

THE RED ROCK RAG

Volume 3, Number 7

News and Views on Red Rock Canyon

July, 2002

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

www.saveredrockcanyon.com

Special Red Rock Canyon Foundation Issue

No July Meeting!

Since the regular July Red Rock Canyon Committee meeting would fall on the Fourth of July, there will be no Red Rock Canyon Committee meeting in July.

The next regular Red Rock Canyon Committee meeting will be Thursday, August 1.

We hope to see you then.

Red Rock Canyon Foundation: Current Status

The Red Rock Canyon Foundation has created the corporate mechanism and structure to get the necessary fundraising and political support for Red Rock Canyon open space. The 501(c)3 Federal Tax deductible status is in the application process. And the strategy for fundraising is being developed. The Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are complete. The Red Rock Canyon Foundation has also just signed a contract with the Pikes Peak Community Foundation to have them manage all tax-deductible funds raised for the purpose of land purchase and stewardship.

Our goal is to create countywide enthusiasms for not only Red Rock Canyon, but also the vision of a world-class park and open space system. We can focus on what unites our community rather than what divides us. Creating a better world for our children is a desire all parents share, no matter what their background or condition.

The Red Rock Canyon Foundation is a membership based organization and we are now starting our membership drive. The suggested membership fee is \$25 annually, although no one will be turned away. All fees will be used to pay for operating expenses and supplies, including profession contracts and communications. We ask you to become a member now.

Shanti Toll

Red Rock Canyon Foundation: Mission Statement

The Red Rock Canyon Foundation's purpose is to serve as the primary advocacy organization to secure and preserve the Red Rock Canyon property as an open space park.

Goals:

To protect the unique geology, biology, history and aesthetics of the Red Rock Canyon area for future generations.

To develop wide spread community enthusiasm and support for a open space park in Red Rock Canyon that is connected to a World Class open space and trail system that goes from Cheyenne Mountain to Garden of the Gods and beyond.

To create the greatest value to the taxpayer in the purchase and stewardship of the open space park by rising a significant amount of money through corporate and private donations.

To support and give citizen input to park planning and implementation in Red Rock Canyon.

Our Thanks

Our special thanks to the *Voters Network* (votersnet@aol.com; 719-471-8824), a local membership organization promoting economic, environmental and social justice in the Pikes Peak Region, for sponsoring this issue of the Red Rock Rag.

CALENDAR**Meetings of Possible Interest:**

- July 2 Manitou Springs City Council
7:00 P.M. Manitou Springs City Hall
606 Manitou Avenue
- July 9 Colorado Springs City Council
9:00 A.M. City Council Chambers,
The historic City Hall, Nevada & Kiowa
- July 10 **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)
- July 16 Manitou Springs City Council
7:00 P.M. Manitou Springs City Hall
606 Manitou Avenue
- July 23 Colorado Springs City Council
9:00 A.M. City Council Chambers,
The historic City Hall, Nevada & Kiowa
- July 24 **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)
- July 24 **Manitou Springs Open Space
Advisory Committee**
7:00 P.M. Manitou Springs City Hall
606 Manitou Avenue
- August 1 **Red Rock Canyon Committee**
7:00 P.M. Village at Skyline (off Lower Gold
Camp Road), Activities Room, Building No. 4
(The Easternmost 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 for related announcements and links:
www.cono.org

Red Rock Canyon: The Vision ... What to Say When Talking to a Friend

Why is Red Rock Canyon so important? Why should people from eastern El Paso County or downtown support this open space park?

First, it is the last gem of truly awesome, unique Garden of the Gods formations in El Paso County. This is sacred land according to the Indians. It is truly beautiful with multiple ecosystems and incredible diversity of plants and animals. For those of you who haven't seen the land, imagine an intimate Garden of the Gods without cars. Native American archeological sites have been identified but have not been explored or preserved.

Second, Red Rock Canyon is an important piece of the Colorado Springs and El Paso County Open Space Master Plans. It is the critical link in a park and open space network that would connect Cheyenne Mountain to Garden of the Gods. There can be a continuous trails and natural habitats system between all these regional parks: Garden of the Gods, Red Rock Canyon, Section 16, Bear Creek Park, North Cheyenne Canyon, and hopefully Cheyenne Mountain. This is the green viewscape for all of El Paso County!

Third, the interconnected open space network created by Red Rock Canyon is the centerpiece of a possible world-class tourist attraction for Colorado Springs. This can be one of the top ten urban park systems in the world. Where else is there a city of Colorado Springs' size that has a park system with hundreds of miles of trails through wildlife refuges. Where else does an urban area such as ours have a park and open space connection to 1.1 million acres of National Forest.

Finally, Red Rock Canyon Open Space and the larger park and open space network can be our generation's gift to our city's future. Our descendents will recognize that we did our part in protecting their quality of life. The open space we preserve can also be our generation's gift to our larger community which includes the plants which are native to the open space areas and all creatures which live there. We are accepting our responsibility and sacred connection to nature and the earth. This is a historic opportunity for us!

Shandi Toll

Red Rock Canyon: Where Are We and Where Do We Go From Here?

First, lets give credit and thanks to the dedicated group of friends, neighbors, and activist that have worked in the Red Rock Canyon Committee to protect the land for a possible open space park. Without people like Don Ellis and Joe Fabeck Red Rock Canyon might well have been commercially developed

Happily a new day has arrived. Supporters of Red Rock Canyon have a new role to play - to make Red Rock Canyon Open Space Park a reality. Instead of opposing we now need to advocate and support. We appreciate Mrs. Bock's willingness to negotiate the possible sale of the Red Rock Canyon property to The Trust for Public Land (TPL), which is working with TOPS and other governmental agencies to create an open space park.

We represent a strong motivating force behind protecting the land for future generations. By our enthusiasm and private fundraising we can grease the wheels that make the deal happen

Our role is to facilitate open space preservation through the land purchase. By raising significant money for the land purchase we facilitate Mrs. Bock receiving a good fair price, the community obtaining the best possible open space park and the taxpayers receiving good value for their TOPS tax money. We can provide our elected representatives the political will to support public open space in Red Rock Canyon. They will see the wide spread public support that Red Rock Canyon open space has

Soon we will know if the negotiations for Red Rock Canyon purchase have been successful. When the

negotiations are finished, we may have only a few months to arrange the fund raising and the community support to make the deal go through. We will need to mobilize quickly. A concentrated amount of work and financial support during this period can save all of Red Rock Canyon for future generations. If saving the ecology, biology, history and aesthetics of this land is a value you hold, the time to act is soon!

Shandi Toll

Volunteers for Red Rock Canyon

Soon it will be time to put our effort and resources behind our words of support for Red Rock Canyon. We need to set up the boards, committees, and publications now, so that when we only have a few months to raise the money and support, we are ready to go. The time and money you give during this campaign will make more difference a 100 years from now than most activities you will ever do!

We need all levels of support. If you are willing to be a leader, we will need people to be on the Board of Directors, or be committee chairpersons. If you have skills in writing we will need brochures targeted to children, seniors, businesses, families, social organizations, and government. If your skills are relating to people, we need Red Rock Canyon ambassadors to represent Red Rock Canyon at various organizations and public events. If your skills are with computers we need some help. If you are really busy and have no time we still need your enthusiasm and willingness to e-mail or write your elected officials and friends about Red Rock Canyon.

Shandi 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

Worker

Brochure or grant writer

Community outreach

Other (please describe) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Send this membership form to:

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

It's time for The Next Step
Join the
**Red Rock Canyon
Foundation**

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 (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:

rag@saveredrockcanyon.com
Please send electronic text in plain ASCII (.txt) format.
Digital images are welcome and should be 200 dpi or better
at the size the image will be reproduced.

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