



**TOPS Working Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 4, 2019**

Members Present: Joe Lavorini, Blaze Panariso, Bob Falcone, Ingrid Richter, Bob Shafer, Paula Krantz

Members Absent: Lily Weissgold, Nancy Hobbs, Lee Milner

Alternates Absent: Scott Lewandowski

Parks Board Liaisons Present: Greg Thornton, Carol Beckman, Jason Rupinski

Staff Present: Britt Haley, Kurt Schroeder, Anna White, David Deitemeyer

.....
TOPS Working Committee Chair Joe Lavorini brought the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

Agenda Preview Committee Chair Joe Lavorini announced the agenda for the meeting.

Announcements

Britt Haley, TOPS Program Manager

- Britt invited members to the Holiday breakfast for the TOPS Working committee and the Parks Advisory Board
- Invited committee members to take home a poinsettia, which were grown in the City greenhouse

Approval of Minutes – November 6, 2019

Motion: To approve the minutes of the November 6, 2019 TOPS Working Committee meeting.

Per correction from Bob Falcone to change the spelling of his name.

1st – Ingrid Richter, 2nd – Bob Falcone, Approved, Unanimous

Citizen Discussion

There was no citizen discussion at this time.

Presentations

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

David Deitemeyer and Lesanne Dominquez with Architerra Group presented the new Colorado Springs TOPS Open Space Wayfinding signage. This presentation included an overview and design guidelines for the sign package; project goals; an up-to-date timeline about public meetings and process; how design guidelines work; the three different concepts for the sign package (America the Beautiful, Come Play Here, and The Scenic Route) as well as feedback

about each concept; the preliminary concept presented to the public; the public's preferred alternative with examples of each type of signage; and the next steps towards implementing the signage.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation](#)

TOPS Working Committee member Bob Falcone asked how we would make decisions on allocating the wayfinding. David responded that it would depend on the property. Bob stated he would like to see more money go into the signs for wayfinding on trails rather than at the entrances. Carol Beckman echoed this statement. Lesanne Dominquez responded that the comprehensive entrance signs give users a good overview of what to expect.

Parks Advisory Board liaison Carol Beckman asked if the TOPS rangers had been surveyed on the wayfinding signs. David responded that they had been surveyed and felt the content was most important. He added that the rangers preferred the aerial orientation on the map.

TOPS Working Committee chair Joe Lavorini asked if there was a physical map or a digital way to view the map while in the park. David responded that there is the large physical map at the entrance but that all maps can be found in PDF form online and that the ranger staff updates the maps. Joe asked if the way finding signs were similar to any other communities on the Front Range, to which Lesanne and David responded yes. Britt Haley added that the TOPS trail team had been doing a lead up to this project by collecting photos and GPS data of where help was needed in wayfinding. Joe's final question was about production, to which David replied that as much production possible would be done in house in our sign shop.

Regional Park Ranger Dan Allen added that the official Colorado State trails map app is an app called CoTrex that users can download on their phones. TOPS Working Committee member Bob Falcone added that this map can be used offline if the user downloads the property map beforehand. Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition Executive Director, asked if a sticker directing people to the app could be placed on the sign. David responded that this is a possibility.

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

David Deitemeyer and Julie Gamec with THK Associates gave an overview of the upcoming Austin Bluffs Open Space Master and Management Plan. This overview included a timeline of dates of meetings and work up until this Board meeting; an inventory of the site and conditions throughout; results from a public input survey; an overview of the trail system development and restrictions; trail system recommendations and ratings; key concepts being considered in trail system; resource management and implementation priorities; and the final timeline of this Master Plan for approval.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation](#)

TOPS Working Committee member Blaze Panariso asked if this open space was a candidate for

the new wayfinding signage after Blodgett. David responded that they would implement signage as soon as possible.

TOPS Working Committee chair Joe Lavorini asked what the approach to closing fifteen miles of trail would be for restoration. Julie Gamec responded that they would handle this in a block concept and some of the closures would be done with hard fencing. She mentioned that Pulpit Rock and the meadow nearby need the most restoration. TOPS Working Committee member Blaze Panariso asked if the block fencing will be permanent. Julie replied that it would not be recommended to be permanent. Joe's final question was about funding for implementation. David responded that the money could be split using TOPS Parks and TOPS open space funding.

TOPS Working Committee member Paula Krantz asked about how conversations with homeowners who back up to the open space went. Julie responded that the overall response was positive, and that some homeowners are excited to have the trails move away from their property with realignment. However, Julie said connections from homes will have to be made less convenient and that long term education is necessary for users to stay on designated trails.

Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition Executive Director, said an original idea for Pulpit Rock would be to have a "challenge staircase" like the one in Phillip S. Miller Park in Castle Rock. Julie replied that while there is a need for a direct way to the top of Pulpit Rock, the response from public meeting wasn't great. David added that they would like a more natural staircase. Susan then asked if this open space would be used as a recreation amenity for something like a mountain bike race. David responded that events are being discussed.

TOPS Policy and Procedure Overview (Presented by Britt Haley, TOPS Program Manager)

Britt Haley gave a brief overview of the TOPS policy and procedure to refresh members of the committee.

TOPS Committee member Paula Krantz asked what committee members should do if they can't make a scheduled site tour. Britt responded that she can take out members individually if needed.

Citizen Discussion

Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition Executive Director, discussed the most recent TOSC advocacy meeting and the main topic of conversation was Corral Bluffs. She said one main concern was awareness of the property, and how that will be handled in new media.

TOPS Working Committee member Paula Krantz asked for an update on the Cottonwood Creek Trail's connection to Powers Boulevard. Britt Haley responded that progress is being made and the project is almost complete.

Motion to adjourn

1st – Blaze Panariso, 2nd – Bob Falcone, Approved, Unanimously

TOPS Working Committee Chair 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.

The chairman polled the members to go into executive session – unanimous.