

THE RED ROCK RAG

Volume 4, Number 1

News and Views on Red Rock Canyon

January, 2003

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

www.saveredrockcanyon.com

TOPS Extension placed on ballot

At its December 10 meeting, the Colorado Springs City Council voted unanimously to place the TOPS extension issue on the ballot for the April 1 City election. The TOPS extension ballot issue would extend the current 0.1% sales tax which funds the TOPS program from 2009 until 2025. Over that period, the tax would be projected to raise approximately \$90 million for trails, open space and parks, with 60 percent dedicated to open space.

The TOPS extension proposal was presented to Council by Parks Department staff and by TOPS Working Committee chairman Kent Obee. The presentation outlined accomplishments of the TOPS program to date and TOPS projects which could be funded in future years. Based on experience over the past few years, the TOPS extension ballot issue includes increases in the money set aside for park, trail and open space maintenance and for administration.

A number of citizens and representatives of citizens' groups spoke in favor of the ballot issue and noted the citizen involvement which had led to the initiative creating TOPS and ongoing citizen involvement in the TOPS program. Several Council members also voiced their support. Councilwoman Radford expressed her support as "a conservative and a conservationist", stating that trails and parks were the reason she'd moved to Colorado 14 years ago.

With the TOPS extension on the ballot, the TOPS Extension Committee now plans an extensive effort in educating voters about the TOPS program. This effort will require significant financial and human resources. The TOPS Extension Committee especially notes its need for volunteers and for people to write letters to the editor. The TOPS Extension Committee can be contacted at: 471-0875, or

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

Donations made now at the startup of the campaign will be particularly helpful.

Our Thanks

The Red Rock Canyon Committee wishes to express its appreciation to one anonymous donor for contributing toward the Red Rock Rag's expenses during the past month.

We would also like to express our appreciation to the Village at Skyline for providing our meeting room.

CALENDAR

Meetings of Possible Interest:

January 2 **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)

January 7 Manitou Springs City Council

7:00 P.M. Manitou Springs City Hall
606 Manitou Avenue

January 8 **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)

January 14 Colorado Springs City Council

9:00 A.M. City Council Chambers,
The historic City Hall, Nevada & Kiowa

January 21 Manitou Springs City Council

7:00 P.M. Manitou Springs City Hall
606 Manitou Avenue

January 22 **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)

January 22 **Manitou Springs Open Space
Advisory Committee**

7:00 P.M. Manitou Springs City Hall
606 Manitou Avenue

January 28 Colorado Springs City Council

9:00 A.M. City Council Chambers,
The historic City Hall, Nevada & Kiowa

February 7 **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: www.ccono.org



PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS

December 2, 2002

Mr. Shanti Toll
Mr. Don Ellis
Red Rock Canyon Committee
P. O. Box 2352
Colorado Springs, CO 80901-2352

An Open Letter to the Red Rock Canyon Committee

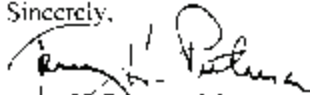
We would like to thank the Red Rock Canyon Committee for their advocacy over the past years in promoting the preservation of the Canyon. The publishing of the Red Rock Rag has certainly raised the bar for other groups seeking the preservation of open space. We look forward to the fund raising efforts of the Foundation in helping the City of Colorado Springs preserving all of the property.

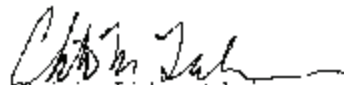
In the last Red Rock Rag and on other occasions, there has been mention that the Foundation is "equally committed to making sure that citizens of our community have input into the planning process". We would like to take this opportunity to assure everyone involved with the preservation of Red Rock Canyon that the City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department has and always will hold an open public process during the planning of the open space. Just as a reminder, the majority, if not all, of the area will be purchased with TOPS open space funds. The ordinance that created TOPS restricts the use of the open space to passive recreational uses including trails, trailhead parking and restrooms.

The Committee and Foundation will be notified, along with all of the citizens of the region, when the public planning process begins. At this time, there has not been a schedule of meetings nor has the planning process been outlined. We have a lot of work to do in the mean time to complete the transaction.

Thank you again for all of the work to date and the efforts yet to come

Sincerely,


Terry H. Putman, Manager
Resource Planning and TOPS


Christian Licher, Administrator
TOPS Program

Red Rock Canyon Foundation President's Report, January 2003

With great hope we move from supporting TPL getting a purchase option on Red Rock Canyon to the next phase, supporting the TOPS extension campaign and making sure all the land is preserved for its best community use. If TOPS extension is to be passed by voters this April, we must educate the citizens about the importance and benefits of TOPS. The effective public campaign will cost over seventy five thousand dollars and a strong get-out-the-vote effort. This is one political campaign that is worth it, not only for Red Rock Canyon supporters but all El Paso County citizens. If TOPS extension passes, not only will there be millions for purchasing all of Red Rock Canyon, but there will be millions for parks on the north, east and south sides of Colorado Springs. TOPS could even partner with El Paso County to purchase Section 16 if money is tight.

The Red Rock Canyon Foundation Board has started by making monetary and energy pledges to support the TOPS Extension. The goal that the Red Rock Canyon Foundation set is \$35,000. Board members have committed to reach personal fund raising goals by personal donation and by asking friends and neighbors to make a donation to the TOPS extension campaign.

We ask for your understanding and support when we begin our phone and email campaign to increase the Red Rock Canyon Foundation membership and raise funds for the TOPS extension. We are combining all our communications into one phone call

so as to interrupt your life as little as possible. The Board therefore has decided to forgo a fund raising campaign for Red Rock Canyon and instead set a goal of raising the money necessary to win voter approval of the TOPS extension in April.

The Red Rock Canyon Foundation Board has four areas to accomplish our immediate goals.

- Government and Community Relations
- Membership and TOPS Extension
- Community Outreach
- (later) Corporate Fund Raising and Grant Writing

We are looking for volunteers for each area, so if you have a few hours please call 634-1810 and let us know what subcommittee appeals to you.

We are pleased to announce that Brad Bufkin has been elected Vice President and Secretary of the Red Rock Canyon Foundation. Brad is a lawyer with the Michael J. Duncan Law Office and can be reached at 633-9977.

Shanti Toll

Meeting to feature slide show

The latest version of the Red Rock Canyon slide show will be presented at the January 2 meeting of the Red Rock Canyon Committee and Red Rock Canyon Foundation. The revised slide show focuses on TOPS extension in relation to Red Rock Canyon.

Also at the January 2 meeting, Kjersten Forseth, campaign manager for the TOPS Extension Committee will give a presentation on what the campaign needs and how people can help.

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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