PRAB Minutes  
May 14, 2015

Present:  
Lauri Dannenmiller  
Dwane Matthews  
Noel Copeland  
Shane Wright  
Brian Elms  
Norma Brambila  
Andrew Doll  
Leslie Twarogowski  
Sarah Hall  
Mary McCoin  
Bernie Sharp  
JT Allen  
Florence Navarro  
Jack Patterson  
Marcus Pachner  
Jason Robinson

Absent:  
Anne Green  
Jolon Clark

Call to order: Leslie Twarogowski 5:36pm

Consent Agenda Items
- Approval of March minutes, approved (abstention: Jason Robinson)
- Approval of April minutes, (abstentions: Mary McCoin, Dwane Matthews, Florence Navarro, Jack Patterson, Jason Robinson)

Public Meeting
- City Park Friends and Neighbors President was here to speak about increasing permitted events in the park. CPFAN would like to see there be no more permit-based events in any parks in Denver.
- Hank Boots would like to see increased ranger presence if there are going to be POFA events. The POFA fees should be used to effectuate that increase. Would like to ensure that any
- Victoria Cornell is here from Ruby Hill neighborhood. She is excited for the concert series and hopes that most of them will be free. Lauri explains that there will be 50 free concerts a year. There will be a few other days when it can be rented.
- Paula Kaufman Board Member of Friends and Neighbors of Cheesman Park. She explains where POFA came from and what it is intended to achieve. 
- Kathleen Rust President of Cheesman Park Advocacy Group reads the POFA outlines the possible ramifications of POFA events in Cheesman
- Don Sutton lives on Cheesman Park. There are 168 parking spaces designated in the park. Any extra activity puts a lot of pressure on the
neighbors and the neighborhood streets. Concerned that POFA activities will happen at the expense of people who would simply like to be in the park without paying.

- Alida Hilton thinks that there should be no fee-based activities in crowded parks such as Cheesman. People want open green space and she believes that a POFA system in Cheesman Park will have a negative effect on that beauty.

- Kathleen Wells would not like Cheesman Park to be a POFA park. This will cause a large increase in people using the park. There will never be a consensus in the community about what is appropriate recreation in a park. POFA is particularly inappropriate for Cheesman because of its location, its size, the parking, and the density.

- Richard Kissenberth has moved out of Capitol Hill, but he is a former Board Member of CHUN. Although he does not speak for them, he did sit on their board. He feels that there is a need for more activity in the parks. They had often tried to activate their space that is right on Cheesman Park.

- Isabel Palleres is a resident of Cheesman Park. She has observed that there are already a number of activities that are going on that limit her ability to be there with her child.

- Constance Mortell lives around Cheesman Park. She race-walks the park every day and feels that there is still plenty of maintenance that isn’t happening at Cheesman. She is adamant that we do not need any more people in Cheesman, it is already too full as it is.

Vote on the POFA Policy Change

- Shall there be a change to the POFA policy which adds a provision that covers activities run by a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization where there is either no charge for the activity or a donation requested by not required. There will not be a permit fee but a processing fee of $25.00 will be required. All other provisions of the POFA policy will apply to these activities.
  o Rule change passes with no votes against and no abstentions.

Board Comments regarding new POFA parks

- Brian Elms points out that we had a very lengthy and difficult conversation on this idea a year ago. At that point the public was asking for permits in Washington Park and all of those permits were used last year. It is a big city with varying needs and wants in different neighborhoods. This makes it complicated to implement policy.

- Jack Patterson asks Lauri if there is a way to have different restrictions for the permits issued in Cheeseman. Lauri tells us that there are different permits within the parks. At Cheeseman there are turf permits and track permits.

- Florence wants to know how well it was monitored last year. Lauri says that it was, but the oversight was primarily brought on by complaints.

- Jason asks if this will be reviewed on an annual basis. Lauri says that that is how it has been planned. Further, this is not a City Council issue and will not
be taken to them. It is the purview of the Manager to make this choice, but she wants to get public input.

- Marcus feels that because there have only been 14 and doesn’t appear that any of those have significantly impacted any of the parks that have POFAs. As a result, he feels that we should go forward with the addition of these parks. He says perhaps Cheeseman should be limited to one turf permit and one track permit, but he doesn’t see why Cheeseman should be excluded.

- JT Allen would like to commend the Board and Lauri and the Rangers for being committed to this admittedly difficult process.

- Bernie Sharp thanks all of the neighbors for coming. He feels that their fears about being inundated with people are unfounded. With 14 permits the impact on the parks seems minimal at most. He feels we should increase the fees or at least look at the structure so that parks are getting a better portion of the monies.

- Mary McCoin is impressed with the Cheeseman Park advocacy and all of the people who are committed to it. With the increase in growth it seems clear that there is also good to keep in mind that there is such significant growth in Denver that it can be hard to keep up with both free and fee based activities. She is interested in being true to the master plan for Cheeseman Park while also keeping in mind that it is a regional park.

- Leslie Twarogowski thanks everyone for coming. She is inclined to support this change because she does not see a reason why Cheeseman should be excluded from this policy when Washington Park and City Park have this policy applying to them. But it is worth noting that blueprint Denver allows for a lot of density, but it does not allow for a lot of new parks to be available to us. These are not issues that are going away any time soon.

- Eric Claypool was a participant in a non-authorized POFA event a few years ago before there was POFA. His local gym now does not offer classes in City Park. He doesn't know why, but it coincides with there being a need for a permit. He feels that a lot of people are not even going to apply for the permits. Once they can’t be in the park for free, they might not want to be there anyway.

- Andrew Doll thinks this is a great idea for the parks in his district. They need activation, and anything that might bring that activation is a good thing. These activities are already happening, so we need some sort of way to regulate this. He thinks this is a good first step.

- Norma understands that there are a lot of people going to the popular parks but she believes that if the permits were reduced it would be better. She would like all of them to be free, but we need to support all of the rules and regulations and have to find means to do so.

- Brian Elms supports a recommendation making 100% of the parks under the POFA guidelines. He likes the policy as a means to continue to encourage folks to get out there and be in the parks.

- Shane Wright believes that we need to have some way to control over use. It appears from the Washington Park POFA that went into effect last year was effective in limiting the use. Once you get to the place philosophically that
there can and will be commercial activities in the park, this is a good policy to limit those.

- Noel Copeland asks a member of Cheeseman park FANS and CPAG about what they are seeing in Cheeseman Park that is a fee based activity. Kathleen Wells says that there has been some increase group activity in the park. She feels that the culture of the use of the park is changing. She also doesn’t feel that there are enough Rangers to policy this policy. Kathleen Rust says that there are large groups there all the time, but as far as POFA activities there is a human hamster wheel event going on. There is also yoga happening in the park. It is not pervasive right now. There are not groups everywhere. Noel does not agree that it should be in the same box as every other park in the city. He believes that Cheeseman should not be totally excluded, but encourages that there be some amount of POFA activity to be allowed in Cheeseman.

- Dwane Matthews feels that we should support this policy. He also feels that all of the parks should be on there.

- Sarah Hall believes that there are many issues in Cheeseman park that are very similar to those that we have worked through in Washington Park and other city park. However, it seems very clear that the Cheeseman Park neighbors are against this change. And it is her role to represent those people, and therefore is not recommending that there be any POFA permits issued for Cheeseman Park.

- Brian Elms points out that the Master Plan acknowledges that Cheeseman was historically a passive park, but that the only recommendations for the future that it be clean and safe and environmentally sensitive.

- Lauri will take all of these statements under consideration, and make her recommendation.

2015 Rules and Regulations Update:
- The rules were posted for 45 days of public comment. There were no public comments made. No major concerns have been made.
- The age that one can play golf without an adult was lowered from 12 to 10.
- The rules were updated to reflect the City regulation that outlaws pit bulls.
- There were other updates to bring the rules in line with the city ordinances including smoking in public spaces.
- Passive uses areas were defined and given rules.
- A clarification was made as to when a permit is required for larger groups.
- Bob Finch asks that the board vote on the adoption of these rules.
- Katie Finch from INC is here to say that they came to her meeting and they felt very included in the process. They support the rule changes.
- Noel Copeland, Shane Wright and Florence Navarro abstain. The measure passes with all other members voting yes.

Burns Park Master Plan Update- Mark Upshaw
- At the end of this process we had 100% consensus on this plan.
- 1968 the Denver Sculpture Symposium occurred showcasing 9 artists. The sculptures were meant to be temporary, but they remain.
- Proposal is that the park would continue to have art, and there will be more art added.
- The idea would also include spaces for passive recreation and perhaps more dedicated recreation like pickleball or bocce.
- Noel Copeland brings forward the issue of parking. There will be 20 spaces and bus drop off. There will be better ingress and egress, but still only 20 spaces.
- Real excitement about activating this park and bring more folks to experience it.

**Mangers Report**- Lauri Dannemiller
- Ribbon cutting at Johnson Habitat Park June 1 at 11:30
- Curtis Park Playground/Frontline Park Celebration at 9:30 on June 6.
- Central Denver Rec. Center Process
  - Naming will begin May 18th
  - Petition will require 500 signatures of persons living in Denver and justification to meet the criteria defined in the DPR policy.
  - It will eventually be heard by City Council in a Public Hearing.
  - Interviews for artists to do the public art at the site begin next week.
- Recreation Center/Summer Activities Open
  - Registration opened May 12 and 69% of the registration was online
  - There are already many wait lists
  - Summer pools will be open from June 8-August 16

**Nomination and Voting for New VP**
- There were three nominations made for the Vice Presidency. They were Jason Robinson, Sarah Hall and Shane Wright.
- There was a request that each nominee say a bit about him or herself and why s/he would be interested in being Vice President.
- Shane Wright would like to see more of the PRAB board getting together to taking a more proactive approach to bringing issues to the table.
- Jason Robinson would like to do it because he would like to dive into it and take it seriously. He also would like to see that the board members bring more things to be discussed.
- Sarah Hall admits that the person who nominated her was term limited and therefore she might no longer be on the board come the end of the summer. She would love to do it and has enjoyed her time on the executive committee and she would enjoy getting more involved in that capacity.
- Jason Robinson will be the new Vice President of the PRAB board. Congratulations to Jason.
**Commons Park**
- Brian Elms points out that there are some activities going on there that are unsavory. However the park is now closed for restoration, and prior to the reopening of the park there will be outreach to the neighbors.

Adjourned at 8:07 by Twarogowski