

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes  
August 13, 2015**

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

**Alternate Absent:** Bob Lally

**Staff Present:** Kim King, Karen Palus, Chris Lieber, Jake Butterfield, Anna White

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**Call to Order**

Jackie Hilaire convened the meeting at 7:31 am

**Citizen Discussion**

- Jackson Alston (Eagle Scout, Troop 110)
  - Jackson presented his Eagle Scout Project to the Parks Advisory Board with handout containing pictures and information about his project
  - With the help of Jon Carlson and his family and friends, Jackson installed multiple monofilament fishing line recycling bins at the North Slope and South Slope Reservoirs, Pike View Reservoir, Prospect and Quail Lakes, and Homestead Ranch and Fountain Creek Parks
  - The monofilament fishing line recycling bins will help to protect wildlife from harm due to fishing line digestion or entanglement
  - The Parks Advisory Board commended his efforts to make a difference in our parks
- Kurt Stauder (Cottonwood Creek Disc Golf Club)
  - Kurt Stauder returned with the same concerns he expressed at the last Parks Advisory meeting about the maintenance needs at the Cottonwood Creek Disc Golf Course
  - He explained that the club had now raised about \$4,000 since its creation at the beginning of the summer
  - He presented a plan for a redesign of the course to repair damage and meet maintenance needs at the Cottonwood Disc Golf Course, but wasn't sure how to go about a public process to get approval of the redesign
  - He expressed additional safety concerns about pedestrians on the Cottonwood Creek Trail being struck by discs
    - Karen Palus requested that accidents be reported to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, then stated that we would look into immediately removing a few of the holes pulled for safety reasons
  - Chris Lieber agreed that a redesign is necessary and that improvements could be made to the course, but that a public process including the surrounding neighbors would be necessary. Chris also explained that there are a lot of other maintenance needs in the Park's docket that have to be address first.
  - Chris Lieber discussed the public process, and Kurt agreed to work towards hosting a public meeting to discuss the course
  - Scot Hume and Charles Castle had questions about what the urgency of the redesign was, where Kurt Stauder reiterated safety concerns

- Jackie Hilaire suggested that Kurt talk to Park staff off the record and work towards the public process
- Jim Kune (Cottonwood Creek Disc Golf Club)
  - Jim Kune expressed many of the same concerns as Kurt Stauder about the redesign and safety concerns
  - He also worried that many of the Parks Maintenance has been focused on the new disc golf course than Cottonwood Creek's Disc Golf Course
  - Jackie Hilaire made another recommendation that Jim meets with Park Staff at another time to work on the public process
- Bruce Doyle (Friends of Monument Valley Park)
  - Invited the Parks Advisory Board and everyone in the Parks Board meeting to attend Musical Mondays in Monument Valley Park, Monday's at 7:00 p.m.
- Bill Koerner (TOSC)
  - Bill informed the Parks Advisory Board that he had attended a meeting in Manitou Springs' City Hall about the future of Manitou Springs' parks and open spaces
  - He discussed an idea that was presented at that meeting to connect the Manitou Springs trail system to the City's in Garden of the Gods Park
  - He brought with him a paper with the "vision" of what this trail system could look like
  - Bill also mentioned that this idea was moving through Manitou Springs' Open Space Advisory, and would potentially be presented in the TOPS Working Committee
  - Chris Lieber responded, saying that the TOPS Working Committee had been in conversation with Manitou Springs, as they were hoping for a letter of support from TOPS for a Grant through Great Outdoors Colorado
- Karen Fleming (BBUGS – Universal Garden Support)
  - Karen came in with some updates about the community gardens, which are overflowing with vegetables
  - She brought in some large squash and other fun goods for the Parks Advisory Board, including paper flowers made from recycled flyers
  - Charles Castle asked for an updated about any projects, and Karen responded and explained that with the help of Meadows, they had successfully planted a garden on the roof of one of the Bicycle Libraries
  - Karen also gave some information about the final dates of the Blue Moon Trail Run and invited everyone in attendance to come out and participate
- Dave Weisner (Friends of the City Auditorium)
  - Dave came to the Parks Advisory Board meeting with some concerns and questions about the bathroom remodel at the City Auditorium
  - He had been told by Nicole Spindler from City Contracting that the initial schematics had been finished
  - He expressed concerns about wanting to see the schematics, but when he had asked John Carricato from the City Auditorium to see the schematics, he was denied
  - Kim King explained that a meeting would be held involving all of the stakeholders of the City Auditorium to view the schematics and give input all at once, instead of individuals going separately to view them. She said there would be another update about the remodel at the September Parks Advisory Board meeting
  - Dave did mention some of the recent updates to the City Auditorium, including new light fixtures and about \$4,000 donated from the Friends of the City Auditorium for new flooring

- He said the building was getting “some love” and invited everyone in attendance to visit the City Auditorium to see some of the updates and to enjoy events there

**Approval of Minutes** – July 9, 2015

Motion: Charles Castle/Second: Alex Johnson

Approved - Unanimous

**Action Items**

- Bankers Loop at Gossage Park/Pikes Peak Greenway
  - a. David Deitemeyer presented an expansion of the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail to create a trail loop in Gossage Park
  - b. The gravel trail would be adjacent to the BMX area already in Goose Gossage Park
  - c. There would be no need for excavation, but instead the project would use natural resources and already existing features around the proposed trail
  - d. David invited Jon Severson from the Urban Single Track to present more information and answer any questions
  - e. He mentioned that Kids on Bikes had been utilizing the other Banker’s Loop for their programming
  - f. He also informed the Parks Advisory Board that Fountain was also interested in a similar trail system
  - g. Alex Johnson had a question about where “Banker’s Lunch Loop” came from, to which Jon replied that it was a funny allusion to the extended lunch hours that bankers would take, giving a cyclist some extra time to enjoy a lunch-time ride. Alex also had questions about what the neighbors in the surrounding areas thought of the project. David Deitemeyer responded that the City hadn’t talked to the neighbors, but believed there would be very little impact on the neighbors. Stakeholders of the surrounding businesses have been supportive of the project, though.
  - h. Jackie Hilaire had a question about the impact the new trail would have on the water quality of Monument Creek, and if there would be erosion problems. David replied that the disturbances from the social trails were impacting the creek more than the proposed trail would. The new Banker’s Lunch Loop would close most of those social trails and then provide proper drainage back towards the vegetation.
  - i. Jason Rupinski had a question about whether the trail operated in only one direction, since it was a single track. Jon Severson replied that though the track would be narrow in some spots, two people going opposite directions could pass safely by each other
  - j. Charles Castle mentioned that David and Jon should look into possibly finding a bank to sponsor the project for any financial needs they may have, to build, advertise, or for maintenance

Motion: Alex Johnson/Second: Charles Castle

Approved - Unanimous

- Flying Horse Master Plan
  - a. Chris Lieber provided an overview of the agenda item.
  - b. The City received a request from NES Inc. on behalf of the Classic Communities for a major amendment to the Flying Horse Master Plan
  - c. The proposed amendment would eliminate the proposed community park site, but add trails and a pocket park. The proposed elimination of the community park site from the

Flying Horse Master Plan is a direct result of a major reduction in the number of residential units within the Flying Horse development.

- d. Chris gave an explanation of the service radius for the community park site, provided a description of the typical amenities found within a community park, and presented the positive and negative impacts a community park can have on neighborhoods immediately adjacent to a community park site. Chris also explained that the current location of the community park site presented topographic and access challenges.
- e. In advance of the Parks Board meeting a notice for a public meeting was sent out in postcards to all home within 1,000 feet
- f. On September 17th, the planning commission will view the amendment including if the Parks Advisory Board made a recommendation
- g. The community park site is still privately owned, but identified in the Flying Horse Master Plan as a community park
- h. There is a need in the northern part of the community (Colorado Springs) for a community park in accordance with our Park System Master Plan
- i. Questions from the Parks Advisory Board for Chris Lieber:
  - Jackie Hilaire had a question about the number of people in the community park radius that were already covered by other community parks. Chris didn't have this data available, but suggested the number was relatively small given that there is minimal overlap of service radius in this area.
  - Alex Johnson had a question about whose jurisdiction this park would fall under. Chris responded that per the Annexation agreement and District Service Plan, the maintenance and development of the community park would be the responsibility of the City's Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department, even though it is located within the boundaries in the Metro District.
  - Mina Liebert had a question about the time frame that this development would take. Chris said there was no timeline, but reminded the board that it would probably be very far down the road. Jackie had another question about time, based on our projects and other examples of park developments. Chris mentioned that to say that more than a decade would be a good estimate of time.
  - Charles Castle mentioned that if we had permanent funding, projects would move faster. Chris replied that funding for development is just part of the challenge. Karen Palus mentioned that ongoing maintenance funding would have to grow to ensure the Department could take care of these new parks.
  - Jackie had another question about if neighborhood parks already in Flying Horse are public. Chris Lieber confirmed that the neighborhood parks within Flying Horse are open to the public and are available for public use.
  - Jason Rupinski had another question about the amount of coverage for the service radius of people covered by a new community park. Chris explained the service radius based on our Master Plan. Community Parks are of "destination parks." While proximity is important, Chris noted that many park users travel across the community for events at different parks. Jackie asked about the max population of people projected within the service radius for the community park site, Chris replied about 18,000 to 19,000.
- j. Chris introduced Tim Seibert from NES, Inc. who had another presentation prepared, more specific to the Flying Horse Community, including the adjacent communities, parks, and trails

- Charles Castle had a question about acreage from the trails around, where Tim replied that they don't have final designs of trails so they don't know the exact acreage. They are still at the Master Plan stage.
- k. Tim said the proposed pocket park site isn't completely finalized based on access and amenities
- l. Questions for Tim Seibert from the Parks Advisory Board:
  - Scot Hume had a question about the 80 units proposed for the bridge cross construction, which Tim answered that the money from the housing units (\$200/unit) on top of the typical parkland dedication fees would pay for the bridge construction. Scot had more questions about why the park is even proposed and where some of the acreage is supposed to come from. Tim said the park credits had been satisfied based on park credit requirements, then the City would look into acquiring more for the site
  - Jackie had a question about if Fox Run Regional Park offers any amenities to the radius of service. Tim replied that the regional parks have more passive features, versus more active features like dedicated sports fields and playgrounds
  - Jackie noted that the topography of the proposed park area does not seem feasible
  - Hank Scarangella had a question about the 24 acre open space credit, and if it was in the original population estimate for the development. Tim said that it was, but had originally been a smaller amount of open space. Hank asked how useable the open space is; Tim replied that it's useable from a trails perspective, mostly passive recreation.
  - Gary Feffer wondered that the designated 25 acres for the park isn't the greatest spot for a park, but that it shouldn't be just dedicated to fulfill park requirements. Gary's main point was that the City needed to potentially find another 25 acre area for a community park site.
- m. Megan Harrington from City Development came up to the podium to mention a few other areas that could be considered for development, for residential and then including a community park. She explained where other opportunities could be found for park development.
- n. Citizen comment:
  - Charles Manly, a resident of the Deer Creek neighborhood, had a few concerns about the timeline of the project, since the Deer Creek and surrounding neighborhoods are underserved. He believed an enhanced trail system now would be better than a possible park in the future.
- o. Mina Liebert had another question about units in consideration of the Deer Creek neighborhood, and wondered if there was any opposition. Jackie believed a reduction in units would potentially be a reduction in traffic, which would be better for surrounding neighborhoods.
- p. Tim said that the timing would be sequential. Doug Stimple from Classic Homes stepped up to discuss other residential development nearby that would heighten the need for the community park. The timeline for the residential building development would be one year.
- q. Mina had other concerns that the amount of money provided wouldn't be enough to pay for the pedestrian bridge.
- r. Charles Castle made an amendment that the pedestrian bridge have funds taken from the sale of homes (\$200/unit) and be supplemented with PLDO funds for that bridge. Scot made a request to reevaluate where the community park could be located in the future.

Motion: Charles Castle with amendment/Second: Hank Scarangella Approved - Unanimous

**Presentations** (All presentations appended to these minutes.)

- War Dog Memorial
  - a. Chris Lieber introduced Wade and Ruby Ridpath, and their retired war dog, “Boss”
  - b. Ruby has an extensive background with several “War Dog” administrations
  - c. Ruby presented pictures of what the proposed memorial would look like, and it’s desired location – the Ring of Honor sidewalk ring extension
  - d. Ruby stated that fundraising for the memorial would be completely done through various ways – online auctions, fundraisers and events, promotional materials, and donations
  - e. Scot Hume had some questions about the space available in the Ring of Honor for other memorials, but Karen Palus mentioned that if they were to get too full, another memorial could possibly be scheduled
- Pikes Peak Summit Complex Update
  - a. Jack Glavan from Pikes Peak America’s Mountain presented an update of the Pikes Peak Summit Complex to the Parks Advisory Board
  - b. They have identified 5 major stakeholders – The Forest Service, Pikes Peak America’s Mountain, The Cog Railway, Colorado Springs Utilities, and the Army Usarium
  - c. Some critical steps were made to move forward:
    - The Forest Service Cost Recovery agreement has been finished to pay for the Forest Service using extra staff to evaluate the plans and environmental aspects
    - EDM International with Logan Simpson for the completion of environmental evaluation and the NEPA project. This is cost-shared with the Army
    - Completed the design process selection and chose RTA and GWO Team
  - d. Jack introduced the principal architect of the design team, Stuart Gothage
  - e. Stuart presented some of the proposed design plans, including all of the buildings (CSU communication tower, the Army’s High Altitude Research Lab, the top of the Cog Railway, and the existing summit house)
  - f. Stuart told the Parks Advisory Board that the main goal of the new summit house is to give visitors an experience they will never forget
  - g. In the presentation were detailed drawings of a vision for the top of Pikes Peak
  - h. He gave a timeline of the rest of the design project public process, but the overall timeline is not set in stone. He pictures construction start on the top of Pikes Peak in summer 2017 or 2018.
  - i. Jack Glavan came back to the podium again to mention some of the legal needs and permitting that will have to take place to extend or issue new permits
  - j. Ron Ilgen had a question about some issues between the Forest Service and the Observatory. Jack answered that there were questions about Pikes Peak being distinguished as a Historic Landmark.
  - k.

**Staff Reports**

- Ballot Measures
  - a. Karen Palus presented some information on the Mayor’s TABOR Excess Revenue
    - Council placed both ballot measures on the November Ballot
    - The three park roads (North Cheyenne Canyon, Palmer Park, and Garden of the Gods) are included as roads being repaired in the sales tax initiative for the first year
    - Feedback on the selection of trails proposed for repair is very positive

- Hank Scarangella had a question about how to campaign to get the measure passed around voting time. Karen responded that staff cannot advocate, but Colorado Springs Forward has created a committee to advocate for the measure. Susan Davies of TOSC said that board members of TOSC would be willing to use staff time to campaign
- b. Budget Update**
  - The Budget is being reviewed by a Budget Review Committee
  - Karen Palus presented both of the TOPS and Parks Advisory Board comments on the Budget
  - The next step will be getting more feedback on the requests in the next few weeks, then City Council will view the Budget
- c. City Code Update**
  - Chris Lieber gave a heads up for an item moving forward to City Council
  - In previous elections, changes were made to the TOPS Ordinance, but the City Code has not caught up to the voter's changes
  - This will not change the TOPS Ordinance, just the City Code to be updated
  - The proposed changes include: Revising the code in accordance with voter approval to reflect the frequency of TOPS audits from biannual to biennial, revising the code in accordance to voter approval to reflect the recent changes to the TOPS Parks category to provide more flexibility
  - Jackie Hilarie and Hank Scarangella offered to be on the "Code Scrub" as representatives from the Parks Advisory Board, and Jackie had a question about the timeline. Chris mentioned it was on the "back-burner" but was hoping the project would move along quickly.
- d. Project Updates: Creekside, FEMA Repairs, Incline, Venezia, Popcycle Bridge**
  - Presented by Chris Lieber
  - Creekside: All of the asbestos has been removed and cleared from the park, now we are just awaiting bids for the playground and other amenities
  - FEMA Repairs: Progress is being made through partnering with Public Works around Fountain Creek. The Foothills Trail in Garden of the Gods is being milled right now, which is a temporary condition. It will reopen in about two weeks.
  - Incline: There are grants pending for hazard mitigation. We did not receive the CDBG-DR Recover Colorado Infrastructure Program grant.
  - Venezia: Everything is on schedule and on budget. Water and sewer line are being done currently. Almost all of the grading is done.
  - Popcycle Bridge: The utility pipeline has been painted; Public Works will put new asphalt in, then traffic striping. GE Johnson and SpringsFab will be constructing a bench on the bridge soon.
- e. Update on Locomotive 168**
  - Matt Mayberry informed the Parks Advisory Board that the Keeper of the Register in Washington DC has reviewed the proposed amendment to the Locomotive 168 lease
  - They are working in Toltec and Cumbres about the move on the locomotive. The locomotive will not move any earlier than September 10, 2015, but could be shortly after
  - The area the train has been on will be converted to turf and the fence around the locomotive is being repurposed at Valley Hi Golf Course

**Board Business**

- During the Pikes Peak Summit Complex Update, Jack Hilaire mentioned that there needed to be an Advisory Board representative in support of the Summit Complex Project

- Ron Ilgen is already one of the representatives
- Jackie Hilaire volunteered to take the position, Karen Palus appointed her

**Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

DRAFT