



**TOPS Working Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes - FINAL
Wednesday, January 9, 2019**

Members Present: Jason Alwine, Lily Weissgold, Lee Milner, Blaze Panariso, Joe Lavorini, Nancy Hobbs, Jeff Mohrmann

Alternate Present: Paula Krantz

Members Absent: Bob Falcone, Jim Klever

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

Parks Board Liaisons Absent: N/A

Staff Present: Britt Haley, Kurt Schroeder, Karen Palus, Kim King, Sonia Park, Christi Mehew, Kelly Rajab

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

Agenda Preview Committee Chair Jason Alwine announced the agenda for the meeting. Britt Haley stated an executive session is not needed today.

Announcements

Christi Mehew, TOPS Program Assistant

- Explained the new Youth Ambassador Program which has been initiated by City Council Administration. Three high school students have been selected to serve as ambassadors on the TOPS Working Committee: William White, Emma Hybl, and Jack Keenan. Ambassadors will attend meetings, ask questions and observe the Committee.
- Ambassadors and Park Staff introduced themselves.

Britt Haley, TOPS Program Manager

- Asked for Committee volunteers to be on the Blodgett Open Space wayfinding project to help select a contractor and be a part of a stakeholder group. Nancy Hobbs and Blaze Panariso volunteered.
- Stated there will not be a site tour in January unless the Committee chooses another day as the existing site tour date presents conflicts. She suggested to consider February for the site tours. One site tour can be after the February TOPS Working Committee meeting and the other can be on the established site tour day. The Committee might want to move the time earlier due to darkness. The Committee decided to tour the Kettle Creek property after the February meeting and the Rock Creek parcels will be on the regular site tour date and possibly from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. to take advantage of the day light hours.
- Scott Abbott will be reaching out to reschedule the TOPS Working Committee Red Rock

Canyon proposed trail site tour.

Approval of Minutes – December 5, 2018

Lee Milner stated the minutes were excellent; however, the word “bore” was spelled incorrectly and Lily Weissgold was not present at the meeting.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the December 5, 2018 TOPS Working Committee meeting with the corrections noted above.

1st – Blaze Panariso, 2nd – Joe Lavorini, Approved, Unanimous

Citizen Discussion

Nancy Hobbs, TOPS Working Committee member inquired about the Rustic Hills Detention Pond Stormwater project and asked where the trail will be planned. Britt Haley said she met with Real Estate Services on Monday and as they were surveying the property and getting ready for the pond to go in they discovered that Century Link and Comcast have facilities in the ground and have no legal right to be there. Conversations are occurring with all entities. The Water Resources and Engineering Department said the project might be delayed due to this problem. Nancy Hobbs was informed by workers that trees were removed and more may be planted based on the budget. Britt Haley stated they are not moving forward on this project at this time.

Presentations

2018 Review (Presented by Britt Haley, TOPS Program Manager)

Budget Update (Presented by Kelly Rajab, Parks Financial Analyst)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

Mike Scott, citizen, stated in 2018 the operating budget was less. Kelly Rajab said it was less than 2019 because this year money was added for open spaces. He asked if the TOPS tax didn't exist would the City have to come up with \$400,000 dollars. Kelly Rajab replied yes and the department would lose the stewardship program as well as ranger and maintenance staff. Mike Scott said the more you spend in your operating budget, the more you are obligating the City to do when the tax expires. Britt Haley said we stand to lose more if the tax expires. The department states what is needed for these properties; however, things can change with policymakers and they can say they don't want to do what is needed anymore. Current policy makers support the departments needs. Mike Scott asked if CIP (Capital Improvement Projects) include open spaces. Kelly Rajab said it includes, parks, trails and open spaces. The CIP Project Category includes any construction projects over 50,000 dollars. Purchases are acquisitions and are a separate category. The department goes through a supplemental appropriation budget process when they acquire property. Britt Haley stated the ordinance divides the tax into three categories: at least 60% needs to be spent on open space acquisitions, and no more than 20% on trails and 20% on parks. When a real estate opportunity comes along it is a long process and transparent through the TOPS Working Committee.

In response to a question from TOPS Committee member Lee Miller, to gain time efficiencies, she would like to have an executive session and the action item back-to-back in a meeting and presented only one time before the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board. One example is where a foreclosure property could become available and she is hoping to have a way to make the process move faster, if needed.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the TOPS Working Committee meeting at 8:49 a.m.

1st – Nancy Hobbs, 2nd – Lily Weissgold, Approved, Unanimous