



**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 10, 2023**

Members Present: Sarah Bryarly, Larry Bogue, Greg Thornton, Abby Simpson, Andrea Perry

Members Absent: Steve Harris, Steve Lenzo, Amandla Atilano-Roque, Julia Sands de Melendez

Alternates Present: Debbie Swanson, Mike Sullivan, Kimberley Sherwood

Staff Present: Britt Haley, Eric Becker, Kim King, Anna White, Connie Schmeisser, Caroline Miller

Called to Order: Board Chair Sarah Bryarly brought the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m.

New Board Member Introductions

Britt Haley, Director, informed the Board of the interview process for new members, as well as the orientation the new members attended. Then, Britt introduced the three new alternate members: Debbie Swanson, Mike Sullivan, and Kimberley Sherwood. Each of the new alternates provided some background information on themselves, and why they felt compelled to volunteer to be on the Board. Britt let the Board know that the two new regular members, Amandla Atilano-Roque and Steve Lenzo, would both be absent for the meeting, but were looking forward to their first official meeting in September. Board Chair Sarah Bryarly welcomed the new alternates, and took a moment to reflect on the importance of serving as an alternate before moving to the Board as a regular member. Councilmember David Leinweber also commented on the fantastic group of individuals that had applied, noting that those selected were truly outstanding.

Citizen Discussion

Mike Phan, Race Director for the Garden of the Gods Ten Mile Run, thanked staff for all of their support of the Garden of the Gods Ten mile Run. The Garden of the Gods Ten Mile Run is one race hosted by the Pikes Peak Marathon. He stated that this year's run was extremely successful, with a lot of participation. A portion from each person's registration for the Road Race is matched by the Pikes Peak Marathon, with proceeds going directly back to maintenance of the park. In appreciation of staff, Mr. Phan presented Anna Cordova, Garden of the Gods Manager, with a check for \$3,960, as well as a plaque. Anna thanked Mr. Phan for this generous donation and the plaque.

Ron Ilgen, President of the Pikes Peak Marathon, echoed Mr. Phan's words and support of staff in running these events. He explained the importance of partnerships like his organization and the Department's, and how working together produces fabulous events.

Susan Davies, Executive Director for the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), thanked everyone who participated, volunteered, or worked the Starlight Spectacular. She said there were about 600 participants. Ms. Davies thanked staff for their tremendous support of the event.

Jim Schwerin, citizen, addressed the Board about e-bikes on trails and how the lack of formal policy, enforcement and education on e-bikes is a problem in the community. Mr. Schwerin stated that most e-bike owners do not know what trails they are or are not allowed to be on. Mr. Schwerin would like to see some form on enforcement, or at least better signage installed.

Cory Sutela, Executive Director for Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, echoed Mr. Schwerin's statements about e-bikes being a "free for all" without a formal policy. Mr. Sutela said his organization would be happy to support staff in working towards a policy. Additionally, Mr. Sutela said his organization is looking for additional support for the maintenance of the Cresta bike park.

Approval of Minutes – July 14, 2023 meeting minutes.

With Board member Andrea Perry abstaining from the approval of the July 14, 2023 meeting minutes, there was no longer a quorum to vote. Approval of the minutes will be delayed until the next meeting on September 14, 2023.

Action Items

Villages at Waterview Master Plan (Presented by Connie Schmeisser, Landscape Architect II, and Caroline Miller, Program Administrator)

Connie Schmeisser, Landscape Architect II, and Caroline Miller, Program Administrator, presented the Board with the Villages at Waterview Master Plan. This presentation included a map of the area and project history; future trail and open space context; zoning and land use context; the Parkland Dedication requirements; a sample park layout for the conceptual neighborhood park; and finally, renderings of conceptual park amenities.

[Link to Agenda Packet Here](#)

Board member Larry Bogue commented that he doesn't love the use of fees in lieu of dedicated parkland. Next Larry asked where a community park would be located in this master plan. Caroline Miller, Program Administrator, commented that there was not a community park in this development.

Board Vice Chair Abby Simpson asked when the park would be built. Britt Haley, Director, answered that this park would be added to the list of other parks to be built.

Board member Greg Thornton asked if this park would fall under the Department's maintenance once it is constructed and annexed into the city. Caroline Miller responded that this would have to be platted, and then would be the Department's land. Greg then commented that there was an additional area that could be donated, and asked why that amount was not donated. Caroline said the annexation is fairly small, with the residential acreage being smaller in comparison to the industrial and business portions of the development. Because the residential area is small, the immediate need is for a neighborhood park instead of a community park. Caroline said this did not rule out the possibility of a future community park, but that the priority is for the neighborhood park. Greg suggested the minimum donation of land be greater than three acres in the future. Britt Haley responded that this is a great topic for a future conversation about areas of the City that were not mentioned in the 2014 Park System master plan, and how to move forward. Parks that are three or so acres usually meets the neighborhood park need, and we would not want to accept a smaller park than this for donation, as it might not be as usable as this size is.

Board member Andrea Perry asked if this park would be maintained by a metro district. Caroline Miller responded that decision had not been made at this time.

Susan Davies, Executive Director for TOSC, asked where this park would fall on the list of undeveloped parks. Britt Haley responded that it would be number seven or eight on the list.

Cory Sutela, Executive Director for Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, encouraged the Board and staff to, at some point, discuss park impact and development fees.

Motion: Move to approve the Villages of Waterview North Master Plan reflecting an 8.765 acre parkland obligation, met by land dedication and fees in lieu.

1st – Abby Simpson, 2nd – Larry Bogue, Approved, Unanimously.

Presentation Items

There were no presentation items on this agenda.

Staff Updates

Prospect Lake Update (Presented by Emma Logan, Public Interest Fellow)

Emma Logan, Public Interest Fellow with Colorado College, presented the Board with the Observed Use of Prospect Lake for Summer 2023. This presentation included an introduction; methods and schedule; recreational activity measured; most popular weekdays by volume; park volume throughout the week; most popular activities by volume; youth versus adult volume in activities; prevalence of motorized versus non-motorized use; unauthorized non-motorized use;

most popular activities by volume on motorized versus non-motorized days; additional qualitative information; and finally, recommendations.

[Link to Agenda Packet Here](#)

Park and Recreation Month Overview (Presented by Stephanie Adams, Senior Analyst – Community Engagement)

Stephanie Adams, Senior Analyst - Community Engagement, presented the Board with the Park and Recreation Month Overview. This presentation included details about campaign goals and outreach and a thank you to the sponsors who helped make Park and Recreation Month so successful.

[Link to Agenda Packet Here](#)

Other Updates

Kim King, Assistant Director, provided the following updates to the Board:

- The Westside Community Center Working Committee is looking for new members to fill three vacancies.
- Staff is finalizing a Code of Conduct for all programs and facilities.

Board Business

Ethics Training (Presented by Young Shin, Associate Attorney)

Young Shin, Associate Attorney, presented the Board with Ethics Code Training. This presentation included the City Code of Ethics; covered persons; advisory opinions; gifts; gift exceptions; and finally, the various types of conflicts of interest.

[Link to Agenda Packet Here](#)

Other Business

Greg Thornton – Mr. Thornton asked if there were any updates on the Velodrome. Britt Haley responded that an update is planned for the November meeting. Next Mr. Thornton asked about the status of the City Auditorium. Kim King answered that a third party, selected through a Request for Proposal process, is reviewing the Cultural Collective’s business plan for the City Auditorium and next steps. Kim hopes to have an update in the coming meetings.

Larry Bogue – Mr. Bogue circled back to comments concerning e-bikes during citizen discussion, and asked for an update on the status of the e-bike policy. Britt Haley, Director, responded that

the policy hasn't been advanced yet, in part as a consideration to our City Attorney's Office and their staff capacity with multiple vacancies. There will have to be an ordinance change to have a working definition for e-bikes. Britt would like to see our definition align with the definitions in the State statutes. Ultimately, from a policy level, we will have alignment with the State and County, so citizens don't have to worry about different rules across different jurisdictions while riding on our trail system. Additionally, the policy will need to work within the TOPS ordinance and conservation easements within our system. Once that is complete, the management plans for each area will need to be evaluated for motorized use. Staff is eager to start working on these options, as the City Attorney's Office is almost back to full capacity. Britt would like to see the legal framework put in place first. In the meantime, Britt said she would look into better signage.

Sarah Bryarly – Ms. Bryarly asked what the implications of a hiring freeze are for the Department. Kim King, Assistant Director, explained the various exemptions to a hiring freeze and the path moving forward while there are short-term vacancies.

Adjournment

Motion: Move to adjourn the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board meeting at 9:20 a.m.

1st – Greg Thornton, 2nd – Larry Bogue, Approved, Unanimously.