CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Leslie Twarogowski, PRAB President

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

DIRECTORS ABSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Quorum was established. Motion was made with a second to approve the October minutes with two minor changes (spelling and attendance). The meeting minutes for October 2015 were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Katie Fischer, Denver INC Parks Recreation. Katie read the October 20, 2015 INC letter of resolution on recycled water into the record. The Resolution passed by a vote of 31 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention. The letter was presented to the Board.

Andy, a resident of the City Park neighborhood spoke in opposition of a rest period for City Park. He does not believe the park is over activated.

Alison Torvik, another resident of City Park neighborhood also spoke in opposition of a rest period. It is her belief that rest days take away from neighborhood use of the park. She also supports the set back request for the recreation center.

Greg Davis, a resident of City Park West neighborhood spoke in opposition to the rest period. It is his belief that park activity should not be based or driven by cars and rest period make people travel to other parks for usage.

Keith Pryor echoed comments about the concern of a rest period (“Be careful what you wish for”.)

DIRECTOR’S REPORT – HAPPY HAYNES

Happy announced the successful groundbreaking for the Central Denver Recreation Center. She added that a working group is to be formed for Red Rocks Advisory Committee.
Provided background information on the Partners in Community Forestry Conference that will be held in Denver this November. Happy also briefly addressed the rest period comments made during the public comment portion of the meeting. She detailed the need for additional procedure, need to striking a balance for highly used parks, and a need for continued community feedback. Happy also detailed a number of upcoming public meetings and events.

**Public Hearing on 2015 Rules and Regulation Update**

**Staff Presentation:**

Bob Finch walked through the presentation of the rules and regulations. The 2012 Denver Park Uses Rules and Regulations needed to be updated to address current issues. The full set of Administrative Citation Rules was distributed to PRAB in late September for review and comment. Bob summarized the updates and detailed the effort to streamline the enforcement of Denver Park Use Rules and Regulations, which included an adoption of an appropriate fine schedule.

**Speakers:**

Keith Pryor supported the updating and changes to rules and regulations because of the collaborative process utilized by Bob and his team. Keith spoke of the highly involved process to provide appropriate fines and procedures. He also encourages PRAB to consider a smoking ban in the Parks.

**Action:**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2015 Rules and Regulation Update. The Board voted in favor of adopting the update with 14 “yes” votes and 0 “no” vote. Motion passed.

**Public Hearing: City Park Esplanade Setback Modification**

**Staff Presentation:**

Gordon Robertson, Director of Park Planning, provided a power point presentation on the requested City Park Esplanade Setback Modification. The report detailed why the amendment was necessary, background on community discussion, benefit of the proposed retail, and reviewed the site plan.

**Speakers:**
Bridget Walsh – Park Hill Resident. Spoke in opposition of setback request. Believed the proposed setback modification was not a solution. She provided a copy of her written comments in opposition.

Luis Plakowski – Member of Friends of City Park and nearby neighbor. Spoke in opposition of setback request.

Andy Seuse – City Park neighbor, speaking as individual. Supportive of setback request, will benefit the retail development and there has been a public process.

Justin – City Park Fan member. Strongly support plans and believes the setback is a minor request. Plans for recreations center have been overwhelming supported and this is consistent.

Daryl Watson – Whittier Neighborhood Association. Thanks staff for collaboration and work on project (particularly architect team). Process started in 2008. Survey amongst neighbors (received by nearly 2500 members of community), board voted unanimously to support the setback modification request.

Keith Pryor – Rec Center Task Force Member, speaking as individual. Requirement of BluePrint Denver, reflective of Main Street Zoning and related requirements and public process—fully supports the setback modification request.

Tom Morris – Opposed to setback modification request. Believes the retail will be severely under parked. Also believes the city should not sell the land for retail development.

Greg Davis – City Park Alliance. Speaking on behalf of group, CP Alliance voted unanimously to support amendment. Congratulated city on great community process for rec center development and this request was part of the discussion for many years.

Board Comments

Jason expressed thanks to Craig, Gordon, and Darrel Watson for their work and coordination on the overall project. Gordon proved additional background and confirmed the property will be sold, not leased. Chris Weisner (Zoning Dept) commented that the property can be built to a maximum of 8 stories as specified by zoning regulations. Confirmed that 4 parking spaces will be reserved for the retail property and that an additional 15-20 metered parking spaces will be provided on side streets. John Martinez explained that a reciprocal agreement with DPS has been discussed relating to shared parking spaces at the Rec Center. Fran asked about impact of the project on historic preservation adjacent to the project; John reported that it was found to not be an issue with the historic landmark. Fran also noted her concern about losing control of the adjacent space in the future once the property is sold. Jack was concerned about the zoning
allowance for an 8 story structure and Gordon clarified that the sale agreement will limit a structure to one story.

PRAB Vote on Approval of the Setback Modification to the Central Denver Recreation Facility Property

Fran moved to accept the motion for the setback modification and Eric seconded. The Board approved with no abstentions and with one Nay vote (Noel).

Other Board Items

Board Elections

Florence was not in attendance but indicated to Noel that only one nomination was received (Richter for Vice President). Both Leslie and Jason indicated they would retain their positions in light of no other candidates expressing interest; David changed his nomination to the Secretary post since this was still open. Marcus moved to accept the slate of Leslie (P), Jason (VP), and David (S). Since the slate was essentially unopposed, a voice vote was conducted in lieu of paper ballots and the slate was accepted with one Nay vote (Fran), no abstentions. These positions are for one year.

Upcoming Agenda items

Several board members asked about upcoming agenda items and revisiting several topics; e.g., IGA, water recycling, Outdoor Denver, Emerald Ash Borer budget. Fran asked for additional follow up to address homelessness, park safety, and her interest in the Red Rocks subcommittee. Both Leslie and Happy Haynes committed to schedule these in future Agendas as is timely. Happy indicated that an Outdoors Denver presentation would likely be made at the next meeting as well as the IGA water use proposal. David asked about Red Rocks subcommittee update and Happy indicated this group would not meet until 2016. Fran inquired about orientation materials for incoming board members and Arthur indicated that this info is now online. Fran requested something more substantive than the more passive online format and Leslie suggested that perhaps this could be incorporated into the annual retreat which occurs in January.

Adjournment

Leslie adjourned the meeting at 7:23pm.