Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 5:35 by President Keith Pryor, presiding and Mary McCoin, secretary.

Directors present
JT Allen, Jay April, Norma Brambila, Jolon Clark, Mary Ewing, Anne Green, Khadija Haynes, Mary McCoin, Keith Pryor, Jason Robinson, Leslie Twarogowski (VP), Shane Wright, Darrel Watson

Directors absent
James Coleman, Noel Copeland, Brian Elms, Florence Navarro, Bernie Sharp

Approval of Minutes
At 6:20 p.m., a quorum was established and on motion duly made (Watson), seconded (Twarogowski), and carried, the minutes of the meeting of February 14th, were approved as submitted. Allen and Haynes abstained.

Public Comments
Aaron Nagle, Executive Director, Skyline Soccer Association addressed the Board to request an April 1st start date for the spring soccer season (refer to letter hand-out). Apparently, there had been a delay in accessing Denver athletic fields due to drought maintenance issues and the Association had reason to believe the fields may not be accessible until after April 1st which Nagle advised would threaten the entire season. Mr. Nagle volunteered to be a part of the solution planning process and provided suggestions for Parks & Recreation staff in order to avoid delayed openings in the future. Parks Manager Lauri D. responded that the Athletic Fields would be open on April 1st as planned and that drought remediation efforts have been underway.

Dave Felice again thanked those advisory board members who voted against the de-designation of the Hentzell Natural Area/Hamden Heights Open Space, and expressed concern that the City Council isn't fully aware of the depth of the issue.

Manager’s Report
Lauri Dannemiller provided a brief update on the calendar for the Hentzell Park land swap issue, the Commercial Use Policy Timeline, the Communications Policy, the RAPP plan and City Loop. Dannemiller advised that the City Council Government and Finance committee passed out of committee the Hentzell Park de-designation and land swap on (4-1-1) to the Mayor-Council (19th). The issue will then go to First Reading at Full Council on March 26th and then Final Reading and Public Hearing on April 1st. The Manager encouraged those interested in speaking to sign up early for public hearing section.
Park Dedication Ordinances will be considered at City Council on the same days as above. (Refer to hand-out for specific park sites)

Re: the Commercial Use Policy, the Manager suggested Advisory Board members encourage stakeholders to attend the April 11th PRAB meeting. Park staff will also contact all steering committee participants to remind them to attend.

Re: City Loop – first public meeting March 20th at Bogey’s – City Park Golf Course. Three distinct groups working on design of the project—project team, stakeholders, public meeting participants.

Watson: How do we get our White Paper (re: budget) to Dept. in time to share with City Council? Dannemiller: Getting the paper to staff by June should be enough time.

Watson: How will Advisory Board members be kept up to date on current designation list?
Dannemiller: The list containing designations for first two round sis on the City Council web site.

Pryor: When will website be fully populated and live with policy plans and timelines?
Dannemiller: It went live this week, and can be found under the Advisory Board tab.

Pryor asked the Manager to clarify the acreage at Montbello where 5.5 acres are being counted in the acreage for Natural Areas. Is the elk home counted in that? How will it be designated?
Dannemiller: A building will be placed only on half an acre. The area will eventually get designation as Natural Area.

Pryor then asked the Board members whether they received the notification regarding the findings from the Ethics Committee review of a complaint concerning the Board review and discussion of the Hentzell de-designation issue. None other than Watson, Allen and Pryor had received the findings. Allen asked that all read the official finding and copies were handed out to all Board members at the meeting.

**Other Items**

**Bob Finch, Director of Natural Areas** presented and requested a Board ACTION ITEM on a proposal to charge a Denver Fee to operate Summit Lake and Echo Lake Parks (Refer to presentation handout). On Motion being made by Twarogowski and seconded by Pachner, the Board recommended the proposed new charge of a $5 fee at Summit Lake and Echo Lake Parks. Ewing and Wright abstained.

**Scott Rethlake, Director of Golf** presented the Golf Strategic Plan which included an outline of suggested Action Items from consulting firm, Golf Convergence and a committee consisting of the Manager, Deputy Manager, Director of Finance, Director of Golf, Director of Agronomy for Golf Division and Head Professional at City Park Golf Course. Substantial changes at City Park Golf Course were included in the recommendations. The committee will continue to evaluate the feasibility of action items and begin implementation. (Refer to hand-out)

**Board questions/comments:** Pryor asked how Golf is not currently an independent entity?
Director of Finance: It is still under City's rules as an enterprise fund.
April: Commended golf management for plan and improvements thus far.
Pachner: Noticed long ten year delays on CIPs. Plan seems safe and conservative. Would like to see department get creative and move CIPs forward.
Dannemiller: Pam Smith, lead agronomist, is looking into how we can conserve and improve playability at the same time.
Gilmore: Golf just hired marketing professional and is also leasing equipment more inexpensively.
Dir. Of Finance: new software system enabling more improvements.
Wright: Big picture question re use of land for golf versus use of natural areas.
Dannemiller: Golf provides recreational activity that's very affordable. It adds green space, tree canopy, storm water reservoirs, etc. Golf courses provide a lot of natural benefits to entire community.
Dir. Of Finance: No tax dollars support golf. 350000 rounds played/year. (9 or 18 holes)
Haynes: Golf courses are used for other uses than just playing golf.
Brambila: Why is so much being invested in golf courses instead of recreation centers as is needed in my community?
Dannemiller: Rec Centers are funded with other competing needs through the general fund. How they are funded is a legal issue, not policy issue.
Ewing: Would like sustainability solutions being discussed at golf committees. Also like to see acreage #s of open space vs golf courses.
Dannemiller: City made a huge investment in Rec Centers with free access for all of Denver's children.
Robinson: Still discussion about Harvard Gulch transition to open space?
Dannemiller: No. Harvard Gulch will remain a golf school/program site.

Erin Brown, Deputy Manager, Recreation provided a brief update on the status of MyDenver card roll-out to Denver school-age youth which grants free access to recreation centers. free rec centers for youth starts March 25th. 31st announcement at Wash Park. Mayor will attend. Kids will fill out one application that will provide library card and my denver rec center access.

Board questions/comments: McCoin: When can we get a sense of how many kids will take advantage of program? How soon can we get reports?
Brown: Reports will be available for each Rec Center by end of second quarter.
Robinson: Will staff consider healthier options in vending machines? He also asked about plans to instruct students on safe routes from school to rec centers-- Ellis to cook park, for example.
Brown: Rec. Centers will provide healthy snacks and will expand healthy snack sites.
Allen: Commends the new program and acknowledges the safe routes program. Said program presents an opportunity to partner with schools for linking to safe routes program.
Haynes: How do golf and golf activities intersect with Rec Centers (in terms of counting users)
Brown: Parks and DPS are considering ways to have card serve multiple purposes.
Pryor: Will charter and private schools will be included in promotion efforts.
Brown: yes.
Watson: Re: Denver Road Home--any update on use of rec centers as overflow sites? How successful was this?
Brown: St. Charles is 5th center being used for the program and is last center to be used in this winter emergency period.
Pryor recommends identifying the Rec Centers soon for next winter’s rotation list.
Watson: How will City/Parks plan for transportation costs?
Dannemiller: For all overflow plans that include Rec Centers, operational constraints are a factor. Aiming for minimal impact.
Pryor: There is a significant impact on districts 8 and 9. Would like Parks & Rec to allow for inconvenience to be shared among other districts.

**Board Discussion**
The Board reviewed findings of Ethics Committee into complaints concerning Allen and Dannemiller wherein there was found a minor violation which “does not appear to have been malicious but a more a function of the heat of the meeting” and discussed learning: An Advisory Board member having a conflict of interest on an issue requiring Board Action should recuse him/herself from voting and from answering questions related to the issue. (Please refer to letter from the Denver Board of Ethics dated March 1, 2013.) It was recommended that Board Retreat be used to discuss Board's purpose and procedural issues related to public comment, public hearing and action items, especially regarding 30-day delay after public hearings. (See minutes from 2012 meeting related to Admission-based events).
Haynes: Board Members need to represent our prescribed districts and not feel as though we cannot represent our own perspectives.
Pryor: The Board wants to acknowledge the work and passion of individuals who served on the board this past year and during the Hentzell discussion.

**Adjournment**
The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary McCoin

*(Signed Upon Approval at Next Month Mtg)*,

*(Recording)* Secretary