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**Members-at-Large:** Ryan Hannigan, Curtis Hansen, Mike Oroszi and Linda Weber

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Media Contact: Bonnie Singleton  
Friends of Cheyenne Cañon Secretary  
bonnie@pollinatemarketing.com

## Statement from the Friends of Cheyenne Cañon

### *Revisions and Further Process Needed for Endorsement of Recommended Plan*

The North Cheyenne Cañon Park Master Plan was last updated in 1999, and the Friends of Cheyenne Cañon (FOCC) has been actively involved in the master planning process which began in July of 2017. The Board of Directors has reviewed the recommended plan released for the May 10<sup>th</sup> Parks Advisory Board meeting, and proposes the revisions below before providing endorsement of the plan, as well as additional time for process.

#### **April 16<sup>th</sup> Statement Summary**

The April 16<sup>th</sup> FOCC statement was in response to the plan released for the April 10<sup>th</sup> Parks Advisory Board Meeting. In this statement, FOCC recommended:

- Management Toolbox for Park Roadways, Parking and Circulation
  - Removing the following toolbox items:
    - 3: Reduce Pullouts that do not Connect to the Trail System
    - 6: Progressive Traffic Control Options
    - 7: Park Access Shuttle Service
    - 8: Consider Park Entrance
  - The recommended change regarding these items also stated: “It is recommended that these tools be removed from the management toolbox, and instead, a section be added that calls for further study on traffic and carrying capacity of the park. This section should also require that once the study is completed, there is a public process for amending the plan before finalizing actions.”
- The full plan be released prior to the May 10<sup>th</sup> Parks Advisory Board meeting, and that public comment be accepted via email.

#### **Statement on Version for May 10<sup>th</sup> Parks Advisory Board Meeting**

We thank the Parks Staff for releasing the plan in full prior to the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, and for allowing public email comment. There have also been adjustments to the recommendations which were Toolbox Items 3, 6, 7 and 8 which took our statement into consideration.

FOCC met with the Parks Staff on May 8<sup>th</sup> and had dialogue around the Toolbox Item revisions. From this conversation, FOCC believes that the intent of the revisions is in line with what was requested from the April 16<sup>th</sup> statement. However, that intent does not come through in the articulation of the current plan.

Recommendations 1 and 2 below are suggestions for a path forward. FOCC anticipates that through further process they would be adjusted before the final plan approval. While FOCC

does believe these proposed revisions capture the conversation they had with the Parks staff, this statement is the first time FOCC has shared these specific recommendations with the Parks Staff, and thus at this time they are not endorsed by them.

As per recommendation 3, the proposals in 1 and 2 should go through a public process as any other changes of this significance would before being finalized in the plan. This will allow both the public and the Parks Staff to provide feedback, both at a broad and specific level, regarding these recommendations.

**Recommendation 1: Revise language concerning “Reduce Roadside Pullouts” (page 84, labeled page 68)**

Overall, the plan released for the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting captures the concern FOCC had with this item. However, the goal should not be to *reduce* the pullouts, but rather to evaluate pullouts to determine if there is a reason they need to be closed that cannot be fixed. There are two changes proposed in this section:

1. Change the title of this section from “Reduce Roadside Pullouts” to “Evaluate Roadside Pullouts and Reduce as Necessary”
2. Change “Consider removing pullouts when they:” to “Consider removing pullouts when they meet the criteria below, and cannot reasonably be adjusted to meet criteria to be retained”

**Recommendation 2: Revise language concerning “Considerations for Future Park Roadways, Parking and Bridge Safety Improvements” (page 85, labeled page 69)**

In talking with the Parks Staff, there is agreement on the general intended process, which is outlined below. It is important that this intent be clarified in the specific articulation of the plan.

In the current proposed plan, there are bullet points under the paragraph on page 69 beginning “Private vehicle traffic mitigation approaches could be considered...”. That content is removed from the proposed text below, as they are not intended to be recommendations, and thus should not be included within the Site Development Recommendations section. These ideas that were brought forward in the public process are captured in the appendices from those meetings.

The proposal is to replace the text currently on page 69 with the text below.

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## **Considerations for Future Park Roadways and Parking**

The Department is responsible for and committed to addressing concerns about traffic, parking congestion, and their impacts to natural resources and visitor experience to protect North Cheyenne Cañon Park for this and future generations.

Approaches to further mitigate the impacts of private vehicles in the North Cheyenne Cañon Park will require the following steps, and should be approached in this order.

1. **Further technical study** by Park staff to better understand issues in regard to private vehicle traffic. Technical study will involve gathering at least one full year of traffic data using multiple traffic counters, and tracking conditions such as:

- Vehicular accidents;
  - Non-motorized user and vehicular conflict/accidents;
  - Traffic congestion blocking emergency vehicle access through the Park;
  - Traffic congestion blocking maintenance access to restrooms or port-o lets, trash receptacles and dumpsters; and/or
  - Natural resource impacts such as wildfire, flood and/or major erosion events.
2. Based on the data gathered in the cohesive traffic study, compile **feasible and sustainable site-specific solutions** that also consider the park impact beyond private vehicle traffic issues.
  3. **Public Process**
    - Additional topic-focused public involvement process
  4. **Pilot Projects**, as determined from the public process
  5. **Public Process**, based on learnings from pilot projects
  6. **Parks Advisory Board Approval**
    - A Minor Master Plan amendment; and
    - Parks and Recreation Advisory Board approval.
  7. **Implementation** of strategy
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### **Recommendation 3: Allow for Further Public Process and Review**

Recommendations 1 and 2 are to serve as proposals to revise the plan, and, should be held to a public process as recommendations for change would elsewhere. It will also allow for the Parks Staff to review them. Additionally, this process will allow for time to review the plan in its entirety and ensure the changes made on these pages are reflected in other sections of the plan.

Thank you to the Parks Staff for their work on the plan, the Parks Advisory Board for their review, and for the many citizens who have provided feedback.

The mission of the Friends of Cheyenne Cañon, a 501(c)(3) organization, is to preserve, protect and enhance North Cheyenne Cañon Park for future generations.

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