



**TOPS Working Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 5, 2022**

Members Present: Blaze Panariso, Bob Falcone, Nancy Hobbs, Bob Shafer, Stephanie Surch, Paula Krantz, Wendy Thomas, Hank Scarangella

Members Absent: Ingrid Richter

Parks Board Liaisons Present: Carol Beckman, Abby Simpson

Parks Board Liaisons Absent: Greg Thorton

Staff Present: Anna White, Melody Horbach, Britt Haley, Gillian Rossi, David Deitemeyer, Karen Palus, Scott Abbott, Kim King, Kurt Schroeder, Wesley Hermann, Elaine Freeth

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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

Britt Haley, TOPS Program Manager, made the following announcement:

- There will be no site tour this month.

Hank Scarangella, TOPS Working Committee member, made the following announcements:

- There are some concerns regarding inappropriate use of parks, specifically at Blodgett Open Space.
- There was a fire at Blodgett Open Space that started on December 22, 2021. TOPS Rangers responded to this and coordinated with responders. Hank would like to know what can be done to minimize these issues in the near future.

Gillian Rossi, TOPS Park Ranger Supervisor, made the following announcements:

- She would like to recognize the TOPS Rangers; quick efforts on containing the fire at Blodgett Open Space.
- Elaine Freeth, TOPS Ranger, is specifically in charge of Blodgett Open Space, and added she is in close contact with local citizens to stay up to date to continuously improve the security.

Kurt Schroeder, Parks Maintenance and Operations Manager, made the following comments:

- Security measures have been increased at our parks. Kurt Schroeder is willing to put in gates at parks for an added security but is unsure of the best approach. Garden of the Gods, for example, has gates at the park due to a paved road going through the park.

Paula Krantz, TOPS Working Committee member, made the following comments:

- There is a local resident, Trevor Becker, in Manitou Springs who started a clean-up crew for the Barr Trail/ Manitou Springs area. This clean-up crew has worked with the police for two years now and has had a positive impact on the community by improving security measures.

Stephanie Surch, TOPS Working Committee member, made the following announcement:

- She has mixed feelings on gating parks. In addition, she added it's imperative we do not criminalize people without housing.

Approval of Minutes

November 3, 2021

Motion: To approve the minutes of the November 3, 2021, TOPS Working Committee meeting.
1st - Blaze Panariso, 2nd - Paula Krantz – Approved, Unanimously.

December 1, 2021

Motion: To approve the minutes of the December 1, 2021, TOPS Working Committee meeting.
1st - Blaze Panariso, 2nd - Paula Krantz – Approved 8:1, Nancy Hobbs Abstained.

Citizen Discussion

Lee Milner, citizen, stated he would like the Jimmy Camp Creek property to become TOPS property. He discussed the benefits it would bring and emailed his documents to Anna White to be shared with the TOPS Working Committee.

Bill Koerner, citizen, discussed a TOPS Application that includes Ute Valley Park and Jimmy Camp Creek Park. This application was emailed to Britt Haley, TOPS Program Manager, and a hard copy was presented during the meeting.

Susan Davies, Executive Director of the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), announced she would appreciate a follow-up on the status of e-bikes. Scott Abbott, Regional Parks, Trails, and Open Space Manager, will be providing an update on this matter in the future. Susan stated her group would also like an update on the effect of wind damage and what can be done to assist on this matter. Kurt Schroeder, Parks Maintenance and Operations Manager, stated if someone sees wind damage, the best method of contact is using the GoCOSprings app to inform the appropriate staff. Furthermore, he mentioned the clearing process will take several months to complete due to the high demand and extreme damage.

Cory Sutela, Executive Director of Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, inquired if there is a master plan for Blodgett Peak. In addition, he echoed previous citizen comments regarding his interest in Jimmy Camp Creek as TOPS property.

Action Items

Fisher's Canyon Supplemental Appropriation for Phase 2 (Presented by Britt Haley, TOPS Program Manager)

Britt Haley, TOPS Program Manager, presented the Fisher's Canyon Supplemental Appropriation for Phase 2 to the Tops Working Committee. She stated a grant application is currently in process through the Land Water Conservation Fund in hopes for more funding. It will be presented by Emily Duncan, David Deitemeyer, and Britt Haley to the State in hopes to receive the grant. She reiterated the Phase 1 acquisition included 258 acres, and phase 2 will acquire the last 84 acres of the property. This presentation included: the 2014 Park System Master Plan Guidance; Fisher's Canyon Property Acquisition; Transaction Overview; Tentative Timeline; and finally, a slide for any inquiries related to Fisher's Canyon.

There were no follow-up questions at this time.

Motion: To recommend a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$2,819,000 for the Phase II acquisition of approximately 85 acres of property known as the Fisher Canyon Open Space property from The Conservation Fund which includes the cost of the appraised value, interest calculated on the holding period, real estate transaction costs and a professional services fee with revenues from the TOPS Open Space Category.

1st - Nancy Hobbs, 2nd - Blaze Panariso - Approved, Unanimously.

Link to PowerPoint

Presentation Items

2022 TOPS Look Ahead (Presented by Britt Haley, TOPS Program Manager)

Britt Haley, TOPS Program Manager, presented 2022 TOPS Look Ahead to the TOPS Working Committee. This presentation included: Kettle Creek Greenway; Kettle Creek North Concept Plan; Potential Donation of Neighboring Property; Black Canyon Quarry Reclamation; Pikeview Buffer Open Space; Progress on Trails; Corral Bluffs Area; Fisher Canyon Open Space; TOPS Ballot Question; and finally, a conclusion slide just to name a few TOPS Projects in-progress.

Link to PowerPoint

Citizen Discussion

There were no additional comments at this time.

Motion to adjourn

1st –Blaze Panariso, 2nd – Stephanie Surch, Approved, Unanimously at 9:07 A.M.