MINUTES OF THE OPEN MEETING OF THE DENVER PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD January 9th, 2014

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m. by Leslie Twarogowski, president.

Directors present
Norma Brambila, Jolon Clark, Noel Copeland, Andrew Doll, Brian Elms, Anne Green, Sarah Hall, Khadija Haynes, Mary McCoin, Marcus Pachner, Keith Pryor, Jason Robinson, Leslie Twarogowski, Shane Wright.

Directors absent
J.T. Allen, Sean Bradley, Bernie Sharp

Approval of Minutes
At 5:37 p.m., a quorum was established and on motion duly made (Pachner), seconded (Elms), and carried, the minutes of the December meeting, were approved as submitted. No Abstentions.

Twarogowski welcomed new board members: Andrew Doll, representing Judy Montero, District 9, (replacing Jay April), Sarah Hall, representing Jeanne Robb, District 10, (replacing Mary Ewing), Jack Paterson, representing Deborah Ortega, At-Large (replacing Darrell Watson) and Sean Bradley (not present), representing Chris Herndon, District 11 (replacing James Coleman).

Public Comments
Johnine Pietroski (involved with dance groups and lessons at Cheesman Park) recommended to the Board that the bathroom facilities be reopened near the pavilion. She also suggested that Parks consider installing an outdoor ballroom at one of the parks, and asked to be contacted about being involved in promoting dance in the parks.

Bart Berger (Denver Mountain Parks Foundation) reminded the Board that the Game Plan had only a few pages dedicated to Denver Mountain Parks. So a Master Plan for the Mtn Parks was created with Tina Bishop, Landscape Architect. Barger recommended a citizen advocate representing the Mountain Parks be on the Advisory Board. He suggested that one of the Mayor’s five appointees be designated to represent the Mtn. Parks.

Manager’s Report
Dannemiller first thanked long-time Advisory Board members, Mary Ewing for her many years of passionate and dedicated service on the Board, and also again recognized the contributions of Darrell Watson, Jay April, and James Coleman who resigned from the Board in recent months.

Dannemiller’s report included brief updates on the following projects/activities:
- Opening of Ruby Hill Railyard (for snow sledding, boarding, etc.) on Jan 15
- City Loop project- Dannemiller said fundraising is on hold as they are bringing in landscape architect Tina Bishop, and requesting further RNO input in response to opposition about some design elements
- New Central Denver Recreation Center Press Conference with Mayor and Councilpersons to share plans for new Rec Center at Josephine and Colfax
-Upcoming public meetings: Re: construction of Barnum Park Jan 14, Grassmere Lake plantings at Wash Park (Feb TBD)

**Board Comments/Questions:**
Pryor advised revisiting the Communication Policy specifically regarding Rec Centers. Pryor also echoed Dannemiller’s thanks to Mary Ewing for her many years of dedicated service, and voiced strong support for the City Loop project with the proposed design and new activity areas. Haynes asked if there will be a new public comment period or meetings for City Loop? Dannemiller responded yes and that Parks wants to have more comments about revised designs. Haynes said she has heard from the Ministerial Committee that they are concerned about the potential encroachment on the MLK statue at City Park with new design. Clark commended staff on Ruby Hill Rail Yard snowboarding experience and opportunity for youth. Wright asked how Parks will evaluate maintenance issues (costs and priorities) in City Park? Elms voiced strong support of City Park's City Loop project. Would love to see major enhancements to park so it will be more activated.

**Agenda Items**

**Special Events and Permits- (SEAP), Dody Erickson**
Erickson advised that the City has placed a cap on new events--major runs and bike races in city. The SEAP committee includes Advisory Board members Navarro and Wright. Three stakeholder meetings held so far covered topics such as: capacity, parking, sound issues, routes, permitting process, compliance with rules and ordinances, etc. Erickson said stakeholders have been very engaged and very respectful of differing opinions. Four community meetings will be held in February. Pryor asked how long cap will be in place? Erickson said cap will be in place for all of 2014

**Emerald Ash Borer Presentation - Rob Davis, City Forester (Refer to handout)**
Denver has had three tree canopy assessments done. 2.2 million trees. Asset value of $2.9B $122 million annual benefit from property value and ecosystem services

Next steps:
1- do inventory of all ash trees. Some will become trap trees. Developing a monitoring and survey program.
2-education & outreach to administration, council, neighborhood organizations, forecast budget impacts, wood utilization and waste disposal sites
3-public tree care operations, private trees, weighing treatment vs removal

Board responded with questions re: communications strategy, how pest threat compares to black Walnut tree pest, costs to private owner to treat, and status of visual assessment in Denver?
David responded so far only visual (low grade) assessment. City will begin proactive sampling immediately. Doll asked whether pesticides are specific or broad-based? Davis said pesticides will not harm bees and depends on type used and applicator. City goal will be to make sure the approach employs the most responsible use of pesticides. How does temperature impact bug? Davis said really cold weather will help. -10 and colder. There will be a focus on EAB outreach and education. Copeland asked whether there should be a moratorium on sale or planting of trees? Davis said Denver stopped planting Ash 10 years ago. State is focusing on quarantine areas, not everywhere. Copeland wondered if retailers have public obligation to not sell trees.

Other Board Questions/Comments:
Pryor asked whether any Recreation center is housing homeless this winter? Dannemiller said no, not this year. Pryor said the dance group at Cheesman Park is phenomenal. City of Chicago's Millennial Park has the outdoor ballroom. It's a very large spectator sport and adequate seating area should be provided.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:12 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Mary McCoin (Signed Upon Approval at Next Month Mtg), (Recording) Secretary