



**TOPS Working Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 1, 2023**

Members Present: Bob Falcone, Ingrid Richter, Bob Shafer, Paula Krantz, Wendy Howe, Blaze Panariso, Jeff Davis, Hank Scarangella, Chelsea Gondeck

Parks Board Liaisons Present: Abby Simpson, Greg Thornton, Larry Bogue

Staff Present: Lonna Thelen, Kim King, Anna White, David Deitemeyer

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TOPS Working Committee Chair Bob Falcone brought the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m.

Agenda Preview

Committee Chair Bob Falcone announced the agenda for the meeting.

Announcements

Lonna Thelen, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager, made the following announcements:

- There will be a site tour in November. Lonna will provide more details closer to the tour.
- The application portal for TOPS Working Committee alternates has closed and staff will begin reviewing applications.
- Daniel Gould was selected as the new Senior Landscape Architect for the Design and Development division and will begin on November 13. Daniel previously worked for the Planning Department as a Senior Landscape Architect and brings a wealth of knowledge to this role.
- The Wild Horse Ranch grant application through Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) has successfully moved to the next phase of the application process.
- There was another public meeting for the Greyhawk Park master plan. Turnout was low, but there was a great discussion with the neighborhood. Currently, there are four alternatives to discuss. Additionally, Connie Schmeisser, Landscape Architect II, is working on getting final price estimates. Staff is hoping to have one last public meeting in mid-December, and then the final plan will come before the Committee in January and February.
- Lonna asked if the Committee would like to move the January 3rd TOPS Working Committee meeting to the following Wednesday, January 10th, to accommodate the New Year Holiday. The Committee agreed to move the meeting to the 10th.

Committee Vice Chair Wendy Howe provided a brief update on the most recent Blodgett Open Space master plan meeting. She said that about 180 people attended, and there was great discussion and feedback. While on the topic of the master plan, Committee member Hank

Scarangella noted that part of the plan discusses an “adaptive management plan,” and asked for clarification on that. David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect, clarified that an adaptive management plan looks at a master plan with a flexible view. The plan can be adjusted on monitoring and indicators, and changes can be made without having to make master plan amendments. However, David made it clear that any major changes would likely still go through a public process. As an example, he used the phased implementation of parking lots based on need, or desired user features, within the framework of the original master plan. Committee member Blaze Panariso asked if this approach helps to save money since it allows for more flexibility. David responded that while it can, the primary goal of this approach is resource management and safety.

Committee Chair Bob Falcone welcomed new member Chelsea Gondeck to the Committee and thanked her for stepping up from her previous role as an alternate member, to a regular member.

Approval of Minutes – October 4, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the October 4, 2023 TOPS Working Committee meeting.

1st – Blaze Panariso, 2nd – Ingrid Richter, Approved, Unanimously.

Citizen Discussion

Cory Sutela, Executive Director for Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, thanked staff for the clarification on the “adaptive master plan” phrase, stating that it’s very helpful to understand the approach with that information. Additionally, Mr. Sutela thanked staff for communicating the current policy for e-bikes and other motorized devices throughout the park system. Mr. Sutela stated his organization is in favor of strategically allowing e-bikes on non-TOPS properties as staff works towards the potential ballot measure to change the language in the TOPS ordinance to allow for e-bikes.

Ron Ramsey, citizen, referenced an article in the Gazette stating that a ballot measure would be required to allow e-bikes in parks. Mr. Ramsey said he had a hard time understanding exactly why there was a need for the ballot measure. Mr. Ramsey stated that it could be difficult to pass this change in language due to a lack of knowledge within the public. Mr. Ramsey said that class 1 and class 2 e-bikes are already on the trails, and do not harm the trails as the public previously perceived. Finally, Mr. Ramsey stated that equity is equality on the trails, and many people benefit from the ADA related components of e-bikes.

Presentations

Open Space Wayfinding Update (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect)

David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect, presented the Committee with the Open Space Wayfinding update. This presentation included the welcome signs; kiosks; wayfinding posts; examples of decals on the posts; photos of the installation process; completed, in process, and future needs of wayfinding signage throughout the park system; photos of posts already implemented; and finally, future planning.

[Link to Agenda Packet Here](#)

Austin Bluffs Open Space Master Plan Implementation Update (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect)

David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect, presented the Committee with the Austin Bluffs Open Space Master Plan Implementation update. This presentation included the property overview; master plan goals; management plan; master plan recommendations; trailheads; trail construction; trail signage; maps of the different areas of the open space; photos of trails throughout the open space; forest restoration; projects underway; and finally, future work.

[Link to Agenda Packet Here](#)

Fishers Canyon Open Space Master Plan Introduction (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect)

David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect, presented the Committee with the Fishers Canyon Open Space Master Plan Introduction. This presentation included an overview of the open space; fire mitigation; fire mitigation – before and after; landscape aspects; photos of the property; the planning team; approach summary; planning tools; engagement approach; engagement tactics; where are we now?; and finally, information on how to view the project page.

[Link to Agenda Packet Here](#)

Committee members Paula Krantz and Jeff Davis are the liaisons to this project.

Citizen Discussion

Susan Davies, Executive Director for TOSC, asked if the welcome codes on the wayfinding kiosks have an option for access in a foreign language. David Deitemeyer, Senior Landscape Architect, stated that staff is working with the Office of Accessibility on this, and that they will be able to be used in other languages. Ms. Davies then asked the number of applications received for the alternate positions on the TOPS Working Committee. Anna White, Staff Assistant, stated that she was waiting to receive the applications from the office of City Council. Next, Ms. Davies asked if staff is working with the Forest Services on the Fishers Canyon Master Plan. David Deitemeyer stated that yes, he is working with them. David added that the McNeill Trail will

warrant a NEPA process. Finally, Ms. Davies asked if the Austin Bluffs Open Space has a friends group. David responded that there is potential for that, and Ranger Mark Tatro has been in touch with some of the neighbors.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion to adjourn the TOPS Working Committee meeting at 9:01 a.m.
1st – Ingrid Richter, 2nd – Blaze Panariso, Approved, Unanimously.