Department is short \$250,000.
- Monument Valley Park: pending funding for the restoration work on historical walls.
- Pickleball: Currently does not have funding.
- Mountain Shadows Park: This project will be in phases.

➤ **2015 Budget Process**

The Budget preparation for 2015 is beginning. The Department has \$1.6 million in shortfall for water going into 2015. \$1.1 million from 2014 and \$1.6 million for 2015. The Department has been asked to absorb these costs going into 2015.

➤ **Parks Board Members' Agenda Item Requests**

Staff provided City Code 4.1 – “Parks and Recreation Advisory Board” to Board members. The Board’s role and responsibilities are included in this section.

NOTE: Board member Maynard left the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

BOARD BUSINESS

➤ **Board/Committee Reports and Remarks**

- **TOPS Working Committee:** Board member Hume said that two projects moved forward. These items will be coming to Parks Board near future.
 - o Incline Task Force: The Committee is discussing the Special Use Permit.
- **Lodgers and Automobile Rental Tax Committee:** Chair Hilaire said that a meeting is scheduled this evening (March 13th). The Committee will redefine the process. Chair Hilaire will be facilitating the meeting.

- **Art Commission:** Chair Hilaire said that the Committee approved the IAFF Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial at the last meeting. The next meeting scheduled on March 18th; however, Chair Hilaire will not be able to attend since she will be out-of-town.
- **Pioneers Museum:** Vice Chair Feffer said that the Museum completed its consolidation. They had a celebration two weeks ago.
- **Meadows Park Community Center:** They will receive there bicycle containers in April. The Center is looking for an 8 ' x 8' shed.
 - Coffee Grounds Coffee Shop is on its way.
 - A back room has been converted into a class room
- **Citizens Transportation Advisory Board (CTAB):** Board member Liebert said that CTAB has put out a call for proposals for committee members with Active Transportation Advisory Committee. The proposals were due on March 11th. The board members should be selected by April.
- **Parks Board Agenda:** Chair Hilaire said that half of the agenda items have been moved to the April meeting. She also mentioned that the May meeting could be a lengthy.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the Board adjourned at 12:11 p.m.