



**TOPS Working Committee Meeting  
Meeting Minutes - FINAL  
Wednesday, January 3, 2018**

**Members Present:** Jason Alwine, Cathy Grossman, Nancy Hobbs, Joe Lavorini, Lee Milner, Jim Klever, Jeff Mohrmann, , Becky Wegner

**Members Absent:** Lily Weissgold

**Alternates Present:** N/A

**Parks Board Liaisons Present:** Jason Rupinski, Carol Beckman, Mina Liebert

**Parks Board Liaisons Absent:** N/A

**Staff Present:** Britt Haley, Karen Palus, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Christi Mehew, David Deitemeyer, Kelly Rajab

.....

Jason Alwine brought the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m.

**Closed Executive Session** (Presented by Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager)

*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 a land acquisition matter. 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 If consent to the closed executive session is not given, the item may be discussed in open session or withdrawn from consideration.*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 a closed executive session.

1<sup>st</sup> – Nancy Hobbs, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Lee Milner, Approved, Unanimous

**Motion:** To end the closed executive session.

1<sup>st</sup> – Nancy Hobbs, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Joe Lavorini, Approved, Unanimous

**Agenda Preview** Committee Chair Jason Alwine announced the agenda for the meeting.

**Announcements**

**Britt Haley**, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager

- She announced that David Deitemeyer has been promoted to Senior Landscape Architect within the Design and Development Division.
- A landscape architect position will be open in the future and please refer qualified candidates to the Parks Department.
- There will not be a site tour in January; however there will be one in February.

**Approval of Minutes** – December 6, 2017

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the December 6, 2017 TOPS Working Committee meeting.  
1<sup>st</sup> – Cathy Grossman, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Lee Milner, Approved, Unanimous

**Citizen Discussion**

No citizens commented at this time.

**Presentations**

**Review of 2017 TOPS Accomplishments** (Presented by Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: TOPS turned 20; John Venezia Community Park; Briargate Trail; playground projects; Legacy Loop Plaza; Corral Bluffs; Upper Legacy Loop; Red Rock Canyon payment; and comments/discussion.

TOPS Working Committee member Lee Milner stated that Corral Bluffs has obtained the Colorado Natural Areas Designation. He asked the Parks Department staff to research the total amount of trails that have been completed to include interior trails to assist with the planning of the TOPS Sales Tax extension campaign.

**2018 Look Ahead** (Presented by Kelly Rajab, Parks Financial Analyst and Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager/TOPS Program Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation – 2017 TOPS Budget Progress Report](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: TOPS Trails Category; TOPS Open Space Category; and TOPS Parks Category.

Discussion included: the need for budget information in the future and quarterly budget updates.

[Link to PowerPoint presentation – 2018 TOPS Capital Improvement Budget](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: informing the budget process; budgeted 2018 revenue – Trails, Open Space and Parks; TOPS Trails Category; Legacy Loop Trails; Cottonwood Trail at Academy; Chamberlain Trail – Upper Skyway; Sand Creek Trail – Hancock Crossing to Academy; Sand Creek Trail - Palmer Park to Constitution; Chamberlain Trail – above the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo;

TOPS Parks Category; water footprint reduction – irrigation replacement; North Cheyenne Canon – master plan implementations (Parks); Bancroft Park – master plan implementations; TOPS Open Space Category; Red Rock Canyon – master plan implementation; Ute Valley Park (Open Space) master plan implementations; North Cheyenne Canon (Open Space) master plan implementations; stewardship program – education, ranger program, land management and resource management; TOPS Fund Summary; and questions.

Discussion included: North Cheyenne Canon master plan implementation appropriation categories; future Legacy Loop funding – South Shooks Run area; wildlife mitigation funds; Ute Valley neighborhood engagement; definition of land management versus resource management; concern if the TOPS ordinance supports master plan implementation expenditures out of the Open Space Category after master plans are complete; completion of the Northern Trail project to move forward with the Barr Trail improvements; Northern Trail completion date; United States Forest Service role in the Northern Trail; having an alignment plan in place for the Northern Trail prior to approaching the United States Forest Service; Barr Trail condition concerns; and requesting matching funds once the trail alignment is finalized.

Bill Koerner, citizen, encouraged Park staff to include the Ute Valley Park neighborhood in the fire mitigation efforts. Britt Haley replied that Ute Valley Open Space has two components: one property was not purchased with TOPS dollars and the other is a TOPS property. The budget needs to be approached carefully due to this element and she has not received fire mitigation plans for this area. Communication is continuous due to a standing monthly meeting she has with the Friends of Ute Valley Park.

### **Citizen Discussion**

Mark Scott, citizen, stated that the Committee needs to have a good understanding of their investments and budget for sustainable trails. Citizens want to know how much they will be paying for these projects and a price tag needs to be determined. Britt Haley replied that properties have different aspects and needs and Mr. Scott makes a good point. The Committee needs as much information as possible when an acquisition is considered and due diligence is essential and an important step.

Bill Koerner, citizen, said he was very impressed with the work of Phase III of the Manitou Incline and thanked Parks staff for their work. The City of Manitou Springs has budgeted \$50,000 a year to help with the Barr trail; however, it's not enough and the City of Colorado Springs needs to focus on keeping this trail functional as it's getting dangerous and needs lots of work. The Northern Trail needs to be completed first to assist in this project. He encouraged staff to complete the alignment and to put pressure on the United States Forest Service to move forward on the Northern Trail. Britt Haley stated she would like to have an alignment plan in place prior to approaching the United States Forest Service.

Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC) Executive Director, stated that once it is identified what is needed for the Northern Trail and Barr Trail, TOSC can consider participation in these projects.

## **Adjournment**

**Motion:** To adjourn the TOPS Working Committee meeting at 9:17 a.m.

1<sup>st</sup> – Joe Lavorini, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Becky Wegner, Approved, Unanimous