Draft Minutes
Denver Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
March 10, 2016

Call To Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by President Leslie Twarogowski

Board Members Present: Marcus Pachner, Jack Paterson, Florence Navarro, Eric Clayman, Frank Rowe, Jay Rust, JT Allen, Liz Drogin, Noel Copeland, Shane Wright, Brian Elms, C.L. Harman, David Richter, Leslie Twarogowski,

Absent: Thad Jacobs, Dwayne Matthews, Fran Coleman, Jason Robinson, Dora Aragon

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved for Dec (2015), Jan and Feb (2016).

PRAB Subcommittee Reports

Parks Designations: Jay reported that Round 7 was sent to Council, Round 8 in progress.

Budget: Frank reported that no meetings have been held yet.

Rules&Regulations: A meeting is scheduled for March 22nd, 1pm, at The Greenhouse.

Recycled Water: Jay reported the first meeting was held at the Facility. Scott Gilmore indicated a plethora of information is available on a web link which has been set up and that we would receive the link tomorrow.

Directors Report (Happy Haynes, Scott Gilmore, John Martinez also present)

Fred Weiss reported on the 2017 Budget calendar with mileposts pertinent to PRAB; approval is needed by May 12th. Budget Management change requests for both CIP and Operating Budgets are due in June.

Fred also reported on future issues to receive attention this Spring:

Event Rules&Regulations: It’s a complicated process and presentations on different aspects will be made Apr, May, June, and July.

Fee Proposals: for event facilities (Beer Garden/Skyline Park, Levitt Pavilion/Ruby Hill)- report scheduled for April.

Noise Ordinance: City ordinance revisions will also affect Parks. Report scheduled for May
Upcoming Community Meetings

A meeting is scheduled March 31st for Westwood Park Improvements.

DPR Presentations

Platt – Park Hill (“2 Basins”) Stormwater System Update, presented by Jamie Price, with a number of planning and managers contributing.

The project need was reiterated as storm events can and will have significant impact on numerous infrastructures throughout the Cole and Park Hill areas. The need for coordination between multiple entities is necessary to reduce construction costs and project timelines. The two detention basins still under consideration remain Cole and the Golf Course. The Cole open channel proposal at 39th is now down to affecting a few rental properties. The City Park Golf Course proposal has generated three options for course and basin layout and redesign. The Globeville Landing Outfall was discussed in the context of utilizing DPR open space along the Platte. Park land affected would be compensated for the new natural open channel and by utilizing existing city owned property adjacent to the northeast.

Jamie indicated the preferred option selection is due in April. The overall project timeline will extend into 2020 (timeline highlights were presented). Denver is the lead funding entity for the project along with the other 3 entities (CDOT, RTD, Urban Drainage and Flood Control District). Denver’s funding will be from wastewater rate fee increases.

Jamie and others spoke about the number of stakeholder feedback meetings and venues and the continued feedback and presentations over the next month. Further refinement of the draft options will be based on this additional input.

Public Comments:

Katie Fisher, INC parks committee: Slow down the process. See attached comments.

Paul Brown: In favor of detention upstream.

Kate Armstrong, Clayton United RNO: Perform EIS, in favor of private water collection, opposed to trees mitigation at the golf course.

Liz Orr: Advocates more time for a decision.

Bridget Walsh: see attached comments

Jacqueline Lansing: Objects to changes to the Golf Course design.
Jay Considine: Asked for project costs for each alternative, the detention volume of each alternative. Thinks DPR should be utilizing technical abilities of citizenry rather than paid consultants.

Andy Seuse: Spoke in favor of the project.

Derrick Viskosky, representative of First Tee of Denver. Wants to ensure office and community space at new clubhouse if one is needed.

Keith Prior: Seems to be in favor of the project.

Christine O’Conner: see attached comments.

Michelle Segura: In favor of the proposals.

Jeff Carlson: In favor of the proposals.

John Prosser: Seemed to not be in favor of any current proposal, stressed holistic approaches to problem-solving.

PRAB Comments:

C.L. asked for a document from DPR to summarize

Jay asked about other alternative detention areas which were studied.

Jamie addressed soil issue concerns at Globeville Landing site. Jay questioned why an EIS is not planned; Jamie replied the plans to address with ‘best practices’ in lieu of the time required for a federal EIS and little value add to the process.

Noel asked again about total cost projections. Jamie referred to the website and info to be delivered from C.L.’s request (above).

Other Board Announcements

David asked DPR again for some dates which would facilitate a PRAB review of the Mountain Park System; Arthur to forward open dates to PRAB members tomorrow.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm.
PROPOSED PRAB RESOLUTION on Platte to Park Hill Storm Water Drainage Project:

WHEREAS, PRAB, as steward of Denver Parks, brings the concerns of citizens of Denver to the Manager of Parks regarding planning, proposed change and use of the Parks and Recreation system; and

WHEREAS, issues have been raised to the environmental sustainability, equity, and engagement and the economics involved in this Two Basin Drainage Plan; and

WHEREAS, the TBDP does not address the widespread infrastructure issues that impact on the residents living in the Park Hill and Montclair basins;

WHEREAS, the TBDP will damage an historic neighborhood (Cole) and an historic park (City Park);

WHEREAS, park land “is held by the governmental authority in trust for the benefit of the members of the general public, and ...the City cannot impose upon such dedicated property any servitude or burden inconsistent with the dedication of the property for public park purposes.” McRae vs. Etter.

WHEREAS, no new master plan has been proposed to implement such changes;

WHEREAS, Denver’s charter does not allow DPR to permit a state agency to operate detention facilities in Denver parks;

PRAB calls on the City of Denver to (1) halt meetings advancing the TBDP that has been extensively objected to over the past three months, (2) to conduct public hearings regarding use of Denver taxpayers’ waste water fees on the TBDP; (3) go back to the table to do comprehensive and complete flood and drainage planning for this entire quadrant and involve neighborhoods in that planning.

INC ZAP Committee Resolution on Platte to Park Hill Storm Water Drainage Project:

Flood protection and ensuring the safety of existing Denver residents is of paramount importance to all of us in INC and in Denver’s neighborhoods.

Protection of existing historic Denver neighborhoods, existing Areas of Stability, and existing designated parklands is crucial and should be Denver’s priority.

For this reason, we move that the City explore all reasonable options before moving forward, evaluating options not based on utility for CDOT, RTD and revenues for the City, but based on full study and meaningful neighborhood involvement.
Testimony of Bridget Walsh, 4909 E 23rd Avenue Denver 80207/ PRAB, March 10, 2016
denverbridget@gmail.com

Denver City Park Golf Course
Listed on the National Register of Historic Places and on Colorado State Register of Historic Places

Protected by:
Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
http://www.achp.gov/106summary.html
and
The Colorado State Register Act

Neither Denver the Colorado Department of Transportation or the Federal Highway Administration have notified the State Historic Preservation Officer of any intent to alter City Park Golf Course.

City Park Golf Course, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986 as part of Denver’s Park and Parkway System, celebrated its 100-year anniversary in 2013!

From its early days, City Park Golf Course attracted middle-class players at a time when most courses served only the social elite. The golf course is also significant for its tradition of ethnic diversity, particularly during the 1940s-1960s when the course hosted several ethnically diverse golf associations. This 18-hole regulation Denver golf course is located in a beautiful urban setting with fantastic views of downtown Denver and the Rocky Mountains. Clusters of trees line various fairways and frame views of the skyline. Small sloping greens, unique bunkering, and tight fairways make City Park Golf Course deceivingly difficult.

Tom Bendelow stands as one of the pioneer architects of American golf. During his 35-year career, he designed more than six hundred golf courses across the United States and Canada. He shared his enthusiasm for the game of golf and increased its public accessibility through his promotion of municipal golf course construction.

Bendelow followed the traditional methods and forms of Scottish and British course design. He walked and staked each site to get a first-hand feel of the land, the wind, and the natural vegetation. In 1898, the New York City Parks Department hired him to redesign and expand the Van Cortlandt Park Golf Course, originally opened in 1895 as one of the first public golf courses in the United States. His redesign made it the first public eighteen-hole course in the nation.

Spalding & Brothers hired Bendelow away from the New York City Parks Department, and moved him to the firm’s headquarters in Chicago as its golf department manager. In this position, he traveled from coast to coast and into Canada laying out or remodeling club and municipal golf courses. He particularly advocated public golf courses and used every occasion to promote their development and use.

Please do not let this pristine, historic place, the largest green open space left in City Park with its valuable urban canopy and natural storm water mitigation system, be snatch away from us and from future generations just to install a utility, a drainage sump that could easily be located elsewhere where it would not destroy a cherished park or a beloved neighborhood.

Slow down and work with citizens to find better options.
[Name, LUN, in southern upstream end of the Montclair Basin] Thank you for your service on PRAB. I know this Board means well and loves all that our parks have to offer.

As I have documented elsewhere, this project would not exist BUT FOR the Partially Covered Lower alternative in the I70 EIS.

Pand storm drains in the Montclair basin are old, under capacity and need work. The City needs $1.5 BILLION to do its exhaustive list of work in 186 pages of projects. Why is the City putting the entire amount in available our wastewater enterprise fund ($26M) into this TBDP projects that is not even on Denver’s 2014 list?

This TBDP alternatives will wreak havoc on the HISTORIC Cole neighborhood, an area with homes dating back to 1860, that has been heavily impacted along with Globeville, Elyria/Swansea and northern Curtis Park by the deposit of heavy metals that impact soils and groundwater. And it will gift the State CDOT with detention capacity in a much loved city park that you have heard about tonight. These were the easiest targets for detention, and the exploration of other options for detention or other solutions that curtailed infill was cut short by the signing of the IGA between CDOT and Denver.

A little history.

1. A multi-agency team in late ’13 early ’14 began analysis of drainage issues created by I70’s Partially Covered Alternative. It included analysis of City Park. This was done without the involvement of this Board or the public;
2. This team (which included CDOT RTD UDFCD & CCD) recommended that Parks & Public Works form a Memorandum of Understanding, again without public comment at PRAB and without Council approval; [signed August 2014.]
3. An IGA was signed in July 2015 between Denver & CDOT, HTPE etc. that linked two drainage projects. Although the Outfall was discussed and pinpointed in Council meetings, but the impacts on Cole and City Park were not addressed. Council was told repeatedly that we would face Katrina like disasters if this IGA was not approved. Yet now it is widely admitted that the TBDP will not fix the flooding in the neighborhoods; that is down the line (and thanks to this project, much further down the line.)
4. The IGA benefited CDOT in two very important ways (a) it could get work on the Globeville Outfall prior to issuance of an EIS and issuance of an ROD; (b) enabled CDOT to do what it could not otherwise do - namely acquire land in Cole and utilize public parks in Denver for detention; (+) the rebuttal that Denver has many parks that also serve
5. I have raised these challenges in a letter to the Auditor and in Comments to the I-70 EIS.
6. The “process” followed did not evaluate publicly all other alternatives for detention and meeting MS4 requirements but began in Oct or Nov. 2015 with outreach about the TBDP/
7. Neither of these alternatives were in Denver’s 2014 SDMP (Storm Drainage Master Plan);
8. These two alternatives move to the back burner all the other projects set forth in Denver’s 2014 Plan;

The comments you have heard tonight cannot simply be “recorded” and ignored. If you have a question about what has been presented to you here tonight, please have the courtesy to ask us questions.

In closing, I ask that PRAB adopt my resolution or a similar resolution so that it may fulfill its mission to provide advice to Denver Parks based on what it has learned tonight.
as detention or flood protection, I understand that. But this is different in 2 ways: (1) it is going back in established park to the other uses (Ferrell Lake expansion didn’t remove uses) and it will be a major detention use. (2) The primary goal is to help CDOT meet its goal in terms of reduced flow so it can say the street is protected in a 100 year event.