

THE RED ROCK RAG

Volume 1, Number 6 News and Views on Red Rock Canyon
Published Monthly by THE RED ROCK CANYON COMMITTEE
P. O. Box 2352, Colorado Springs, CO 80901-2352

October, 2000

Zydeco seeks Colorado Springs annexation

According to a report in the September 15 *Gazette*, Zydeco has applied for annexation of the Red Rock Canyon property into the city of Colorado Springs. The report indicated that Zydeco has withdrawn from seeking Manitou Springs annexation. Zydeco's withdrawal from Manitou Springs was confirmed in an article by Jack Elder in the September 22 *Pikes Peak Journal*.

Zydeco's annexation proposal, which did not include a development plan, was among nearly a dozen submitted to the city of Colorado Springs during the first two weeks of September.

In the September 16 *Gazette*, Mayor Makepeace was quoted as saying of the Red Rock Canyon annexation proposal, "I'm not sitting here saying 'God I hope we can do it.'"

According to an article by Bob Campbell in the September 21 *Independent*, Zydeco's annexation request is likely to be brought before the Colorado Springs City Council on October 24. Campbell quoted Colorado Springs planner James Mayerl as saying that all that would happen when the request is presented to Council, "is that Council will direct City Planning to put together a cost/benefit package," and that, "Nothing of significance will happen until we see a master plan."

At this time, we don't know when the Planning Commission will consider Red Rock Canyon. The Planning Commission meets monthly, usually the first Thursday of the month, at 8:30 A.M. in the City Council Chambers, 30 S. Nevada, first floor. The agenda is available on the web about a week before the meeting at

www.colorado-springs.com/PublicPlan/Schedules/schedules.htm

Zydeco applies to develop in El Paso County

In addition to filing its application for annexation to Colorado Springs during September, Zydeco also filed a series of applications with El Paso County on Tuesday September 12 for development of the Red Rock Canyon property.

Zydeco's applications were among roughly 260 development applications which were filed in El Paso

County during the first 13 days of September. This flood of applications resulted from developers rushing to avoid being subject to the requirements which would be imposed by Amendment 24 if it is approved by voters on November 7. As reported in the September 14 *Gazette*, these 260 development applications could lead to as many as 60,600 new homes and 60 new commercial developments in El Paso County over the coming years.

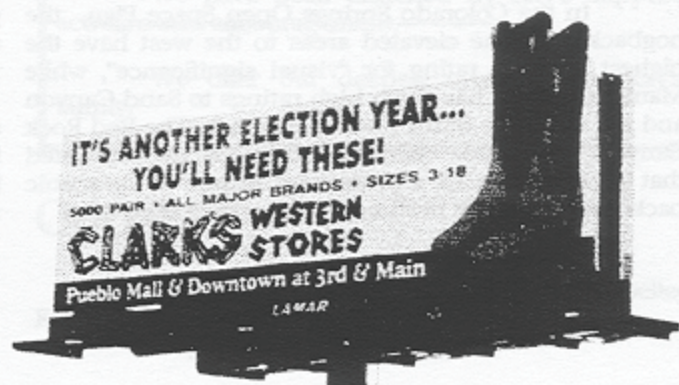
Presumably, Zydeco filed the County applications to allow its Red Rock Canyon project to be developed in El Paso County without voter approval in the event that the annexation request is denied by the city of Colorado Springs.

County applications are reviewed by the El Paso County Planning Commission before being referred to the County Commissioners for approval. With the current backlog of applications, it is uncertain when Zydeco's applications will be reviewed. The planning Commission normally meets the third Tuesday of each month at 9:00 A.M. in the Hearing Room, 3rd Floor, County Office Building, 27 East Vermijo. Meeting agendas are available on the web prior to the meetings at

www.co.el-paso.co.us/Planning/agendas/PD-AgnPC.htm

The agenda page provides links to descriptions of the proposals being considered.

Now we know what Kyle Blakely meant when he was quoted in the August 31 *Gazette* as saying that Zydeco would, "have something in a couple of weeks."



"The issue is still open space."

... according to Red Rock Canyon Committee chairman Joe Fabek, as quoted in the September 15 *Gazette*.

In his September 21 *Independent* article, Bob Campbell quoted Colorado Springs planner James Meyer as saying, "The key thing (in relation to Zydeco's annexation proposal) is working out open space issues." Meyer specifically cited Section 16 access and preservation of the rock formations as concerns.

Bob Campbell also quoted Councilman Richard Skorman as saying that the only way he could see Colorado Springs considering an urban renewal authority would be if it, "would drive the purchase of more open space."

In his *Outsider* editorial in the September 21 *Independent* John Hazlehurst said, "This will be a defining moment in the history of Colorado Springs. If Council approves the annexation of the (Red Rock Canyon) property, and its subsequent development, it will deprive the citizens of this community, now and for all time, of what could be the greatest urban park system in America."

Gazette photo highlights visual significance

The "Life" section of the September 18 *Gazette* included an article about driving in Colorado Springs which prominently featured a photo of the equestrian statue of General Palmer in the intersection of Platte and Nevada. The Dakota and Niobrara hogbacks on the Red Rock Canyon property were the dominant features of the visual backdrop in this photo. This gives us just one more reminder of the visual significance of the Red Rock Canyon property.

In the *Colorado Springs Open Space Plan*, the hogbacks and the elevated areas to the west have the highest possible rating for "visual significance", while Manitou Springs has given high ratings to Sand Canyon and the west side of the Dakota hogback. The Red Rock Canyon Committee visibility study has demonstrated that the hogbacks are a prominent feature of the scenic backdrop for a large portion of the metropolitan area.

CALENDAR

Meetings of Possible Interest:

- October 2 Colorado Springs City Council
Informal meeting
1:00 PM City Council Chambers,
30 S. Nevada, first floor.
- October 3 Colorado Springs City Council
Formal meeting
9:00 AM City Council Chambers,
30 S. Nevada, first floor.
- October 5 Red Rock Canyon Committee
7:00 PM Village at Skyline,
Primrose Room, Building No. 1
2305 Patriot Heights,
off Lower Gold Camp Road
- October 9 Colorado Springs City Council
Informal meeting
1:00 PM City Council Chambers,
30 S. Nevada, first floor.
- October 10 Colorado Springs City Council
Formal meeting
9:00 AM City Council Chambers,
30 S. Nevada, first floor.
- October 11 TOPS Working Committee
4:00 PM Colorado Springs
Parks and Recreation Building
1401 Recreation Way
(just east of I-25, 2 blocks north
of Uintah)
- October 16 Colorado Springs City Council
Informal meeting
1:00 PM City Council Chambers,
30 S. Nevada, first floor.
- October 17 Colorado Springs City Council
Formal meeting
9:00 AM City Council Chambers,
30 S. Nevada, first floor.
- October 23 Colorado Springs City Council
Informal meeting
1:00 PM City Council Chambers,
30 S. Nevada, first floor.
- October 24 Colorado Springs City Council
Formal meeting
9:00 AM City Council Chambers,
30 S. Nevada, first floor.
- October 25 Manitou Springs Open Space
Advisory Committee
7:00 PM Manitou Springs City Hall
606 Manitou Avenue
- October 25 TOPS Working Committee
7:30 AM Colorado Springs

Parks and Recreation Building
1401 Recreation Way
(just east of I-25, 2 blocks north
of Uintah)

October 30 Colorado Springs City Council
Informal meeting
1:00 PM City Council Chambers,
30 S. Nevada, first floor.

October 31 Colorado Springs City Council
Formal meeting
1:00 PM City Council Chambers,
30 S. Nevada, first floor.

November 2 Red Rock Canyon Committee
7:00 PM Village at Skyline,
Primrose Room, Building No. 1
2305 Patriot Heights,
off Lower Gold Camp Road

NOTE: Scheduled meetings can be subject to change or cancellation. The following web page provides links to the Colorado Springs City Council meeting agendas each week:

www.colorado-springs.com/govinfo/minagen.htm

FYI

Are You Prepared?

Every year thousands of people are lost or injured hiking, biking, climbing or cross-country skiing in Colorado's back-country. No one thinks they will be a victim but if you enjoy Colorado's mountains it can happen to you. Can you afford to pay rescue costs that can easily reach \$20,000 or more?

Recognizing the significant costs of rescue operations Colorado has pioneered the Colorado Search and Rescue Fund. The program finances training and equipment for search and rescue teams and protects participants from potentially paying costs of their search and rescue. When you buy a Hiking Certificate you are vested in the fund.

You can buy a one year Hiking Certificate for \$1.00 or a five year certificate for \$5.00. A Hiking Certificate valid for the term of the license is automatically included when you purchase a hunting or fishing license.

If you become lost or injured in Colorado's backcountry during the period of your enrollment all costs associated with your search and rescue by local government and its volunteers will be paid by the Colorado Search and rescue Fund.

The Colorado Search and Rescue Fund will pay for:

- Rental, repair and operating costs for motor vehicles, aircraft, snowmobiles, horses and

boats.

- Necessary equipment
- Reimbursement of mileage, meals and room rentals for volunteer searchers.
- The cost of helicopters or fixed wing aircraft deployed in search

The Colorado Search and Rescue Fund does not cover medical expenses nor will it make payments to victims.

Don't take a chance. Buy a Hiking Certificate and be prepared. A dollar is a small investment to protect you from the unexpected. And don't forget to get one for your each member of your family.

Hiking Certificates are available locally at the Colorado Wildlife Division Regional Office at 2126 North Weber, telephone 227-5200.

Provided by Joe Fabek

In Remembrance

Kay Arnold

With the passing of Kay Arnold on September 27, The Red Rock Canyon Committee has lost a good friend, supporter and community activist.

Kay was passionate about life and about the things in life which she valued, including Red Rock Canyon, her passion for her neighborhood earned her a reputation as a Westside activist. Her activist passion continued to her last days in Pikes Peak Hospice when she was planning a fund-raiser for Hospice.

Kay Arnold's experience at Pikes Peak Hospice was reported as part of the feature article in the September 28 *Independent*.

Kay felt that maps were very important and encouraged us to make and distribute good maps to show the significance of Red Rock Canyon.

Kay's love of nature was profound, indeed, religious.

We have been enriched by Kay's support, activism and encouragement.

We offer our deepest sympathy to Kay's family.

Oops!

In the September RED ROCK RAG, we misspelled Kyle Blakely's name.

We apologize for this error!

YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT RED ROCK CANYON OPEN SPACE!

- Enclosed is my contribution to the Red Rock Canyon Committee for operating expenses
(Check payable to "Red Rock Canyon Committee", not tax deductible.)
_____ Do _____ Don't acknowledge my contribution in **THE RED ROCK RAG.**
- I want to be involved.
My efforts could best be used for: _____
- Keep me informed with **THE RED ROCK RAG.**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ E-mail: _____

Opinions expressed in **THE RED ROCK RAG** are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Red Rock Canyon Committee.

WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

Letters, articles, comments (and glossy photos) may be sent to:

Rag Editor
Red Rock Canyon Committee
P. O. Box 2352
Colorado Springs, CO 80901-2352

Electronic submissions may be sent to donellis@iex.net.
Electronic text MUST be plain ASCII (.txt) format. **Word processor formats such as Microsoft Word (.doc) cannot be accepted!!!!** Digital images may be attached. 360 dpi bit map images at the size they will appear in the Rag will provide the best quality when reproduced.

THE RED ROCK RAG reserves the right to publish or not publish any submission and to edit submissions for style and length.

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For more information, contact **Scott Flora** at the *Trails and Open Space Coalition* 633-6884

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