

## INSPIRATION COMMON AREA COMMITTEE MINUTES

**November 21, 2023 | 5:30 p.m. via Zoom**

**Attendees:** Mark Berkstresser, Ralph Charlip, Robert Ellixson, Charles Goretsky, Jimmy Walker, Tom Norton, TJ Le Gare. Board Liaison: Holly Emrick Svetz. Public Alliance: Geol Scheirman, Justin Janca. Special Guest: Kristin Oles of High Plains Environmental Center (HPEC). Members of the public: None

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. The agenda was approved. Minutes from the October 17th meeting were approved.

### Community Comment & Discussion

- No public comments

### Committee Comments

- Ms. Le Gare noted the tree run over near the intersection of Inspiration Lane and Gartrell. Mr. Schierman said that an insurance claim is in process.
- Mr. Norton thanked Public Alliance for having the thistles he reported removed.

### **Ms. Oles Discussed HPEC's proposal to provide consulting services for native common area management.**

- HPEC is a not-for-profit consulting organization focusing on native open space in developed areas.
- The proposal offers a multiyear management plan plus consulting real time as things change. It also includes outreach and education for the Board, committee, and residents. The proposal is a Not to Exceed (NTE) amount to be billed hourly. Each March or April HPEC will perform a full survey with additional surveys more focused on trouble areas. Consulting to assist in tract turnover can be done in the contract surveys.
- Ms. Oles' general impression of the current state of Inspiration's native common area is pretty positive.
- The committee discussed having Ms. Oles make a presentation in the half hour before a Board meeting.

### **Mr. Scheirman provided a Common Area Update:**

- Irrigation blowouts completed and fountain turned off.
- Mr. Janca is preparing the end of season water report.
- 19 more Russian Olives removed.
- Weed barrier and rock installed on access road.
- Chase drain by Gartrell tunnel completed and adjacent revegetation will be performed in spring.
- Rockinghorse median wall repair being scheduled, and insurance has paid.

## **New Business**

### 15-foot mow

- The Board approved a 15-foot mow behind houses and plan to do annual around end of growing season. This was decided after consulting Aurora Fire officials and the City is just beginning the same mow. Brightview is getting started and the developer said it would follow suit. Grass will be mulched, and it will be mowed as close to 4-6” in height as equipment allows.

### Tree lawn native mowing

- The Committee agreed to recommend the Board get pricing and consider a contract for this.

### Tract turnover process update

- The District has agreed with the developer to take over tracts with payment by developer to cover completion by the District at Pathfinder Park. Committee recommends Board have HPEC involved in determination of pricing of work remaining to be completed for native areas in future tract turnovers.

### HPEC proposal

- The Committee agreed to recommend that the Board approve a contract with HPEC with an understood process of communication amongst HPEC, Public Alliance, and Brightview.

### Flagstones at Hops Garden

- The Committee reviewed photos of flagstones places on a steep slope near the Hops Garden that provides a short cut from the concrete path. The Committee agreed that the flagstones were difficult to navigate, and the slope is dangerous. The Committee recommends the Board have the flagstones removed, rope off the path, and reseed it with native grass. The Committee suggests the flagstones be reused around the Little Library boxes.

## **Stoplight charts**

- The Landscape Contracting Strategy item needs input from the Board.
  - Ms. Svetz requested a price quote from Weed Wrangler for weed control in native areas and planting beds to assist the Board in a decision.
  - The Committee suggested HPEC provide input.
  - The CAC’s list of services in contracts that are not being performed may be candidates for rebidding.
- Services Center Committee is preparing a request for formal pricing.

## **Leadership Election**

- Ms. Le Gare accepted a nomination to become Chair and a unanimous vote approved.

- Mr. Goretsky accepted a nomination to become Vice Chair and a unanimous vote approved.
- Ms. Svetz will continue to take minutes, so a Secretary is not necessary.

### **Other Business**

Ms. Svetz asked if a location for the shade sail on the playground structure has been determined as the developer is ready to install it. Ms. Le Gare, Mr. Goretsky, and Mr. Janca agreed to take this action.

### **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.