



**TOPS Working Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 7, 2014**

Members Present: Jason Alwine, PJ Anderson, Paul Franco, Ian Kalmanowitz, Leslie Thomas, Becky Wegner

Members Absent: Jeff Mohrmann, Jim Rees, Kirk Samelson

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Liaison Present: Jackie Hilaire, John Maynard

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Liaison Absent: Scot Hume

Alternates Present: Joe Lavorini

Alternates Absent: Emily Epstein

Staff Present: Chris Lieber, Kim King, Karen Palus, Kurt Schroeder, Ronn Carlentine, Lois Ruggera, Julie Lafitte

Ian Kalmanowitz brought the meeting to order at 7:36 a.m.

Agenda Preview

Ian Kalmanowitz added a discussion of upcoming board vacancies to the agenda between Citizen Discussion and Staff Reports.

Announcements

Chris Lieber mentioned the following:

- The North Monument Valley Park playground is finished and was opened on April 26. Artificial turf has been used in this playground.
- On June 28th there will be a ribbon-cutting for the tennis and handball courts, and playground at Memorial Park, and a ground-breaking for the environmental park at America the Beautiful Park.
- Work on the Templeton Gap trail will continue over the summer
- 2 pedestrian bridges have been put in on the Cottonwood Trail between Academy and the Pikes Peak Greenway
- More than 250 people attended the Park Master Plan public meeting. The meeting produced good feedback and lots of ideas.

Approval of Minutes

Motion – to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2014 meeting as written:

Leslie Thomas/Jason Alwine

Approved – Unanimous

Citizen Discussion

Bill Koerner expressed his opinion that Master Plan Meeting went well; he appreciated the map exercise and thought it revealed a lot of unfilled needs. He concluded by stressing the importance of TOPS money to the eventual success of the new Master Plan

Added Item

Ian Kalmanowitz recommended advertising and interview for new committee members. His term is over in June. Paul Franco and Emily Epstein also are leaving their positions, so there will be two vacancies on the committee and only one alternate. Ian recommends alternate Joe Lavorini moves up and we bring on another member and two new alternates.

Staff Report

No staff reports were given.

Presentation Items

Chris Lieber gave an overview of the 2015 Preliminary CIP Budget. Specific requests and action items will be on the agenda for the June meeting. The numbers are subject to change as Parks receives input from TOPS members, Parks Board members and others during the budget process.

1. Conservation Trust Fund:

• <i>Current Fund Balance:</i>	<i>\$1,150,945</i>
• <i>Estimate 2015 Revenue:</i>	<i>\$ 4,662,00</i>
• <i>Total Funds Available for 2015 Budget:</i>	<i>\$5,812,945</i>

2015 Conservation Trust Fund capital improvement projects:

• Park Maintenance	\$4,230,988
• Park Water Contingency	\$1,075,000
• Red Rock Canyon – Annual COP Payment	\$ 111,758
• Skyview Sports Complex – Annual COP Payment	\$ 173,300
• Maintenance of Outdoor Sculpture	\$ 15,000
• RRC Landfill Monitoring	\$ 75,000
• Sinton Pond Management Plan	\$ 9,500
• Emergency Repairs and Equipment Replacement	<u>\$ 100,000</u>

SUBTOTAL **\$5,790,546**

2. PLDO:

• <i>Current Fund Balance:</i>	<i>\$4,745,911</i>
• <i>Estimate 2015 Revenue:</i>	<i>\$ 800,000</i>
• <i>Total Funds Available for 2015 Budget:</i>	<i>\$5,545,911</i>

No projects are recommended at this time as we are awaiting completion of the Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan

3. General Fund CIP Projects:

Currently Requested High Priority Projects

• Community Center Repair	\$ 50,000
• Pioneers Museum Exterior Restoration	\$ 68,404
• Roof Replacements	\$ 100,000
• Pioneers Museum–HVAC Upgrades	\$ 1,000,000

Additional High Priority Needs

• Asphalt Repair and Replacement–Parking lots and Park Roads	\$ 547,000
• Artificial Turf Fields	\$ 1,200,000
• ADA Compliance – System wide	\$ 250,000
• North Cheyenne Canyon Roadway and Drainage Replacements	\$ 625,000
• Reducing Parks Water Footprint	\$ 100,000
• Playground Structure Replacement	\$ 700,000
• Roof Replacements	\$ 216,000
• Trail Renovation and Repair	\$ 600,000
• Venezia Community Park	\$ 1,250,000
• Athletic Court Renovation and Replacement	\$ 360,000
• Urban Wood Waste Recycler	\$ 490,000
• Irrigation Renovation System Wide	\$ 140,000

Ute Valley: Possible Projects

- Trail Development
- Wayfinding Signage/Rules and Regulations at the trailheads (updated with the HP property)
- Wayfinding Signage along the trails with trail names
- Interpretive Signage / Information
- Trailhead and access improvements
- Weed management / Forest health Management
- Other priorities identified in MP?

RRC: Master Plan Recommendations

- Interpretative Signage / Information
- Wayfinding signage
- Closure of social trails
- New Trail Construction
- Dog Off-Leash Area Improvements
- Forest Health Management
- 26th Street/White Acres Parking Facilities
- Sand Canyon Trailhead/Picnic Area – Planning and Design

Open Space Stewardship Projects

- Bluestem Open Space:
 - Prairie Dog Management
 - Trail Construction / Repair
 - Perimeter Fencing

- Wayfinding/Interpretive Signage
- University Park Open Space:
 - Weed Management
 - Wayfinding signage
 - Trail Construction
 - Social Trail Closure
- Blodgett Open Space:
 - Weed Management
 - Revegetation
- Corral Bluffs:
 - Boundary Fencing / Signage
- High Chaparral:
 - Social Trail Closure
 - Weed Management

4. **TOPS CIP Projects:**

Trail Projects: (Maximum of 20%)

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| • Sand Creek Trail – Stetson Hills to Dublin | \$ 260,000 |
| • Rock Island Trail, Sand Creek to Constitution Phase II | \$ 129,147 |
| • Rock Island Trail, Corridor Acquisition | \$ 500,000 |
| • Cottonwood Trail, Austin Bluffs/Woodmen Underpass II | \$ 395,000 |
| • Midland Trail – Columbia to Ridge Improvements and ROW | <u>\$ 300,000</u> |

SUBTOTAL **\$1,584,147**

Park Projects: (Maximum of 20%)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| • Park Maintenance | \$ 532,000 |
| • Water Contingency | \$ 525,000 |
| • Park ADA Improvements | \$ 150,000 |
| • Water Footprint Reduction | <u>\$ 300,000</u> |

SUBTOTAL **\$ 1,357,000**

Administration 3% \$ 216,900

Maintenance 6% \$ 433,800

Total TOPS Funding (all categories) **\$12,396,664**

Discussion and questions re the 2015 Preliminary CIP Budget presentation:

- Q: Could *all* PLDO money go to development of Venezia Community Park?
- A: It could, and would help close the funding gap for that park.

- Q: Will bluestem grass come back if prairie dogs leave?
- A: Yes, based on past experience. However, we will need a prairie dog expert to deal with the problem.

- Members discussed ways to improve signage, etc., at Corral Bluffs since there are still occasional motorcycle incursions on the property.
- Chris Lieber clarified some details and future routes on trails maps during the Trails Projects portion of the presentation.
- Lee Milner voiced his disappointment that no funding is shown for the Legacy Loop project. However, Chris Lieber pointed out that we are currently focusing on acquiring the Rock Island property to close the gap at the north end, and that some funding for the rest of the Pikes Peak Greenway is coming from PPRTA. He also mentioned that there is some money in an account for Shooks Run when opportunities arise, and indicated that land acquisition is the primary concern with the southern part of Shooks Run at the moment.
- Susan Davies highlighted that TOSC and other groups were advised in 2013 that TOPS money would not be spent on water, yet there is money designated for water contingency. Karen Palus addressed the water issue later (see below).
- Q: John Maynard requested dollar amounts for the category percentages and asked why the Wedgewood Property is not addressed in this budget.
- A: It is too early in the process to designate money for Wedgewood, as El Paso County does not have its funding lined up and is still in the grant application process.
- During further discussion on water, Karen mentioned that City Council members Merv Bennett and Jill Gaebler will work on this issue and other sustainability concerns, an arrangement which arose at a recent joint meeting between the Parks Board and the City Council.

Citizen Discussion

There was no Citizen Discussion. However, Kurt Schroeder used this time to introduce the new City Forester, Jay Hein, who came to the department from Wyoming.

Adjournment

Motion – To enter a Closed Executive Session to discuss land acquisition and sensitive negotiation strategies.

P.J. Anderson/Leslie Thomas

Approved – Unanimous

The Working Committee entered a Closed Executive Session at 8:50am and finished at 9:32am. There being no further business, the Working Committee adjourned at 9:32am.