



**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes  
September 10, 2015**

**Members Present:** Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Alex Johnson, Charles Castle, Hank Scarangella, Mina Liebert, Ron Ilgen, Scot Hume, Jason Rupinski

**Alternates Present:**

**Alternates Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Karen Palus, Chris Lieber, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Christi Mehew

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**Called to Order** Jackie Hilaire brought the meeting to order at 7:34 am.

**Citizen Discussion**

- Kurt Stauder –Complimented the changes made to the Cottonwood Creek Disc Golf course. The friends group will work with Tilah Larson to plan a volunteer work day on 10/17/2015.
- Jim Coonradt -Offered a tour to those interested in the Cottonwood Creek Disc Golf course. He hopes that there will be an increase in communication between their group and Parks and Recreation. Jackie Hilaire stated the development of a friends group is a step in the right direction.
- Susan Davies – Encouraged people to vote “yes” for Proposition 2D and asked Board members to send in pro statements to the City Clerk’s office for the issue by September 18, 2015.
- Tom Webb –Complimented the signage and new walkway at Rampart Disc Golf course. Suggested a creation of a “small dog only” area adjacent to the existing dog park at Rampart. Expressed concern regarding no noticeable interaction between City staff and the architects working on the City Auditorium restroom renovation. Nor have the friends group been invited to comment on this City Auditorium project. Charles Castle sent a letter to the architect in regards to this situation.

**Approval of Minutes** – August 13, 2015

Motion: Jason Rupinski/Charles Castle, Approved - Unanimous  
Ceremonial item of “kids on bikes” will be presented in October.

**Action Items**

1. **War Dog Memorial** (presented by Chris Lieber)

- The War Dog Memorial Team is seeking approval to construct their memorial within the Ring of Honor at Memorial Park.
- Staff recommends approval of the War Dog Memorial design concept and the proposed location.
- Wade and Ruby Ridpath presented two of their retired war dogs.

Motion-Charles Castle/Gary Ferrer, Approved - Unanimous

**2. Venezia Community Park Universally Accessible Grant Application** (presented by Jeff Webb)

- The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department is seeking a \$350,000 Great Outdoors Colorado grant for the equipment and construction of the playgrounds within the John Venezia Community Park.
- This grant will require a minimum of 10% cash match and 25% in-kind match, should the application be successful.
- Application is due November 5, 2015 with results in March 2016.
- Staff is seeking support from the Board for the grant application.
- A formal resolution of support will be presented to City Council in October 2015.

Motion-Charles Castle/Scott Hume, Approved - Unanimous

**3. TOPS Code Update** (presented by Chris Lieber)

- Proposed motion to approve the Ordinance to amend the City Code section 202 and 203 to conform to the current voter approved TOPS Ordinance. Amendments:
  1. Allow more flexible spending within the TOPS Parks Category.
  2. Biennial (every 2 years) financial audits of the TOPS Program instead of Biannual (every 6 months).

Motion-Jason Rupinski/Charles Castle, Approved-Unanimous

**Presentation Items**

**4. City Auditorium Restroom Update** (presented by Kim King)

- SlaterPaull Architects chosen for renovation project.
- September 3, 2015 public meeting held along with a tour of the restrooms.
- 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2015 is the targeted construction date with a budget of \$300,000.
- A Historic Structure Assessment grant of \$20,000 was submitted to the State Historic Fund. Part of this grant includes an economic feasibility study to assist the City with better positioning the City Auditorium for increased revenue generation.
- The number of restroom fixtures will be doubled along with trying to keep the historic aesthetic.

**5. Inspire Grant Application** (presented by Jeff Webb & Tilah Larson)

- GOCO Inspire Initiative is a five-year strategy aimed at inspiring Coloradans, especially kids, to enjoy and take care of our great outdoors.
- GOCO will award a \$100,000 planning grant, which has a required 25% overall match with at least 10% cash and 15% in-kind.
- The Pikes Peak Region Coalition, which includes the City of Colorado Springs, has submitted a Tier 1 grant proposal.
- October 23, 2015 award announcements will occur and a 10 month planning process will begin immediately.
- If selected, in August 2016 we would be applying for \$1-5 million dollars to implement our plan.
- Pikes Peak Coalition has identified the target region to be the three Community Centers (Hillside, Deerfield Hills and Meadows Park) along with the southeast corridor of Colorado Springs. Beidleman Nature Center at Sondermann Park has been identified as a location to advance environmental programming.
- Twelve coalition partners have been identified.

### **Staff Reports**

#### **6. Bear Creek Watershed Update** (presented by David Deitemeyer)

- Bear Creek southwest of Colorado Springs is home to the sole remaining genetically pure population of greenback cutthroat trout.
- U.S. Forest Service has conducted an Environmental Assessment through the NEPA Process and released their draft decision to determine how to balance popular recreational use with protecting the threatened greenback cutthroat trout.
- 10 objections were received which initiated another 45 day resolution period which will likely be extended another 30 days to resolve objections.
- The draft decision preferred alternative includes: converting High Drive into a non-motorized recreational use trail, official addition of the Palmer Trail as a USFS trail, decommissioning Sesame Canyon social trail sediment mitigation work along High Drive, and in stream habitat improvements to Bear Creek.
- Bear Creek Canyon Park will be presented as an action item to the Parks Board in the coming months.
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife will be tracking the population of trout.

#### **7. Tussock Moth/Spruce Bud Worm Update** (presented by Dennis Will)

- A map was shown of the current moth infestation which extends in 8000 acres in size, which includes: Cheyenne Mountain State Park, North Cheyenne Canyon, NORAD, Bear Creek Canyon Park and Blodgett Peak Open Space.
- Treatment options include:
  - Aerial application with Bacillus Thuringiensis. The cost range is currently \$63/per acre, per treatment.
  - No Action. If no action is taken an increase in size and severity is likely, repetitive defoliation can occur and lead to bark beetles and tree mortality

and the protective canopy could be removed which creates water quality and quantity issues.

- On August 26, 2015 the first meeting was held with cross-boundary stakeholders.
- On September 30, 2015 the second meeting will be held to discuss an RFP and MOU process.
- In October 2015 the preparation process will begin. Contracts can be signed once the 2016 Budget is implemented providing the decision is made to spray come Spring 2016.
- January/February 2016 the community will be informed by the media.
- Spring 2016 ground surveys will be completed.
- May 2016 open houses and public meetings will be conducted.
- Mid to late June spray treatments will occur if this is the option chosen.

**8. Discover Colorado Springs Calendar** (presented by Tilah Larson & Sarah Bryarly)

- The deadline is the first week of October to submit pictures.
- The debut party will be Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm at the Gill Foundation and Parks Board members will be invited.

**9. Project Updates** (presented by Chris Lieber)

- Open Space Management Plans- Four Open Space project master plans will be updated which include Bluestem, Stratton, University Park and Sinton.
- Larry Ochs Sports Complex-September 16<sup>th</sup> a press event will take place at the complex site.
- Foothills Trail-trail improvements were made due to floods and the trail was moved east towards 30<sup>th</sup> street. This trail will become a Tier 1 trail funded through the TOPS 2016 budget.
- Hillside Community Center- roof repair is underway and solar panels will lie on top of the roof membrane. Completion is anticipated by the end of 2015.

**Board Business**

**10. Committee Reports**

- Gary Feffer – Complimented Matt Mayberry and staff on the Pioneers Museum Breakfast. New GPS programming at the museum is fantastic.
- Mina Liebert/Karen Palus – LART funding changes were presented at the City Council meeting. Community Events will be receiving a 40% discount instead of a 50% discount.
- Karen Palus- Labor Day Lift Off Festival was very successful.

**Adjournment**

Adjournment – Jackie Hilaire

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting adjourned at 10:34 am

