



**TOPS Working Committee Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 1, 2021**

**Members Present:** Blaze Panariso, Bob Falcone, Bob Shafer, Nancy Hobbs, Stephanie Surch, Paula Krantz

**Members Absent:** Wendy Thomas, Ingrid Richter, Hank Scarangella

**Parks Board Liaisons Present:** Abby Simpson, Carol Beckman

**Parks Board Liaisons Absent:** Greg Thorton

**Staff Present:** Britt Haley, Kurt Schroeder, Karen Palus, Anna White, Scott Abbott, Emily Duncan, David Deitemeyer, Kim King, Gillian Rossi, Melody Horbach

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TOPS Working Committee Chair Bob Falcone brought the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

**Agenda Preview**

Committee Chair Bob Falcone announced the agenda for the meeting.

**Announcements**

Gillian Rossi, TOPS Parks Ranger Supervisor, announced that two new TOPS Parks Rangers have been hired to replace Stephanie Fields and Caroline Ogdahl. Jason Reta will be the new point of contact for Ute Valley Park and Elaine Freeth will be the new point of contact for Blodgett Peak Open Space.

Emily Duncan, Trail Development Coordinator, announced there have been some erosion issues along the Rock Island, specifically with Rustic Hills area. This was affecting maintenance access and have been readdressed to stabilize the slopes, roughly 200 ft., in hopes to be a long-term solution.

**Approval of Minutes** – August 4, 2021

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the August 4, 2021 TOPS Working Committee meeting.

1<sup>st</sup> – Paula Krantz, 2<sup>nd</sup> Blaze Panariso – Approved, Unanimously.

**Citizen Discussion**

Susan Davies, Executive Director of Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), shared a heartwarming video involving multiple citizens of Colorado Springs enjoying several parks to show us why parks are so important. In addition, she has asked for a clarification on if there has been a conversation on whether the future Park Ranger dollars will utilize the proposed 25% maintenance fund. Britt Haley, TOPS Program Manager, confirmed the TOPS Rangers funding is intended to come out of the maintenance fund which has been discussed with Karen Palus, Director of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services. Britt reiterated the benefit of doing this relates to the flexibility of the maintenance fund, there can be fluctuation on acquisition or stewardship depending on the individual situation.

### **Presentation Items**

**Leave No Trace- Youth Accreditation Update** (Presented by Gillian Rossi, Park Ranger Supervisor)

Gillian Rossi, TOPS Parks Ranger Supervisor, presented the TOPS Working Committee with an update on youth accreditation in the Leave No Trace program. This presentation included an overview on Leave No Trace; Achievement Process; an image of Leave No Trace Activity Booklet; an image of their Nature Detective; Accreditation achieved date; Additional Outreach; an overview on Hot Spot Week; and an example of a Stewardship Tabling at the Beards, Bonnets, and Brews Festival.

[Link to PowerPoint](#)

**Ethics Training** (Lisa O'Boyle, City Attorney of Colorado Springs)

Lisa O'Boyle, City Attorney, presented the TOPS Working Committee with an update on Ethics Training. The presentation included an overview of the Origin of the City Code of Ethics; Purpose of the City Code of Ethics; How it Affects employees; Reasons why employees are required to go through training; Primary Area of Concern; Gifts; Conflicts of Interest; Independent Ethics Commission; Advisory Opinions; Campaign Season; and a slide with contact information for to ask inquiries related to Ethics Training.

[Link to PowerPoint](#)

### **Citizen Discussion**

There was no further citizen discussion at this time.

### **Executive Session**

Committee Chair Bob Falcone read the following:

*In accord with the City Charter Art. III, §3-60(d) and the Colorado Open Meetings Act, C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(a) and (e), the TOPS Working Committee, in Open Session, is to determine whether it will hold a closed executive session. The issues to be discussed involve determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations and instructing negotiators regarding land acquisitions. The Chair shall poll the TOPS Working Committee members, and, upon consent of two-thirds of the members present, may hold a closed executive session. If consent to the closed executive session is not given, the item may be discussed in open session or withdrawn from consideration.*

**Motion:** To enter into Executive Session with the TOPS Working Committee and Staff.  
1<sup>st</sup> – Paula Krantz, 2<sup>nd</sup> Blaze Panariso – Approved, Unanimously.

### **Executive Session**

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**There was committee consensus to exit the Executive Session.**

### **Motion to adjourn**

1<sup>st</sup> – Stephanie Surch, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Paula Krantz, Approved, Unanimously.