

THE RED ROCK RAG

Volume 4, Number 9

News and Views on Red Rock Canyon

September, 2003

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

www.saveredrockcanyon.com

Council takes next step toward Red Rock acquisition

At its August 26 meeting the Colorado Springs City Council approved a resolution supplementing its resolution of May 27 and enabling the City to move forward toward its acquisition of Red Rock Canyon Open Space.

This resolution authorized the Finance Director to initiate the process to issue Certificates of Participation to finance the purchase and stipulated that an ordinance authorizing the Certificates of Participation be submitted to Council by November 25. The Certificates of Participation would have a 15 year term with an early call provision (probably being callable in 2009). Certificates of Participation would be secured by the Red Rock Canyon property.

The Certificates of Participation would finance the \$12,500,000 purchase price plus \$983,000 "cost of acquisition." The "cost of acquisition" includes \$733,000 for "tenant relocation and site demolition" and \$250,000 to be paid to the Trust for Public Land as a carrying cost which will enable the City to secure an extension of the closing date until December 1, 2003.

A Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department memo recommending the resolution noted that the Trust for Public Land would withdraw from the acquisition if the City failed to authorize the \$250,000 carrying cost.

This memo also listed the following on-going expenses which will be paid annually from TOPS funds: \$31,080 per year for five years for landfill monitoring and \$11,387 per year for ten years for a \$ 5 million landfill liability insurance policy.

The resolution was passed by a 5 to 3 vote with Council members Radford, Heimlicher, Purvis, Small, and Hente voting for approval. Vice Mayor Skorman did not vote because of his recent association with the Trust for Public Land.

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.

In Remembrance

Marion Steavenson

(April 4, 1914 - August 5, 2003)

Soft spoken, with a twinkle in her eye which bespoke a keen interest in life, Marion was an artist whose paintings captured nature's beauty up to the very last year of her life.

Her very being emanated her own inner beauty.

Marion was one of thousands of quiet supporters of Red Rock Canyon Open Space. At Christmas time last year, she wrote, "I thank you for helping save Red Rock Canyon. The developers have ruined too much of Colorado."

Our sympathy to Marion's son Bruce and his family.

Trail Map online

The Red Rock Canyon Committee is developing a map of potential Red Rock Canyon Open Space trails. We plan to offer the trail map to the Colorado Springs Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services for their use in developing the master plan for Red Rock Canyon Open Space.

The draft trail map is posted on the Red Rock Canyon Committee web site: www.saveredrockcanyon.com.

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Ooops!

Layout of the Red Rock Rag follows a template. Last month, we failed to enter the correct volume number and month into the template on Page 1.

Sorry for any inconvenience this error may have caused.

CALENDAR:**Meetings of Possible Interest:**

- September 2 Manitou Springs City Council
7:00 P.M. Manitou Springs City Hall
606 Manitou Avenue
- September 4 **Red Rock Canyon Committee / Foundation**
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)
- September 9 Colorado Springs City Council
1:00 P.M. City Council Chambers,
The historic City Hall, Nevada & Kiowa
- September 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)
- September 17 Manitou Springs City Council
7:00 P.M. Manitou Springs City Hall
606 Manitou Avenue
- September 22 **Manitou Springs Open Space Advisory Committee**
7:00 P.M. Manitou Springs City Hall
606 Manitou Avenue
- September 23 Colorado Springs City Council
1:00 P.M. City Council Chambers,
The historic City Hall, Nevada & Kiowa
- September 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)
- October 2 **Red Rock Canyon Committee / Foundation**
7:00 P.M. Village at Skyline

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.CScono.org

Red Rock Canyon Foundation President's Report, September 2003

Before the August 26 City Council meeting, where Council voted on proceeding with the purchase of Red Rock Canyon, Terry Putman and Chris Lieber of the Park and Recreation Department invited Joe Fabeck, Don Ellis and Shanti Toll to a meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to give and receive feedback about how the trailer park tenant issues would be handled. Don Ellis could not be present, but Terry said he is willing to have a meeting with Don when he is available. In some detail Chris and Terry laid out the cost, the responsibilities and the possibilities for the City and the tenants. Joe brought up Don's concerns about covering hidden cost if the tenants are relocated. Joe also brought up the importance of public input in the decision making process. Shanti offered to arrange an independent public meeting about trailer park and other Red Rock Canyon issues. Terry explained the city's public input timetable and process. It was decided to postpone public meetings until the relocation consultant of the city has had a chance to communicate with and accommodate the tenants. It seems like there will be plenty of time for public input if necessary. Joe and Shanti were very please that meeting was held in advance of the city council meeting so that the concerns of Red Rock Canyon advocates would be considered as part of the decision making process.

The Red Rock Canyon Foundation wishes to thank all the people who went to the August 26 City Council meeting to support the open space park. We appreciate the foresight and wisdom of the five City Council members who voted for the purchase of Red Rock Canyon. They were Scott Hente, Jerry Helmlicher, Margaret Radford, Larry Small and Randy Purvis.

We now encourage the Trust For Public Land and Mrs. Bock to resolve the remaining issues in the negotiation and close the deal. It has been a difficult negotiation, and both TPL and Mrs. Bock deserve a lot of credit. We all must work together in good faith and integrity to finalize the purchase. Lets keep our eyes on the prize.

Shanti Toll

Red Rock Canyon Foundation Vice President's Report, September 2003

The combined work of many individuals continues to bring into focus a common vision for the Red Rock Canyon property. While the successes involving Red Rock Canyon are cause for celebration, new and exciting challenges call for additional work in the immediate future. The opportunities for Red Rock Canyon supporters to get involved with that work are as plentiful as ever.

The planning for potential trails enables us to more clearly envision the reality of a Red Rock Canyon that will one day be accessible to the public. Don Ellis has produced an excellent map which suggests potential placement and names of trails on the property. In addition to incorporating the valuable input of organizations such as OSAC, he has made the map available to the general public for input and suggestions via the website. We are hopeful that at some point, the Red Rock Canyon Committee and Foundation will have the opportunity to present a final version of the map as an official recommendation.

The probability of a Day in Red Rock Canyon is further cause for excitement. The

Foundation and the Committee expect to be actively involved in the planning and facilitating of that day which will provide Red Rock Canyon supports with the opportunity to both enhance and enjoy the Red Rock Canyon property. Additionally, it will provide an opportunity to celebrate and to enjoy each other's company in the outdoors.

The fair treatment of the Red Rock Canyon residents continues to be an issue of concern to all of us. The Red Rock Canyon Foundation and Committee have always supported fair treatment of the Red Rock Canyon residents. Of course, what constitutes fair treatment is a subjective matter, and it is highly improbable that all will agree as to what that treatment should be. In the end, the City will be making the ultimate decision, and we trust that decision will be equitable.

We believe that a reasonable amount of public process would benefit the city in making its final decision regarding the Red Rock Canyon Residents. Such a process would provide the opportunity for the city to consider valuable insights which would likely include those of the residents themselves.

Brad Butkin

Red Rock Canyon Foundation - MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

_____ Membership donation: (checks payable to Red Rock Canyon Foundation)

Membership level

Supporter (wanting to be kept informed)

Helper (willing to work on occasional committee or help with work projects)

Leader (willing to volunteer a few hours a month)

Areas of interest for volunteering: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Send this membership form to:

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

(Phone 634-1810)

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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