



**TOPS Working Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 1, 2014**

Members Present: Jason Alwine, PJ Anderson, Joe Lavorini, Jeff Mohrmann, Jim Rees, Leslie

Members Absent: Lee Milner, Kirk Samelson, Becky Wegner

Alternates Present: Cathy Grossman, Sarah Musick

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Liaisons Present: Scott Hume, John Maynard

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Liaison Absent: Jackie Hilaire

Staff Present: Chris Lieber, Kurt Schroeder, Julie Lafitte

Jim Rees brought the meeting to order at 7:36am.

Agenda Preview

There were no changes to the agenda as presented.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Approval of Minutes

Motion – to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2014 meeting:

- Jason Alwine/Leslie Thomas Approved – Unanimous

Citizen Discussion

Bill Koerner (TOSC) invited everyone to join a TOSC hike at Cheyenne Mountain on October 8. He requested that those interested in going email TOSC for details.

Staff Reports (all by Chris Lieber)

- Park System Master Plan
 - Chris thanked the Committee for the work on the plan.
 - Unanimously approved by City Council on September 23.
 - An Action Plan will be presented at an upcoming meeting. The development of the Action Plan will include opportunities for public comment.
- Venezia Community Park Update
 - A press conference was held on Sept. 25 at the park site to announce that work would begin on Venezia Park. Students now in high school read letters they had written supporting the park in 3rd grade. The Mayor and several Council members attended.
 - A public meeting is scheduled for Oct. 16 to review the original plans to see if they still meet the needs of the community.
 - The proposed 2015 Budget includes a funding request of \$6.8 million from the PLDO fund for Venezia Park. City Council will consider this request as part of the upcoming budget process.
- Ute Valley

- The first public meeting on Sept. 23 was well attended.
- Several user groups were represented and participated in mixed small groups.
- Another meeting will be held on November 12th.
- Creekside Update
 - An article about asbestos found during the construction process will appear in the *Independent*.
 - The project is on hold for 90-120 days while options are being considered; Parks is working with an environmental consultant and the Colorado Department of Health to determine the best way to address the situation.
 - The project is not funded through TOPS but is part of the Legacy Loop.

Discussion Item

Presentation on TOPS Application Properties

- Watkins
 - Located by Cheyenne Mountain State Park.
 - Identified on 2014 Master Plan as potential open space.
 - A tour of the property will be set for Oct. 22 for those who have not yet seen it.
- Blodgett Ranch
 - Three parcels available; could be used for a future trail connection; lots of legal questions.
 - No need for a tour at this time.
- Pikes Peak Avenue Parcel
 - Eric Eaton, a local entomologist and author, contacted Chris about an open space near his house which is home to numerous species of beetles, other insects and birds.
 - The property owner has not approached the City; at least seven separate parcels.
 - The Committee would like more information before touring.

Citizen Discussion

Bill Koerner (TOSC) would like to join the tour of the Pikes Peak Avenue Parcel when it is organized. He also encouraged everyone to vote “yes” on El Paso County Ballot Issue 1A (using TABOR refund for parks capital projects).

Adjournment

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

Leslie Thomas/Jeff Mohrmann

Approved – Unanimous

The Working Committee entered a Closed Executive Session at 8:34am and finished at 9:10am. There being no further business, the Working Committee adjourned at 9:10am.