

THE RED ROCK RAG

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News and Views on Red Rock Canyon

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Red Rock Canyon Foundation President's Report, April 2003

The Trails and Open Space Extension vote will be over soon and we will know if it is likely that all the Red Rock Canyon can be saved for the public good or whether the land near highway 24 will need to be sold off to keep the cost down. Soon after the vote Trust for Public Land (TPL) will finish its due diligence period and we will know if and how the purchase will proceed.

The Red Rock Canyon Foundation has been assured by TPL and the Park and Recreation Department of Colorado Springs that all citizens and interested organizations will have input into the planning of the Red Rock Canyon property. There will be an open public process for the city to receive and consider all ideas of what should happen to the property. It will be an exciting process in which to participate.

The Red Rock Canyon Foundation will work with TPL and City of Colorado Springs to write grants and leverage taxpayer's money with private funds to create a truly outstanding open space park.

The Foundation is pleased to announce that we have officially received our 501 (c)(3) status as a tax-deductible charitable organization. The Pikes Peak Community Foundation will continue to manage our accounting and send the tax-deductible gift acknowledgments to all who make donations. We wish to thank all who have become members and donated money to the Red Rock Canyon cause and the Foundation.

Shanti Toil

P.S. Today, try to persuade a few more friends and neighbors to vote for TOPS Extension (ballot issue 1A).

Our Thanks

The Red Rock Canyon Committee expresses its appreciation to the following People who have contributed to support the Red Rock Rag during the past month:

John Edward Hawk
Jo Cervone

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

CALENDAR

Meetings of Possible Interest:

- April 1 **COLORADO SPRINGS' ELECTION DAY**
(Last minute voters can drop off their ballots at the City Administration Building, or the Sand Creek or Falcon Police Substations.)
- April 1 Manitou Springs City Council
7:00 P.M. Manitou Springs City Hall
606 Manitou Avenue
- April 3 **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)
- April 8 Colorado Springs City Council
9:00 A.M. City Council Chambers,
The historic City Hall, Nevada & Kiowa
- April 9 **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)
- April 15 Manitou Springs City Council
7:00 P.M. Manitou Springs City Hall
606 Manitou Avenue
- April 21 Earth and the American Dream -
free film showing and facilitated dialogue
6:00 P.M. Adult Community Room
East Library 5550 N. Union
- April 22 Colorado Springs City Council
9:00 A.M. City Council Chambers,
The historic City Hall, Nevada & Kiowa
- April 23 **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)
- April 23 **Manitou Springs Open Space
Advisory Committee**
7:00 P.M. Manitou Springs City Hall
606 Manitou Avenue
- May 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)

We asked the candidates

The Red Rock Canyon Committee conducted a brief e-mail and telephone poll of the candidates for Colorado Springs City Council At Large seats and the candidates for the open District 1 and District 3 seats. Our questions concerned their positions on the preservation of Red Rock Canyon and on extension of the TOPS tax:

1. Do you support saving Red Rock Canyon as open space?
2. Do you support the TOPS extension?
3. May we list your name in the Red Rock Rag as a supporter of the TOPS extension and of saving Red Rock Canyon as open space?

We also asked if they would like to receive the Red Rock Rag and if they would like to meet with representatives of the Red Rock Canyon Committee and Red Rock Canyon Foundation. All but one of those who responded wished to receive the Red Rock Rag, and all were interested in meeting at some time.

Here are their responses to our three position questions:

AT LARGE CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

| <i>CANDIDATE</i> | <i>1. Support saving Red Rock Canyon as open space</i> | <i>2. Support TOPS extension</i> | <i>3. May we list your name as a supporter of TOPS extension and of saving Red Rock Canyon as open space?</i> |
|------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| John Albertson | YES | YES | YES |
| Mark Entrekin | YES | YES | YES |
| Tom Gallagher | YES | YES | YES |
| Darryl Glenn | YES | YES | YES |
| Greg Hollister | I support making Red Rock Canyon part of TOPS | I support the TOPS extension | (YES) |
| Janak Joshi | YES | YES | YES |
| Paul Prentice | YES (not with TOPS funds) | NO | (NO) |
| Randy Purvis | YES | YES | YES |
| Richard Skoman | YES, I support trying to protect the whole property as an open space park. | WITH A PASSION | YES |
| Larry Small | YES | ABSOLUTELY | I WOULD BE HONORED TO BE LISTED |
| Richard Stettler | YES | YES | YES |

DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATES

| <i>CANDIDATE</i> | <i>1. Support saving Red Rock Canyon as open space</i> | <i>2. Support TOPS extension</i> | <i>3. May we list your name as a supporter of TOPS extension and of saving Red Rock Canyon as open space?</i> |
|------------------|--|---|---|
| Larry Hancock | <i>(Response not received)</i> | | |
| Scott Hente | YES | YES | YES |
| Tim Oliver | YES | YES | YES |
| Duane Slocum | MAYBE! <i>Please see (1) below for complete statement</i> | NO! <i>Please see (2) below for complete statement</i> | NO! |

(1) I am in favor of open spaces and trails. What about the toxic waste dump and liabilities associated with the clean-up? What about the silver mine tailings that are nearby? I love Red Rocks and the beauty of the place like I love Garden of the Gods.

(2) You probably heard my response at the TOPS Forum. I was one of the 3 out of 25 who said, "no, I won't support an extension 6 years before it ends. That approach is not ethical and is dishonest to us who voted in favor of a 12 year tax. Halfway through the tax period, you want to add another 16 years." Also I was treated very rudely and with disdain by those in attendance as I left the building that evening. It did not leave a very pleasant taste in my mouth.

DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATES

| <i>CANDIDATE</i> | <i>1. Support saving Red Rock Canyon as open space</i> | <i>2. Support TOPS extension</i> | <i>3. May we list your name as a supporter of TOPS extension and of saving Red Rock Canyon as open space?</i> |
|------------------|--|---|---|
| Lauren Amest | <i>(Response not received)</i> | | |
| Jerry Heimlicher | YES. This area is a treasure for our community | YES, strongly. I have ordered stickers to go on my campaign signs saying VOTE YES ON 1A. | YES |
| Eric Rhodes | YES | YES | YES |
| Linda Rinehart | YES <i>Please see (3) below for complete statement</i> | YES, <i>Please see (4) below for complete statement</i> | YES, provided that you include my answer to question number 1 in full. |
| Art Van Sant | ABSOLUTELY | YES, I DO | YES |

(3) Yes, I support saving Red Rock Canyon as an open space. Our City needs more natural "jewels" not only for city and area residents to enjoy but also to attract more tourists, then theoretically boosting Tourism revenues, which is the 2nd largest source of revenues to our City. At the same time, I am concerned about a couple of things. One is the costs and measures to make Red Rock Canyon safe from the build-up and seepage of methane gas due to landfill use of the property for many years. Second, I want to see a well-thought-out plan to accommodate moving the people who currently reside on the property in mobile homes. The City's General Fund cannot support such accommodation. It seems to me that an orderly and equitable work-out between the current property owner and residents needs to occur, and soon. Also, the public needs to be as fully cognizant as possible of any long-term fiscal implications for the citizens of Colorado Springs. I want to see the strategic long-term plan developed by TOPS to not only address these issues but also to provide feasible solutions.

(4) I feel the extension of the tax to 2025 is evidence of a good, longer-term vision for the preservation of trails, open space and parks. I see it as a positive, proactive measure.

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:

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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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