DRAFT MINUTES
OF THE OPEN MEETING OF THE
DENVER PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
September 12, 2013

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. (inclement weather a factor) by President Keith Pryor, presiding and Mary McCoin, secretary.

Directors present
Jay April, Noel Copeland, Mary Ewing, Anne Green, Mary McCoin, Marcus Pachner, Keith Pryor, Jason Robertson, Leslie Twarogowski, Darrel Watson, Shane Wright.

Directors absent
J.T. Allen, Norma Brambila, Jolon Clark, James Coleman, Khadija Haynes, Florence Navarro

Approval of Minutes
At 6:01 p.m., a quorum was established and on motion duly made (Watson), seconded (Twarogowski), and carried, the minutes of the August meeting, were approved as submitted. 

Abstentions: Mary Ewing, Mary McCoin, Shane Wright.

Public Comments
No general comments.

Manager’s Report
Lauri Dannemiller advised on five items: Refer to detailed handout.
1) Tours for DPRAB members: 9/28 (East District), 10/12 (Southwest), 10/19 (Northwest), 9/9 (Northeast). Board members please RSVP. All tours 9-12noon.
2) Improvements to Triangle Park – Parks is considering a community garden (in partnership with Denver Urban Gardens), to discourage drug and other problems at the park. The park is located on a site next to three homeless serving nonprofits- Rescue Mission, St. Francis Center, and Samaritan House. The park will be fenced in late Oct. for demolition and staff hopes to begin construction soon and open the garden in early spring. Sonny Lawson Park will be getting simultaneous improvements—i.e., new fitness zone and playground equipment.
3) Advisory Board member Jay April is resigning effective this Friday, 9.13.2013. April said he was moving out of District and could no longer represent it.
4) Dannemiller advised that the Denver Zoo is offering PRAB members an on-site tour to learn more about the Waste to Energy project. (see email from Kyle Burks.) The Zoo is required to obtain official clearance from Parks on use of land for project.
5) Upcoming public meetings: City Loop at City Park, Sat. Sept 21st at 7:30p.m. Parks will give a presentation on the new playground and play area; Cheesman Park Playground – end of Oct. Platte Farm Open Space – 9/24 @6:15pm, Laradon Hall.

Pryor thanked Park staff for finding grants for Triangle Park.
OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

POFA Policy revisions – Dannemiller reviewed the changes made to the policy since the City Council committee in July suggested more community input on policy and fees. (See handout: amended POFA policy and fee schedule). Dannemiller also suggested that the entire policy and number of permits could be reviewed on an annual basis.

Board questions: What was the rationale or process for establishing permit numbers (limits) at parks? (Copeland, McCoin, Watson)

The current policy shows the Tier 1 park Washington Park having only a maximum of one permit per season. Dannemiller says limit of 1 is only for non-turf use. Policy does not apply to athletic sports/leagues.

Green asked if there were any other kinds of permits we need to look at because of this new one to compare fee-wise? Dannemiller said permit fees for volleyball and picnics have long been established.

Board discussed potential additional revisions to the policy such as increasing available permits at Tier 1 parks, and adding Sonny Lawson park to list of permitted parks

Public Hearing– Revisions to the Private Outdoor Fee-Based Activity Policy

Speakers:
Neil Cestra - Colorado Fitness Association said 1) the use of a lottery system for permitting is a concern because the business won't have consistency from season to season; 2) limit of 25 is too small for groups. The CFA organization did develop a list of recommendations to share and also garnered 600 signatures on a petition against the policy.

Katie Fisher (INC)-read INC letter recommending against policy for allowing further commercialization of parks.

Cindy Johnstone (INC-& Friends and Neighbors of Wash Park) They are concerned with the policy revision specifically with no specific locations assigned to permitees. Does this mean no space is off-limits? Believes neighbors and community input has been eliminated from policy when it comes to determining permit locations.

No additional speakers.

Board Discussion following Public Hearing

Watson asked Dannemiller: Did staff go on site to parks to determine permit numbers? How were they determined? Was there another communication or meeting with stakeholder group? Dannemiller replied the information was distributed prior to this meeting, to INC, and posted to the Parks web site.

Ewing expressed concern about park rangers doing permit enforcement and asked how many rangers were employed and would be involved in enforcement.

Dannemiller replied there are 5 full time park rangers and additional 15 in summer, and added she thought self-policing by groups would occur.

Pryor asked how community can provide input on policy and permits at their parks? Dannemiller said staff will add-in a regular review and solicit community input on policy.

Robertson asked how park users will know where permitted business is located? Dannemiller said that is not really an issue since permitted business cannot dislocate a park user using the space.
Pachner asked regarding the 25 and over size class if there were a philosophy to the 25 limit? Or is there discretion to increase size limit? Dannemiller said she is open to evaluating and that staff can look at impact of large yoga class for example.

Elms acknowledged and thanked Lauri, and staff: Scott, Fred and Dody for listening to public and city council feedback and input on the policy. Said he participates in many fitness groups in the parks and would like to see all parks included.

Dannemiller said the fees portion was revisited for several reasons and the compromise was necessary. Having some fees is better than none or there being so much controversy, that the regulation and fees couldn't be imposed.

By show of hands, Board agreed to move forward with vote after adding five friendly amendments to the policy: 1) An annual review of policy; 2) Addition of Sonny Lawson to list of parks 3) Clarification to policy language re: group size required to obtain permit. 1-5 versus 6-25 clarification that 1-5 does not affect list of permits issued for 6-25 on page 2; 4) Re-write clarification on 50% use of trail by permitted groups, 5) Increase in number of permits for non-turf to 3 available permits at Tier 1 parks, and increase the number of non-turf use permits to 2 at Tier 2 parks.

**BOARD ACTION – POFA Policy (Revised)**

Motion: Brian elms moved that the POFA policy be approved as provided with friendly amendments as read by Pryor. (Pryor read above five amendments)

Twarogowski seconds.

Discussion-Wright and Pachner thanked staff for time and effort. April disagrees with increasing number of permits

Vote: 11 ayes

Opposed: 2 nays - Ewing and April

*Motion Passes. Revised policy is recommended to move forward with amendments.*

**BOARD ACTION – POFA Fees**

Motion: Pachner moved the Board accept fees as presented in revised proposal by staff.

April seconds.

Vote: 12 ayes.

Opposed: 1 nay. Ewing.

*Motion Passes. Revised Fees are approved to move forward to City Council.*

The Board President Pryor officially closed the Public Hearing on this matter.

**OTHER ITEMS**

Budget Update:

Dannemiller stood in for Weiss to give the 2014 budget update presentation. Dannemiller said the Dept fared very well in budget process.

Pryor asked how much the Parks&Rec budget increased by percent-wise?

Dannemiller said that the 2a revenues account for the greatest increase and efficiencies
**Board Announcements:**
Pryor said that Board elections for president, vice-president and secretary will be on the agenda for October. He requests Board members forward nominees to him. Florence Navarro will spearhead the nominating committee.

Pryor thanked Jay April for his service to the Board and serving on the Economics Committee. His replacement will need to be identified soon.

**Adjournment**
The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:01 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**
Mary McCoin

(Signed Upon Approval at Next Month Mtg), (Recording) Secretary