

**Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District
Citizens Advisory Group**

**Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2019**

The meeting was held at:
City of Fountain, City Hall
116 S. Main Street, 2nd Floor
Fountain, CO

- 1. Call to Order, Establish Quorum and Introductions.** The October 11, 2019, meeting of the Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District (FCWD) Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) was called to order by Ms. Irene Kornelly, Chair, at about 9:35 a.m. A quorum was achieved, with the following CAG members in attendance:

Irene Kornelly – Chair and CAG Representative to the FCWD Governing Board
Ian Hartley – Vice Chair
Jack Wallick – CAG Secretary
Mary Barber – Alternate Representative to the FCWD Governing Board and Web Manager
Nancy Bernard
Christine Lowenberg
Judith Rice-Jones
David Woolley

CAG Members Not Present:

Tom Ready
Josh Watkins – TAC Representative to the CAG

Also in Attendance:

Larry Small, FCWD Executive Director
Alli Schuch, Outreach Coordinator
Heather Bergman, Peak Facilitation Group
Brett Gracely, Matrix Design Group
Kathy Loo
David Lord
Tony Rosendo
Amber Shanklin, Palmer Land Trust
Mark Shea, Colorado Springs Utilities and FCWD TAC
Velma Campbell, Sierra Club and Fountain Creek Water Sentinels
Jamie Valdez, Sierra Club and Fountain Creek Water Sentinels

- 2. Approve Agenda of Meeting.**

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the amended October 11, 2019 Agenda was approved.

3. Approve Minutes of the September 13, 2019 Meeting.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, Minutes of the September 13, 2019 Meeting were approved.

4. Presentation: Collaborative Possibilities for Fountain Creek. Heather Bergman, Peak Facilitation Group.

- Heather distributed a handout to accompany her presentation and recounted her involvement with the District going back to 2005 when she was enlisted to facilitate discussions that eventually led to the formation of the Fountain Creek Watershed , Flood Control, and Greenway District several years later.
- Heather was again contacted this January by a group, including David Lord and Kathy Loo, among others, to investigate whether there was an interest in the community for increased collaboration in activities concerning Fountain Creek.
- Telephone interviews were conducted with a number of people recommended for having insight into the issues and players around Fountain Creek.
 - Heather collected the resulting thoughts and reflections into common themes, wrote a summary report with recommendations, and delivered it to her clients in April.
 - A meeting was convened in May to present those results and themes to the interviewees and other interested parties, and in June presented the report and recommendations to the District Board.
- In the process of defining the problem, four categories stood out.
 - There seemed to be a need for a unified vision for Fountain Creek.
 - Interviewees felt there was a lack of coordination, cooperation, and collaboration with regard to projects, which could lead to duplication and unnecessary expense.
 - There was a need for community engagement and education, especially in regard to the next point.
 - There were concerns about a ballot initiative to permanently fund the District or even to revise the structure of Colorado Springs' Trails, Open Space, and Parks (TOPS) Program.
- Barriers to collaboration were identified as personalities, institutional silos, lack of voter awareness of issues, and inadequate funding and staff. Other thoughts on prioritization of projects, and funding went as follows:
 - Plenty of plans and vision statements on the creek already exist. There is a general and mostly shared vision of recreation, flooding and erosion control, stormwater management; no one wants a lot more “process” around prioritizing plans.
 - Plans and projects are already thoroughly vetted through each entity's own networks of stakeholders and interest groups.
 - There was little or no support for integrating all projects into a shared, prioritized list.
- Funding for collaboration could come from sources like GOCO, development fees, a “Water Fund”, a separate mill levy, a TOPS reorganization, or squeezed out of existing resources, but there is no existing strategy for funding collaboration.
- Fountain Creek Watershed District, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Pueblo County, El Paso County, and Colorado Springs Utilities, smaller communities, NGOs like environmental and recreational advocacies, as well as private funders like El Pomar and other philanthropic organizations all have an important role in any type of increased collaboration.

- The interviewee/stakeholder conference in April provided three major messages:
 - The Fountain Creek Watershed District should be the lead organization in any collaborative effort.
 - No one has time or resources for another group.
- The August meeting with the Board produced two additional thoughts:
 - A contractor could be hired to review and integrate plans.
 - The CAG could be the anchor of any stakeholder involvement.
- Heather emphasized that in retrospect, and with feedback since received, the interview pool was too narrow. It didn't include the CAG, many other stakeholders, or players with a direct role in getting projects planned and executed along the creek. Those additional people would likely have influenced the conclusions and outcome of the report.

The meeting was opened to questions and comments from the CAG and the other attendees.

- [0.33.0] Comments from CAG members, while acknowledging umbrage at being the last to be told of its proposed role, generally were supportive of greater collaboration and community education.
- It was also noted that this community is shamefully uninformed of the issues surrounding the creek and overall watershed concepts, compared with other communities in the state and nation.
- Significantly, when asked for examples of projects that were poorly coordinated, or of dollars wasted through a lack of collaboration, no examples could be given. In contrast, Larry Small pointed out the millions of dollars gained through multi-agency partnering and synergism.
- David Lord spoke to clarify that the issue has been raised not as a criticism of current practices, but as a recognition that much more needs to be done, and the time is approaching when much of the funding for projects in the corridor, e.g., SDS money, will no longer be available. Echoing comments from individual CAG members, he said that as a community we have a long way to go to build the type of assets that other communities have made of their waterways. The study by Heather Bachman is a step toward that vision.
- Many other attendees offered their takes on the topic, with discussion continuing for another 45 minutes or so. Eventually Irene closed the discussion, thanking all participants, and noting that the CAG would continue its discussion in the November meeting.

5. Reports.

a. Governing Board Meeting. [1.48.10] Larry Small reported on the September Board meeting.

- Larry presented the preliminary 2020 District budget, as statutorily required.
- The Executive Board approved the contract with GHK for Greenway Master Planning. The work will be largely supported by a grant from GOCO. A companion grant from the Department of Parks and Wildlife is expected to come through as well.
- Josh Maul of Manitou Springs Stormwater was appointed to the TAC.
- The Enterprise Board postponed discussion of the 2020 Capital Plan.
- The Enterprise Board also approved a \$4.4 million amendment to Sun Construction's Barr Farms contract, for work on Phase II. Mobilization/start up costs were eliminated by amending the contract rather than rebidding.
- The next Board meeting will be October 25.

b. TAC Meeting. Irene reported on the October 2nd TAC meeting.

- There was a presentation by Doug Hollister, the District 10 Water Commissioner, Colorado Division of Water Resources.

- Mark Shea and Annie Berlemann gave a presentation on SDS.

c. Outreach Group. Allison reported on Outreach issues, primarily Creek Week.

- There were 113 different sites; twelve more than last year. Much more of the watershed is being covered.
- Funding for supplies was down. More donations or grant money will be needed for next year.
- A complete wrap-up will be presented at the November CAG meeting.
- We are doing a program with Parks and Wildlife called Bats and Beers October 24th at Red Leg Brewery.
- Phantom Canyon Brewery is holding a fundraiser through December. Please drop by and support Creek Week.
- Allison is working with three to five students at UCCS on an E. coli project in spring.

d. Monetary Mitigation Fund Advisory Committee. Irene reported that the committee would meet the following Tuesday to work on the 2020 Capital Plan.

e. Website. There was nothing to new to report.

6. Current Business. There were no project updates or other current business.

7. Other Business.

a. Irene proposed that Velma Campbell will be nominated to the CAG as an at-large member from Pueblo, and Jamie Valdez will represent the Sierra Club.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the CAG recommended the Board approve Velma Campbell, representing the City of Pueblo, and Jamie Valdez, representing the Sierra Club, for membership in the CAG.

b. CAG members were asked to check the by-laws for statutorily-required representatives and nominate such persons for membership in the CAG.

8. Public Comment. There was no public comment.

9. Next Meeting. The next meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. November 8, 2019, at Fountain City Hall, 116 S. Main, Fountain, CO.

10. Adjourn:

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.