



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Meeting Date: 2/16/21

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Parks & Recreation		PRESENTED BY: Mike 'Diesel' Post
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ITEM:

Memorandum of Understanding with Salida-area Parks, Open-space and Trails

BACKGROUND:

Salida-area Parks, Open-space & Trails ("SPOT") is a volunteer, non-profit organization with a mission to promote the creation, preservation, improvement and appreciation of parks, open space and trails in the greater Salida area.

For over twenty years, SPOT has worked with citizens, municipalities and public entities of Chaffee County and beyond to enhance recreational opportunities in the area, including helping to plan and develop the non-motorized trails system in the Salida area with connections extending out into the county. Ongoing SPOT projects include trail maintenance and ecological restoration through its community based Adopt-a-Trail Program, new trail development and trail connections, public park improvements, open-space acquisition and historic preservation.

FISCAL NOTE:

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that council approve the administrator to enter into this Memorandum of Understanding with Salida-area Parks, Open-space and Trails.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

Content agenda item

ATTACHMENTS:

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) between Salida-area Parks, Open-space & Trails (SPOT) and City of Salida

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) between Salida-area Parks, Open-space & Trails (SPOT) and City of Salida ("City")

I. BACKGROUND

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For over twenty years, SPOT has worked with citizens, municipalities and public entities of Chaffee County and beyond to enhance recreational opportunities in the area, including helping to plan and develop the non-motorized trails system in the Salida area with connections extending out into the county. Ongoing SPOT projects include trail maintenance and ecological restoration through its community based Adopt-a-Trail Program, new trail development and trail connections, public park improvements, open-space acquisition and historic preservation.

II. PURPOSE & SCOPE

The purpose of this MOU is to establish a general framework for cooperation between the City of Salida ("City") and SPOT, and to more formally identify the roles and responsibilities of each party. The 2 parties propose to work together to achieve a common goal of creating and maintaining parks, trails and open space that are on City of Salida property and that border adjoining public or county lands. The 2 parties also propose to enhance these valuable community assets as opportunities allow.

The partnership between the City of Salida and SPOT has existed since 1990 when the work on playground equipment updates and the Monarch Spur Trail development began. The purpose of this MOU is to further strengthen this relationship to continue to provide high quality recreation opportunities in and around town for our local community and visitors alike.

III. SPOT RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS MOU

SPOT is a project-oriented organization that identifies and supports current recreation needs within the community. SPOT agrees to assist the City on the following projects, which include, but are not limited to:

1. **Organize volunteer stewardship** through the
 - Adopt-a-Trail Program: SPOT volunteers adopt trail sections within the Salida Trail System to lightly maintain and monitor as the "eyes and ears" of the City. Problems and larger maintenance issues are reported to the city via SPOT.
 - Salida Trail Ecological Restoration Project: STERP is an ongoing effort within Salida's recreational properties to remove invasive plants and replace them with native vegetation. This project was originally promoted by the City and proposed to SPOT. Since then, groups, including GARNA, Central Colorado Conservancy, the Salida School District and community members have contributed through the years.

- Community workdays: For projects that need more helping hands, SPOT workdays may be organized, to include educational workshops, school field trips, weeding, mulching, seeding and planting, litter pick-ups, tree trimming and landscaping.
- 2. **Coordinate with the Parks & Recreation Department and PROST on projects** including:
 - Memorial bench donations: With City input, approval and installation, SPOT facilitates the design, purchase, delivery and placement of benches within City property.
 - Signage: Help develop effective trail signage for trails on City property while working with the City as it develops its own brand and updated signage.
 - Parks, open-space & trail planning: inform City staff of any planning efforts – master planning, new trails and/or additional connectivity efforts with or adjacent to the City, and other infrastructure possibly to include project design, cost, timeline, site visits, public comment and project “mission”.
 - Grants/Fundraising opportunities: Support City projects through the writing and facilitation of applicable grant applications and through community fundraising.
- 3. **Enforce the Salida volunteer insurance paperwork**: All members of SPOT that work on City property need to sign volunteer paperwork that adds them as additionally insured on the City’s insurance for that related work.
- 4. **Project Coordination/Planning/Approval with Salida Parks and Recreation and the PROST Board**: For projects on City Property including trail maintenance projects as well as new trail proposals SPOT must get City approval before commencing.
- 5. **Input on Community Development**: When requested, provide input and suggestions on City ordinances and requirements, especially in regard to parks, open space and trails for new developments and annexations.

IV. City of Salida RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS MOU

1. **Coordination/Planning with SPOT** – City intends and will use best efforts to coordinate with SPOT, where reasonably practicable, on significant projects including trail maintenance projects and new trail proposals, grants, benches or other projects.
2. **Review Contracts and agreements** - City Staff will review contracts and agreements made between SPOT and contractors for work done on City Property.
3. **Secure funding** - The City will make best efforts to secure funding to support SPOT’s work on City owned property.
4. **Provide insurance** - Volunteers that complete the City of Salida Volunteer paperwork will be covered under the City’s policy for work done on City Property.

V. By executing this MOU the Parties do not waive any immunity or limit liability contained in the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act; do not create a multi-year fiscal obligation; and do not create any other financial obligation not supported by a current appropriation.

VI. MOU REVIEW, EFFECTIVE DATE AND SIGNATURE

SPOT and City agree to work together to review this MOU annually, and sign an updated MOU, if necessary. This MOU shall be effective upon the signature of SPOT and City of Salida authorized officials. Both parties indicate agreement with this MOU by their signatures.

Signatures and dates

SPOT

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

_____ Date

City of Salida

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

_____ Date