

THE RED ROCK RAG

Volume 3, Number 11

News and Views on Red Rock Canyon

November, 2002

Published Monthly by THE RED ROCK CANYON COMMITTEE

P. O. Box 2352, Colorado Springs, CO 80901-2352

www.saveredrockcanyon.com

TOPS Extension Underway

Work on a proposed extension to the Trails, Open Space and Parks sales tax that sunsets in 2009 is well underway. The TOPS Extension Committee plans on seeking Colorado Springs City Council support to place an extension to 2025 on the April 2003 ballot.

Since 1997 when the existing ordinance was passed by voters, the TOPS program has preserved 3,129 acres of open space including Stratton, Cheyenne Mountain State Park, University Park, Big Johnson, High Chaparral and Blodgett open spaces. If the proposed purchase of Red Rock Canyon occurs as hoped, the purchase will deplete most of the remaining open space funds.

TOPS has also funded 31 trail projects and twelve neighborhood parks.

With TOPS extension, we could preserve areas like Manitou Section 16, Union Meadows, a 100 acre parcel of Ute Valley Park, Wolf Ranch and many others. Additionally, we could create greenways at Sand Creek, Cottonwood Creek, Jimmy Camp Creek, and along the Rock Island and Midland Trails, as well as continuing to meet the city's growing need for neighborhood parks.

If you would like to contribute, mail your check to the

TOPS Extension Committee
P.O. Box 62937
Colorado Springs, CO 80962-2937

by Dan Cleveland & Bill Steinhour

Our Thanks

The Red Rock Canyon Committee wishes to express its appreciation to the Village at Skyline for providing our meeting room.

Adams' Mountain Cafe sponsoring event for TOPS Extension

On Friday, November 22, Adam's Mountain Cafe is donating 30% of their sales from breakfast, lunch and dinner to the Trails, Open Space and Parks Extension campaign. TOPS, an ordinance passed by Colorado Springs citizens in 1997, designates a 1/10 of one percent sales and usage tax to preserving open space, building trails and constructing neighborhood parks.

Please, grab a companion and come join us in celebration of our most treasured areas in Colorado Springs and enjoy some of the incredible meals and desserts at Adam's Mountain Cafe.

Joint Red Rock meeting to have full evening

The Red Rock Canyon Foundation is seeking to answer the question: "What vision do we publicly present to preserve the land, motivate public involvement and attract funds from large donors?" Toward that end, the Foundation is planning a half day "focus group." Plans for the "focus group" will be presented and discussed at the November 7 Red Rock Canyon Committee meeting.

One possible part of the "vision" which has been suggested by Shanti Toll is a cultural center near Highway 24 which could be patterned after Boulder's Chautauqua. At the November 7 meeting, Shanti and Don Ellis will make presentations on the Chautauqua concept.

At the meeting we will also discuss whether we would like to send a letter to OSAC with recommendations for their forthcoming decisions concerning Crystal Hills East.

Finally, we will discuss the TOPS Extension Campaign's plan and offer our suggestions on the plan.

The November 7 meeting will be both a Red Rock Canyon Committee meeting and general meeting of the Red Rock Canyon Foundation. In October, the Red Rock Canyon Committee and the Red Rock Canyon Foundation decided to combine their two meetings for November and subsequent months.

CALENDAR:**Meetings of Possible Interest:**

- November 5 Manitou Springs City Council
7:00 P.M. Manitou Springs City Hall
606 Manitou Avenue
- November 7 **Red Rock Canyon Committee & Red Rock Canyon Foundation**
7:00 P.M. Village at Skyline (off Lower Gold Camp Road), Activities Room, Building No. 4
(The Eastemmost Building - enter from the parking lot north of the building)
- November 12 Colorado Springs City Council
9:00 A.M. City Council Chambers,
The historic City Hall, Nevada & Kiowa
- November 13 **TOPS Working Committee**
4:00 P.M. Colorado Springs
Parks and Recreation Building
1401 Recreation Way
(East of I-25, 2 blocks north of Uintah)
- November 19 Manitou Springs City Council
7:00 P.M. Manitou Springs City Hall
606 Manitou Avenue
- November 20 **Manitou Springs Open Space Advisory Committee**
7:00 P.M. Manitou Springs City Hall
606 Manitou Avenue
- November 26 Colorado Springs City Council
9:00 A.M. City Council Chambers,
The historic City Hall, Nevada & Kiowa
- November 27 **TOPS Working Committee**
7:30 A.M. Colorado Springs
Parks and Recreation Building
1401 Recreation Way
(East of I-25, 2 blocks north of Uintah)
- December 3 Manitou Springs City Council
7:00 P.M. Manitou Springs City Hall
606 Manitou Avenue
- December 5 **Red Rock Canyon Committee & Red Rock Canyon Foundation**
7:00 P.M. Village at Skyline (off Lower Gold Camp Road), Activities Room, Building No. 4
(The Eastemmost Building - enter from the parking lot north of the building)

NOTE: Scheduled meetings can be subject to change or cancellation. Check these web pages within a week of scheduled meeting for items of interest:

Colorado Springs City government: www.springsgov.com

El Paso County government: www.elpasoco.com

Also, check the CONO web site: www.csono.org

EDITORIAL:

I wish to disagree with the Don Ellis editorial in last month's Red Rock Rag. I believe that the tenants of the Bock property have the same rights as any other tenants, no more, no less. It is customary that leases may be terminated if the property is sold. Because some of the trailers may be old and not meet current codes, the tenants may need some assistance in finding new homes. I support finding that assistance so they can have equal or better housing, but I do not believe they have a right to stay if the land sells.

In fact, I hope the trailer park is closed to allow for an entrance to an open space park that is more scenic. I oppose building anything that does not compliment the future development of a Red Rock Canyon open space park. Building apartments or houses on land needed for the trails, open space and park master plan is going in the wrong direction. The problems of finding adequate housing can be resolved without commercial developing the land in an incompatible manner.

Shanti Toll

OSAC to consider Crystal Hills East

The proposed Crystal Hills East development will be considered for possible approval by the Manitou Springs Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) on November 20th. The proposed development would consist of 18 residential lots on 15.3 acres.

Crystal Hills East adjoins the Red Rock Canyon property along approximately a quarter mile of its west side. The proposed development would sit on the hillside above the northern part of Sand Canyon. So, the development could have a significant visual impact on the future Red Rock Canyon open space.

Everyone with an interest in the possible impact of Crystal Hills East is encouraged to attend the OSAC meeting at 7:00 P.M., November 20th, in the Council Chambers in Manitou Springs City Hall.

Connecting the Visions

Red Rock Canyon Foundation President's comments

Over the past few meetings of the Red Rock Canyon Foundation we have been preparing for the likely possibility that Red Rock Canyon can be purchased and protected. The Trust for Public Lands (TPL) continues to be optimistic that they can reach an agreement with the property owner. How much land will be protected as open space, and what kind of commercial development may happen, will be determined by how much money we can raise from private sources. The political will to preserve the nature and esthetics of this unique land area will be determined by the citizens involvement and support. Will Red Rock Canyon planning compliment open space and consider the long term needs of our growing city or will land be sold off for short term gain? The choice is ours by our actions.

The Red Rock Canyon Foundation recognizes that there may be different visions of what will happen on the Red Rock Canyon land near the roads. These different ideas are secondary to the overriding goal of land purchase.

Later, after the land is purchased and under the control of TPL and the city, we can have a public process to collect and evaluate different visions of the areas near the roads. We can evaluate the cost and benefits of the various visions. We can take the time to make the right decisions.

For now, however, we need to unite around a few concepts and a primary mission; "To protect the

unique geology, biology, history and aesthetics of Red Rock Canyon area for future generations." We all agree that we should maximize the public use open space area. In order to accomplish preserving open space we must realistically deal with the budget constraints of the City and TPL. We first must unify and speak with one strong citizen voice supporting:

1. If any commercial development is economically necessary, it should be complimentary with open space and have the highest good for future citizens and nature in mind.
2. The city control of all the Red Rock Canyon land so that the city can guide the development of the land near the highways and streets.
3. Citizens have significant input on any plans to develop the area near roads and the back open space park.

The Red Rock Canyon Foundation must collect thousands of supporters and donations to be an effective citizen voice for Red Rock Canyon protection. TPL and the City of Colorado Springs are negotiating to purchase the Red Rock Canyon properties and to resolve any liability and financial problems. They should be commended. We citizens must do our part to make this happen.

Soon, the public drive to raise money and political support will begin. It will be short. The energy and money you donate will make a lasting difference to our descendents and our city.

Shanti Toll

Red Rock Canyon Foundation - MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Membership dues: _____ (\$25 suggested)

Membership level (8 month commitment - check one)

- Supporter (willing to write occasionally e-mails or letters)
- Helper (willing to volunteer 5 to 10 hours a month)
- Leader (willing to volunteer 3 to 6 hours a week)

Areas of interest for volunteering

- Computer support
- Brochure or grant writer
- Other (please describe) _____
- Worker
- Community outreach

Signature _____ Date _____

Send this membership form to:

Red Rock Canyon Foundation
2207 W. Colorado Ave
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

HELP SUPPORT THE RED ROCK RAG!

Enclosed is my contribution. (Check payable to "Red Rock Canyon Committee", not tax deductible.)

___ Do ___ Don't acknowledge my contribution in the **RED ROCK RAG**.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ E-mail: _____

Mail to: **Red Rock Canyon Committee / P. O. Box 2352 / Colorado Springs, CO 80901-2352**

For more information, contact **Linda Hodges** at the **Trails and Open Space Coalition**: 633-6884,
or e-mail: help@saveredrockcanyon.com

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 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:

rag@saveredrockcanyon.com

Please send electronic text in plain ASCII (.txt) format

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