



**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, May 11, 2023**

**Members Present:** David Siegel, Sarah Bryarly, Steve Harris, Larry Bogue, Greg Thornton, Dr. Daniel Bowan, Julia Sands de Melendez, Abby Simpson, Andrea Perry

**Alternates Absent:** Steve Lenzo

**Staff Present:** Britt Haley, Eric Becker, Anna White, Jake Butterfield, Kelly Rajab, Alex Crochet, Matt Mayberry

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**Called to Order:** Board Chair David Siegel brought the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m.

**Citizen Discussion**

Susan Davies, Executive Director for the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), had a few updates and comments for the Board. First, she invited everyone to join the Incline Friends at 6 p.m. that evening at the ENT Center for a screening of a film celebrating ten years of legal public access to the Incline. Next, Ms. Davies asked if there could be an opportunity for citizen comment on the 2024 Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Recommendations. Board Chair David Siegel responded that in the interest of time, comments from citizens on the record will have to wait until next month, but encouraged Ms. Davies to reach out via email following the presentation with any comments or questions. Additionally, Ms. Davies said she and TOSC had participated in a great Crew Leader Training in partnership with Park staff and the Rocky Mountain Field Institute. Finally, Ms. Davies said the “Scoop the Poop” program began four years ago with various partners, who set up tables at various locations and offer swag to citizens who clean up after their dogs. The interactions with the active public help to remind them to keep their dogs on a leash and clean up after them, and is a great teachable moment for kids.

Kathy Perry, citizen, is a participant at the Westside Community Center, and on the Westside Community Center Working Committee. She thanked Staff and the Board for all of their support of the Westside Community Center, adding that June 1 will be the one-year anniversary of the City taking over operations of the Center. Ms. Perry did reiterate her comments from last month, on the 2024 fees and charges for the Center not having as much flexibility as she believed the participants and renters might need as the Center gets back on its feet. She asked the Board to keep this in mind as they consider the 2024 budget. Lastly, Ms. Perry informed the Board that there will be a meet and greet at the Center on May 16<sup>th</sup> from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

William Hotop, citizen, encouraged Staff to consider adding a skate park or skating facility into the Coleman Park master plan. He stated that is the third most common reported interest for students, and would be a better use of maintenance funds than ballfields that require mowing and irrigation.

**Approval of Minutes – April 13, 2023 meeting minutes.**

**Motion – To approve the April 13, 2023 meeting minutes.**

1<sup>st</sup> – Julia Sands de Melendez, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Andrea Perry, Approved, Unanimously with Board member Steve Harris abstaining.

**Action Items**

**Veterans Memorial (Presented by Jake Butterfield, Capital Projects Coordinator)**

Jake Butterfield, Capital Projects Coordinator, presented the Board with the Veterans Memorial. This presentation included the project background; project milestones and timeline; site background and memorial history; current conditions of the structure and plaza; project goals; an update on the structural assessment; site analysis of current conditions; feedback from the veteran stakeholder meeting; concept photos; next steps; and finally, the proposed motion.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

Board member Greg Thornton said that part of the plan mentions that the appearance of the memorial could potentially be altered with repairs, and asked what that would entail. Jake responded that the surface treatment could slightly alter the color of the memorial. Greg then asked what the money mentioned in the recommendation would cover. Jake answered that it would cover the design cost and repair.

Board member Julia Sands de Melendez asked how the remaining funds for the complete repairs could be raised or acquired. Britt Haley, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, answered that with the current interest in the Union Printers Home, there is also a renewed interest in a Memorial Park master plan. Britt said the full repairs of this monument could be included in that plan, and she is working on a package of options. Additionally, Britt said it would depend on the direction of new leadership at the mayoral level.

Board member Andrea Perry asked if the ADA improvements are included in the \$500,000 for repairs. Jake responded that they are not, but included in the full repair plan, which would cost around \$1,500,000. Andrea stated that she would like to see the ADA improvements prioritized in whatever plan moves forward.

Board Vice Chair Sarah Bryarly asked what could be done to prioritize the ADA improvements, echoing Andrea’s statement. Jake answered that they are in the phasing plans, but the level of funding would determine what improvements would be made. However, Jake said there are improvements in each phasing of repairs, so at least some could likely be made at the current level of funding.

Board member Abby Simpson asked what happens after the recommendation is made. Jake answered that they would begin the surface repairs. Jake invited Keith LeMay from American Legion Post 5 to speak on what the repairs of the memorial and the impact that the repairs would have on the veteran community. Mr. LeMay stated that it would show that the City cares about the memorial and what it means to the community.

Board Chair David Siegel suggested reworking the proposed motion into a more general motion to support the decision of the Department, while not getting too specific in the repairs themselves.

Board member Dr. Daniel Bowan asked if there was a project ranking system that led to this particular project moving forward ahead of others. Britt Haley responded that this project was spearheaded by former City Council President Tom Strand and the veteran community. Once the structural assessment was completed, it was clear that the memorial is a safety issue and presents imminent critical failure. \$500,000 contributed by the American Recovery Plan Act funds were then designated to this project to mitigate the issues.

**Motion: To recommend approval of the master plan for the Memorial Park Veterans Memorial as presented.**

1<sup>st</sup> – David Siegel, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Julia Sands de Melendez, Approved, Unanimously.

**Presentation Items**

**2024 Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Recommendations** (Presented by Kelly Rajab, Analyst II for Finance and Budget)

Kelly Rajab, Analyst II for Finance and Budget, presented the Board with the 2024 Capital Improvement Project (CIP) recommendations. This presentation included what informs the budget process; assumptions; the Ballfield Fund proposed 2024 CIP budget; the Ballfield Fund 2023 fund balance estimate; the Ballfield Fund proposed 2024 CIP budget; Skyview Sports Complex turf replacement; the Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) proposed 2024 CIP budget; the CTF 2023 fund balance estimate; the CTF proposed 2024 CIP budget; Grey Hawk Park implementation; Skyview Sports Complex turf replacement; other CTF projects; the Parkland Dedication Ordinance (PLDO) proposed 2024 CIP budget; the PLDO fund balance by category; the PLDO proposed 2024 CIP budget; the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) proposed 2024 CIP budget; PPRTA II; the Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOPS) proposed 2024 CIP budget; the TOPS Ordinance; the 2022 End-of-Year revenue report; TOPS fund future

revenue for 2024 through 2028; the TOPS fund summary 2022 estimated fund balance; preliminary 2024 revenue; TOPS Administration; TOPS Maintenance; TOPS Trails category; Austin Bluffs/University Park implementation; Blodgett/Pikeview implementation; Chamberlain Trail; Fishers Canyon implementation; Palmer Mesa Trail design and planning; Sand Creek Trail - Airport to Palmer Park; the TOPS Parks category; the TOPS Parks proposed 2024 budget; Grey Hawk Park implementation; Jimmy Camp Creek/Corral Bluffs planning; irrigation renovations for Bricker, Otero and Tomah parks; the TOPS Open Space category; stewardship funding history; and finally, the TOPS Open Space proposed 2024 budget.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

Board member Dr. Daniel Bowan made a request to see the list of projects that did not make the 2024 CIP recommendations, as well as a potential presentation on grant funding and procurement for the Department. Staff said they could work on this for a future meeting.

Board member Greg Thornton requested to see a slide covering the history of PLDO funds. Staff said they would work on this request as well.

### **Staff Updates**

#### **Horticulture Update** (Presented by Alex Crochet, City Horticulturist)

Alex Crochet, City Horticulturist, presented the Board with the Horticulture update. This presentation included the Springs in Bloom! Annual flower program; native and perennial propagation; vast collaboration efforts; and finally, some other new practices being implemented at the greenhouses.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

#### **Velodrome History and Current Operations Update** (Presented by Britt Haley, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director)

Britt Haley, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, presented the Velodrome History and Current Operations Update presentation to the Board. This presentation included velodrome timeline; joint use agreement components; and finally, the 2023 velodrome community program.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation Here](#)

Nicki Skinner, Senior Director for the Colorado Springs Olympic and Paralympic Training Center (SCOPTC), also joined the conversation to help answer questions and respond to both the Board and citizens.

Key takeaways from the discussion included:

- Nicki explained the reduction of community use following the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions for USOPTC athletes and staff. Due to the requirements of vaccines and other mandates, community use was simply not feasible during the early stages of the pandemic.
- The USOPTC has been facing similar staffing shortages which have also led to the reduction in community usage.
- The USOPTC have committed to increase community use hours, as well as bringing back some of the previous community-based programming they offered before the pandemic.
- Britt Haley is also committed to working with the USOPTC on offering more hours to the community, and suggested another update from Nicki and her staff after the summer season is finished.
- Gina Vaselli, citizen, and Andy Sparks, citizen, thanked the Board for listening to their concerns, as well as Nicki and PRCS staff. They understand constraints of funding and staff, however, they emphasized the uniqueness of the velodrome and how important it is for developing athletes in the community. Mr. Sparks added that one of their main requests is usage of the facility in the winter months, when it is less safe to ride in outdoor conditions.
- There is a new Cycling Coordinator at the facility, who is also committed to working with the cycling community.
- A suggestion was made to revitalize the Velodrome Action Committee to continue the dialogue between all parties.
- Board members agreed that it would be best to make a formal motion encouraging more community use that staff can pass along to City Council and USOPTC staff.

**Motion: To encourage the USOPTC to return community access to pre-COVID levels, understanding limitations and the need for more dialogue, to work towards a solution.**

1<sup>st</sup> – Steve Harris, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Greg Thornton, Approved, Unanimously.

## **General Updates**

Britt Haley, Director, provided the following updates:

- Britt congratulated Stephanie Surch, Analyst II for Grants, and Mark Tatro, Park Ranger, on completing their masters degrees.
- City Council assigns City Council members as liaisons to each Department and thus, their advisory boards. Council members David Leinweber and Michelle Talarico are the new Council liaisons. Board Chair David Siegel asked if there will be an opportunity to do an orientation with the Council members, to which Britt replied that she, Kim King, and Eric Becker, Park Maintenance and Operations Manager, have done a brief orientation already with all new Council members. However, Britt will look into possible having one relating to the Board.

- Britt will be conducting interviews for the Design and Development Manager later in the day and tomorrow.

### **Board Business**

Greg Thornton – Mr. Thornton echoed Kathy Perry’s, who spoke during citizen comment, concerns regarding fees and charges for the Westside Community Center. Next, Mr. Thornton briefly updated the Board on the TOPS Working Committee meeting.

Dr. Daniel Bowan – Dr. Bowan asked if an update could be provided on the legal action being taken against the Pikes Peak – America’s Mountain Summit Complex. Britt Haley responded that she would likely have an update in a few months.

Steve Harris – Mr. Harris asked for an update on the proposed Asian Heritage Garden at Stratton Park/PEO Chapter House. Britt Haley responded that staff is still working with the Golden Lotus Foundation on agreements and special events for the property. However, in the meantime, some of the Park Ranger staff have moved into the building to provide a presence at the property.

David Siegel – Mr. Siegel asked Board members to consider the Board positions, as they will be voted on at the July meeting. Positions include Chair, Vice Chair, and LART Committee representative.

### **Adjournment**

**Motion: Move to adjourn the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board meeting at 11:30 a.m.**

1<sup>st</sup> – Greg Thornton, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Julia Sands de Melendez, Approved, Unanimously.