



**TOPS Working Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes - FINAL
Wednesday, October 5, 2016**

Members Present: Jason Alwine, Nancy Hobbs, Joe Lavorini, Silas Musick, Sarah Blakeslee, Becky Wegner, Lee Milner

Members absent: Cathy Grossman, Jeff Mohrmann

Alternates Absent: Jim Klever

Parks Board Liaisons Present: Scot Hume, Jason Rupinski, Charles Castle

Parks Board Liaisons Absent: N/A

Staff Present: Chris Lieber, Christi Mehew, Kurt Schroeder

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Jason Alwine brought the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m.

Agenda Preview

Announcements

Chris Lieber

- Several construction projects are closing prior to the cold weather and snow.
- Many volunteer projects have occurred and “thank you” to committee members that have participated.
- Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado held a trail construction day at Red Rock Canyon on September 10th. The trail work helps link Section 16 to Red Rock Canyon.
- Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado held a trail restoration day at Austin Bluffs Open Space and University Park on October 1st. The neighborhood on the south side of University Park is now connected to the open space.
- The 3rd Annual Creek Week Clean Up was held September 24th – October 2nd and was a success in cleaning up trash on trails throughout the Fountain Creek Watershed.
- The TOPS 20th Anniversary is next year and the planning has begun. BioBlitz’s are being planned to engage the community and learn more about different species and fauna through many activities. Handouts from various communities were distributed to committee members – Larimer County Recreation map, Jeffco Outdoors Coal Creek region 1 map, Boulder County Parks and Open Space Images, Boulder Parks and Open Space iNaturalist.
- iNaturalist helps identify species in regional parks and open spaces and individuals can post species on a map online.
- Cheyenne Meadows Park was completely transformed on September 28th with the help from 300 volunteers. The Parks Department partnered with Kaboom and CarMax to

complete fencing, sod, surfacing, a new playground and artwork.

- The Governor of Colorado visited Colorado Springs on Monday, October 3rd to talk about Ring the Peak.

Nancy Hobbs – Cheyenne Mountain State Park will be working on the Dixon Trail to prepare for their 2nd Annual Race on October 22nd which offers a 5K and a 9.25m run. Volunteers are needed and registration is still open. The Pikes Peak Summit House will have an update meeting at City Hall on October 18th from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Kurt Schroeder – The budget season has kicked off and the Mayor will soon be presenting the proposed 2017 budget to City Council. The budget is provided online at coloradospringsgov.com.

Approval of Minutes

Motion – to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2016 meeting:

- 1st – Sarah Blakeslee, 2nd – Silas Musick, Approved – Unanimous

Citizen Discussion

Bill Koerner – Monday, October 3rd the Governor was in Colorado Springs to show his support and endorsement for Ring the Peak. The meeting was held at Ute Pass Elementary school with many attendees including children as well as several representatives from Colorado Springs organizations. The presentation included information regarding the two gaps that exist and a short bike ride followed. The City has agreed to sponsor the GOCO grant for \$100,000 which will help in hiring a planning consultant to address how to close these gaps and develop a master plan. The US Forest Service owns 40% of the land and they are hoping for their support. In addition, the the Colorado Open Space Alliance received the presentation group which resulted in a question/answer session.

Susan Davies (Trails Open Space Coalition) Dirk Draper, Doug Price and Chris Jenkins were in attendance for the Ring the Peak event with the Governor as well as several other community representatives. An initiative regarding protecting our parks has come forward and focuses on if the City should be allowed to make exchanges when it comes to park land. The initiative was in result of the Land Exchange with The Broadmoor and the cases and arguments that are brought forth in the initiative are of concern. Red Rock Canyon and Corral Bluffs are being used as examples. Red Rock Canyon was privately owned and the TOPS Working Committee purchased this property to preserve it as open space and Corral Bluffs is a county project. The initiative might be on the April 2017 ballot and the facts need to be correct.

Chuck Donachy – (Shooks Run Steering Committee) Chuck would like to inform the Shooks Run Steering Committee about the trail plans for Shooks Run at Las Vegas street. Chris Lieber stated Shooks Run is a focus for the Parks Department and part of the proposed funding for the 2017 budget.

Action Item

1. Election of TOPS Chair and Vice Chair

- Jason Alwine stated he received an email from Cathy Grossman. Cathy would like to submit her name for nomination as Vice Chair for the TOPS Working Committee.
- Silas Musick nominated Cathy Grossman for Vice Chairperson.
- Lee Milner nominated Jason Alwine for Chair.
- Becky Wegner nominated Lee Milner for Vice Chair.
- Jason Alwine was voted unanimously by the TOPS Working Committee for Chair.
- A vote was taken for Vice Chair with Cathy Grossman and Lee Milner as nominees. Cathy Grossman was elected as Vice Chair.
- Committee members Nancy Hobbs, Jason Alwine and Jeff Mohrmann were approved by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to serve on the TOPS Working Committee for a second three-year term.

Presentations

2. TOPS Alternate position – term length (Presented by Chris Lieber, Design and Development Manager and TOPS Program Manager)

- The September Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting included a discussion regarding the term length for alternates to the Board and TOPS Working Committee.
- The TOPS Policy and Procedure Manual states an alternate will serve a three year term.
- Three years is a long time to be an alternate. When openings occur on the committee it is posted and interested applicant's interview as alternates are not automatically placed in the position.
- Feedback from the committee included: a one year term creates more flexibility for the alternate as well as the department; concerns if candidates would be interested in being on the committee for three years as an alternate; attendance protocols and alternates are non-voting members.

Becky Wegner inquired about status of Land Exchange with The Broadmoor. Chris Lieber responded that the Parks Department continues to work on due diligence including surveys, title work and environmental assessments.

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn at 8:13 a.m.
1st – Silas Musick, 2nd – Lee Milner, Approved – Unanimous
- The TOPS Working Committee departed for a site tour to South Shooks Run