

**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, February 11, 2021**

**Members Present**: Ron Ilgen, Carol Beckman, Dr. Daniel Bowan, Abby Simpson, Larry Bogue, David Siegel, Jason Rupinski, Sarah Bryarly, Greg Thornton

**Alternates Present:** Andrea Perry, Lisa Weiland

**Staff Present**: Karen Palus, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Britt Haley, Anna White, Connie Schmeisser, Jack Glavan, Eric Becker, Jarod Clayton

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**Called to Order**: Board Chair Ron Ilgen brought the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m.

**Citizen Discussion**

Susan Davies, Executive Director for the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), asked members of the Board to reach out to citizens to explain Issue #1 on the April Ballot, which is the removal of the TABOR thirty-word limit for tax increases. She said citizens might not understand why this issue is so important, but it provides clarity, transparency, and accountability.

Bill Beagle, citizen, shared that the Incline Friends received a $100,000 donation from a trust fund from a man who lived in Manitou and enjoyed the Incline. The Incline Friends humbly accepted the check, and would like to use these funds to connect the Northern Incline Return Trail to the top of the Incline. The Incline Friends Board is also coming up with other projects the money could go to. Bill thanked Parks Staff and all of those who have supported the Incline over the years.

Jim Herron, citizen, stated that with the road closures taking place in North Cheyenne Cañon for bridge replacements now would be a good time to figure out how to manage the visitation. He suggested updating signage, striping shoulders to define parking, and also coordinating police presence.

Cory Sutela, Executive Director for Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, said that the Medicine Wheel Board had passed their budget for the year. Their Board allocated funds to develop trails off the Limber Pine Trail on the North Slope area of Pikes Peak – America's Mountain. He will be coordinating with staff on this development.

**Approval of Minutes** – **January 14, 2021 meeting minutes.**

**Motion – To approve the January 14, 2021 minutes with proposed changes.**

1st – Jason Rupinski, 2nd – David Siegel, Approved, Unanimously.

**Action Item**

**Reagan Ranch Master Plan Amendment** (Presented by Connie Schmeisser, Landscape Architect II, and Jason Alwine, Deputy Director of Landscape Architecture at Matrix Design Group)

Connie Schmeisser, Landscape Architect II, and Jason Alwine, Deputy Director of Landscape Architecture for Matrix Design Group, presented the Board with a 273-acre redevelopment project within the Reagan Ranch Master Plan. This presentation included a vicinity map; the Master Plan and PLDO obligations; and finally, proposed trail locations.

Link to PowerPoint Presentation here

There were no questions or comments from the Board or citizens at this time.

**Motion: To approve the Banning Lewis Ranch Master Plan Amendment for the Reagan Ranch Concept Plan reflecting a (20.82-acre) parkland obligation.**

1st – Sarah Bryarly, 2nd – Carol Beckman, Approved, Unanimously.

**Presentation Items**

**Pikes Peak - America’s Mountain Annual Report Update** (Presented by Jack Glavan, Manager for Pike’s Peak – America’s Mountain)

Jack Glavan, Manager for Pikes Peak – America's Mountain, presented the Board with the Pikes Peak – America's Mountain Annual Report update. This presentation included an overview of the South Slope Program, including its guiding documents, 2020 changes, permit sales, promotions, and 2021 budget; the North Slope Program, including its permit sales and 2021 budget; and an update on the Crystal Reservoir dam construction. The next part of the presentation focused on the summit operations of Pikes Peak – America's Mountain, including the guiding documents; 2020 visitor statistics; the administrative review; the 2021 budget; marketing and advertising, including the partnership with the Colorado Springs Airport; 2021 projects; new merchandise specific to each gift shop site; and finally, annual special events.

Link to PowerPoint Presentation here

Board member Dr. Daniel Bowan noted that according to the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) report, accessibility and opportunity is the number one issue with outdoor spaces. With Pikes Peak – America's Mountain so close to our town, we have a unique opportunity to look to develop a plan to increase access and affordability. National Parks and State Parks do a "free day" in the off-season, and something similar to this would be great for locals, especially those in a lower socioeconomic status. Daniel would also like to see a breakdown of visitor demographics, such as out-of-state versus local statistics.

**Summit Visitor Center Update** (Presented by Jack Glavan, Manager for Pikes Peak – America’s Mountain)

Jack Glavan, Manager for Pikes Peak – America's Mountain, presented the Board with the Pikes Peak – America's Mountain Summit Visitor Center update. This presentation included an update about the demolition of the existing summit house; the summit marker; views from the North overlook; the COG railway platform; pictures of the Summit Visitor Center exterior; pictures of the Summit Visitor Center interior; pictures of the interpretive experience; schedule update; and finally, an overview of funding.

Link to PowerPoint Presentation here

Board member Dr. Daniel Bowan stated he would like to see direct support coming from the Cog Railway to the Visitor Center, perhaps in the form of a percentage of ticket sales, instead of indirect support from the vendor, as they are also utilizing the Summit facilities. Jack responded that an agreement between Pikes Peak – America's Mountain and the Cog Railway works similarly to the highway agreements, and they discussed with Legal how they could not ask for more of the money. As of right now, the agreement is indefinite. Daniel also asked about permitting for special events on the highway, and if they contribute to the funding for the Summit House. Jack responded that they have their own permitting system as an enterprise, which has exclusive uses. These exclusive uses have to be vetted through the Forest Service, and the fee is $50,000. Non-exclusive uses work in conjunction with regular operations. The fee is $2,500 on weekdays and $3,500 on weekends.

Board Chair Ron Ilgen and Megan Lathen, Executive Director for the Pikes Peak Marathon and Ascent, thanked Jack and Pikes Peak – America's Mountain Staff for their continued support of their events, especially working with them during the COVID-19 pandemic to still put on their event.

**Water Conservation and Usage Update** (Presented by Eric Becker, SIMD Unit Administrator, and Jarod Clayton, Water Conservation Specialist)

Eric Becker, SIMD Unit Administrator, and Jarod Clayton, Water Conservation Specialist, presented the Board with the Water Conservation and Usage update. This presentation included a graphic of the Colorado watersheds; a graphic of the Colorado Springs water supply system; all of the facets of comprehensive irrigation water management; 13-year commodity charge history for potable water; 13-year daily service charge history; 13-year commodity charge for non-potable water; 2020 water budget and actual usage; accumulated average irrigation requirement; water usage reports; Colorado Springs water shortage ordinance; Jacob's Infrastructure Analysis findings; weather-based controllers, flow sensors, and master valves; technologies to improve efficiency of water use; new system installs; water footprint reduction; the water footprint reduction summary between 2012 and 2020; new park design and development; alternative water solutions; and finally, staff training and certification.

Link to PowerPoint Presentation here

**Staff Updates**

Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Director, gave the following Covid-19 update:

* The county is transitioning back to level yellow.
* Facilities are being reopened, as well as some events moving forward.
* Indoor facilities can now operate at larger capacities.
* Most sports registration is complete for spring sports.
* Free soccer registration for Pre-K to Second Grade kids has been filled through the partnership with Comcast. Now the Sports Office is looking for volunteer coaches.
* Summer activities will be modified.
* The Pioneer's Museum and Sertich Ice Center are bother operating successfully with reservations.
* More vaccinations are rolling out for specific groups at a time.
* Board Vice Chair David Siegel asked about operations at the City Auditorium, which is currently being used as an isolation shelter. Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager, responded that services are still being provided, but there is currently no estimated end date. Kim anticipates that the facility could end this service in early summer, but no events are being booked at this time. However, numbers of positive individuals are decreasing. Currently, of the five guests in the facility now, four tested negative and one was positive.

Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Director, said that PLDO updates had been voted on in the first Council reading. The Ordinance itself is not on the consent calendar; however, other items on consent will be on the February 23 agenda. She thanked everyone for their feedback and said she would continue providing updates. Board member Dr. Daniel Bowan commented that in the PLDO motion passed by the Board, they asked City Council to consider studying sustainable parks funding. He would like to see a tangible strategy and wanted to know how to continue advancing this conversation.

Britt Haley, Design and Development Manager, updated the Board about 2B Projects. This presentation included the list of 2B Projects with emphasis on the sesquicentennial; Cottonwood Creek field replacements; cemetery parking lots; Palmer Park signage; Leon Young parking lot; various trail improvements; updates on the historic parks; Panorama Park; sport courts; and finally, an update on the South Pond project at Monument Valley Park. Board Vice Chair David Siegel asked about the progress on the Acacia Park Band Shell study, to which Britt replied that Connie Schmeisser is working on it. Board Chair Ron Ilgen asked if the sesquicentennial celebrations would highlight any of these projects. Britt confirmed that they would.

Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Director, updated the Board on the TOPS Ballot Initiative. Alluding to Board member Dr. Daniel Bowan's question regarding the PLDO update, Karen said in November, both TOPS and sustainable Parks Funding would be discussed. City Council Members and Staff have discussed how the infrastructure analysis will help show gaps. The Trust for Public Land is the agency that helps us accomplish what we want to do moving forward and they are finalizing a feasibility study, with the understanding of the request made by the Board for sustainable funding, potentially in the form of a development fee. Once the new City Council Members are seated, these discussions can begin. Karen feels confident about the support from both City Council and citizens.

**Board Business**

Carol Beckman – Carol updated the Board on the TOPS Committee meeting presentations, which included a budget update and an acquisition application for a property at 2424 Garden of the Gods Road. She said the West Side Community Center RFP is now in the evaluation stage. She asked for an update on the recent E-Bike survey. Staff said they would try to have an update for the entire Board next month.

Sarah Bryarly – Sarah thanked the Incline Friends for all of the hard work they completed last year.

David Siegel – David informed the Board that he was going to the LART meeting later in the afternoon. He said they are receiving more applications than in previous years, and events that are used to receiving funding may not get it due to the volume of applications.

Abby Simpson – Abby said the kick-off meeting for the Recreation Program Planning team went well.

**Adjournment**

**Motion: Move to adjourn the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board meeting at 11:26 a.m.**

1st – Carol Beckman, 2nd – David Siegel, Approved, Unanimously.