Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by President Leslie Twarogowski, president.

Directors present
J.T. Allen, Sean Bradley, Norma Brambila, Jolon Clark, Noel Copeland, Andrew Doll, Brian Elms, Anne Green, Sarah Hal, Mary McCoin, Florence Navarro, Marcus Pachner, Keith Pryor, Jason Robinson, Bernie Sharp, Leslie Twarogowski, Shane Wright.

Directors absent
Khadija Haynes

Approval of Minutes
At 5:34 p.m., a quorum was established and on motion duly made (Pryor), seconded (Hall), and carried, the minutes of the March meeting, were approved as submitted.
Abstentions: Shane Wright, Bernie Sharp.

Public Comments (General)
Katie Fisher—encouraged Parks staff to involve INC in further City Loop planning.
Johnine Pietroski—with the Denver dance community said her group will be renting the pavilion at Cheesman Park again this summer. They will offer free Argentine tango lessons followed by open dancing beginning at 5pm on May 25th. Pietroski said the park needs operating bathrooms and water fountains. Bradley asked about fees to join in regular lessons. Pietroski said they do charge for some lessons since dance group must pay for park usage including security.

Manager’s Report
Dannemiller presented updates on several recent key initiatives (refer to hand-out):
   1) City loop—The project will not move forward at City Park after community stakeholder meetings were held and sufficient input gathered. However, the department will consider other sites for the project and will use the consultants’ previous work on the project to help with planning and implementation efforts at new site.
   2) New Freedom park name will proceed to City Council’s LUTI committee with the best opportunity for community input being 4/29.
   3) Central Denver Rec Center surveys being conducted through 4/14. Most potential user groups are being surveyed.

Pryor asked about fountains. Gilmore said all working fountains will be up and running this spring.
**Agenda Items:**

1. **Proposed Alcohol Ban at Washington Park**
   Dannemiller asked CM Nevitt to provide an introduction on the issue for the Board. Wright—what was impetus for sending letter to Lauri? Nevitt—it's been percolating for years. My constituents have pressed me to do something about the increased drunk and disorderly issues. Constituents at the end of their rope.
   Twarogowski—thanked attendees for polite discourse at B'hai public meeting.
   Dannemiller comments—had one meeting at INC, then B'hai Center, before PRAB. Said she's still in listening mode. Said only 3.2 beer has been allowed. Issue is excessive drinking, parking problems, etc.
   Parks response: rangers can now issue citations with fines attached. $100 and up. Trying to be responsive to needs of community within budget limitations. 23 port-a-lets were installed and emptied twice/day. Parks did go over-budget on maintenance across all parks. Money spent at Wash Park won’t get to other parks (240).
   Issued 1290 warnings (not fines).
   Can have bathrooms open longer, and add more plumbed bathrooms, limit volleyball, increase rangers, increase police patrol.
   Typical play at Wash Park on weekend is drop-in, spontaneous play. Last year a FB event planned for Wash Park would have involved 500 people. An event of that size needs to be permitted.

**Public comments (2 minutes each):**

1. Sarah Spivey—said she lives in Nevitt’s District. She initiated the petition opposing the ban and said the petition had 12,000. signatures. 6,000 at least are valid signatures. Recommends creative solutions to alcohol issues. Fundraisers, license/permit checks, wrist bands, and unloading zones so rangers could do cooler checks at single spot. Spivey said incorporating the public’s ideas in the process will make mitigation attempts more successful.

2. Mary Smith—said she feels Dannemiller and Nevitt misrepresented the city’s involvement and investment in group sports activity and said the City runs the 2nd largest for-profit sports league in Denver, “City-wide Sports”. Smith said she got bids on port-a-potties that are much cheaper than city's current contract. Said that Wash Park is in District 6 which is Councilman Brown’s District and that he was not part of the proposed alcohol ban planning process.

3. Nick Lovalo—the problems mentioned cannot be directly linked to regular alcohol, so ban is not a solution. Thought this would be a City Council issue and not a unilateral decision by the Parks Manager. Said the problem is overcrowding and not alcohol.

4. Rob Vivienne—said he bought his house in Wash Park 12 years ago. Said he was impressed with civil community meeting. Thinks alcohol being used as scapegoat. Lack of restroom facilities is a problem. Agrees parking is also a problem. Believes the people
most impacted are on Corona street. Can law enforcement be added to patrol the area?

5. Karl Heitz- said this is a capacity issue. Alcohol ban is not a good solution. Recommends involving more stakeholders in problem-solving. Lives in Nevitt's district.

6. Neil J.- said he loves the park and neighborhood and said alcohol is definitely being used as scapegoat. Wants to be part of solution. Implementing a ban is a bad idea.

7. Patrick Schwab-said he loves living in CO and the way community comes together to solve problems. Thinks people complaining about beer are not acting in best interest of community. Both sides have valid points, but wants real solutions and not quick fixes.

8. Don V.-Lives in Nevitt's district. Said he was not aware there was a problem. Disagrees with Nevitt's implication that everyone in his district wants the ban. Said Dannemiller’s comments about lack of resources is not accurate. Need to talk to folks involved. Don't implement nuclear option when simpler, more effective solutions can be implemented.

9. Jim Dietrich-lives in Wash Park. Was not aware there was a problem. Has never seen a fight, or people defecating near park. Was shocked to hear there is chaos and violence in the park. Is concerned about the process and that more people haven't been involved in planning.

10. Lydia Rapp-represents national sports league organization. Believes parks are overpopulated and that Parks does not have adequate resources to service the users. Volleyball of the Rockies said 4,000 people have signed up. Said permitted organizations can and should pay more to help Parks better manage users’ needs.

11. Katie Fisher- thanked Board for attending last night’s meeting. Recommends more engagement with community so more people and ideas are brought forward.

12. Dave Felice- this is a knee-jerk reaction to a problem. Let the many engaged stakeholders continue their brain-storming to figure it out before recommendations for changes in policies are brought in front of Board.

13. Farrah Faracas-ideas include adding shuttle transportation and recruiting volunteers for clean-up and other stewardship activities. Why not work through VOC which is housed at Wash Park?

Twarogowski asked McCain to advise the Board of Councilman Brown’s position on the proposed ban given that Washington Park is entirely in his District. McCain read from Charlie Brown's letter which is being sent to Dannemiller, CM Nevitt, District 3 Police Commander Montoya, and others. McCain said CM Brown empathized with the problems west Wash Park residents are experiencing and recommended a collaborative approach to creative problem-solving. Some of his initial recommendations include: portable message boards strategically placed around park—especially the west side; using mounted patrol to increase visibility of law enforcement on problem days; a “detox”
station; implementing and disseminating a “Wanted for Lewd Behavior” ad that features photos of offenders; issuing fines instead of citations and more frequent servicing of port-a-lets.

Clark thanked attendees at last night's meeting and said he appreciated input from all. Said it was a good process. A common theme that came out at meeting was "This is my park". Clark said he observed a sense of desperation in people who reside near the park for the ban and reviewed many of the suggestions offered at the public meeting. Twarogowski asked the Board for initial thoughts on the proposal without calling for a formal vote.

Robertson-opposes ban.
Sharp--opposes ban
Navarro-recommends a collaborative process that represents collective thoughts of stakeholders.
Green agrees with Navarro. Doesn't want to quash spirit of parks. Said it is part of ethos of city.
Pachner said it's obvious there's a problem. Said Nevitt was right to bring issue forward. The threat of ban should be very realistic. We have to be proactive on these kinds of issues. We need solutions that marshall these kinds of resources. Pachner recommends having a small window to find different alternative, but then the City needs to implement steps.
Allen said it’s good to see passion on these issues. Denver will be successful if we can maintain this passion. Allen said South High parking lot and B-cycle options are helpful assets for Wash Park users. Doesn't have enough data to recommend yes or no. Believes the public are on notice because of recent media and thinks some self-policing will happen.
Bradley agrees there’s not enough data now to make a recommendation. Does want to ask questions of speakers.
Paterson (Ortega, at-Large). Wants to study issue and show deference to CMs whose districts are impacted by proposed alcohol ban. Said many good ideas were put forward and should be considered.
Pryor thanked attendees for coming out. Asked about bathroom facilities and why there aren't more in all Districts. City-wide issue not being addressed. Needs a task force. Pryor said Kentwood Properties decided not to use the Boathouse for upcoming event because of proposed ban. Pryor said Parks will miss the income and city will miss economic benefit from hosting the event. Said Parks needs more consistent and clear messaging, and suggested they hire a towing company to deal with illegal parking. He said people are ingenious about using and hiding alcohol. Likes the suggestion of having offenders perform community service in park. He suggests limiting use in areas showing excessive wear and tear. Recommends moving forward with creative solutions before implementing alcohol ban. More park use is a good thing. A restriction like the complete alcohol ban would decrease usage and "re-set" negatively.
Hall (District 10) said she’s struck by how this sounds like an urban problem, not a park problem. Lives in the city and has had similar experiences as residents in west Wash Park. She said there’s certainly a need more bathrooms, etc., but we need to understand these are high-density, urban problems. Very hard to see alcohol is a problem when only
1 per cent of users are problematic. If the alcohol is not a problem, that isn't the dragon to slay. This is not the way to go about encouraging use of other parks in city. Norma Brambila- very proud of speakers tonight. Doesn't believe alcohol is the problem. Lives in small community but they have same issues. Suggests more restrooms and different ways of solving problems.
Noel Copeland- representing Susan Shepherd in District 1. Disagrees with people who think the ban was well-developed plan and should be used as a hammer for enforcement to address public safety issues. Does not support the ban.
Brian Elms- Mayoral appointee. Says Dannemiller and CM have difficult jobs and appreciates what they have to do. Lives in urban area and has experienced challenges of living in the city. Last year 80% of 911 calls involved alcohol. Said when people feel ownership they get involved and care about taking care of their city and parks. Not a fan of punitive action. Thinks people respond better to positive actions.

Twarogowski (District 5) said she appreciates Nevitt trying to solve problem. Said she doesn't believe an alcohol ban has enough data warranting. Agrees this is a density problem and not an alcohol problem. Wants to consider other solutions, wrist-bands, DUI checkpoints, first.

At 7:40 p.m. the discussion was concluded.

**Central Denver Recreation Center** (refer to presentation handout)
Erin Brown reviewed the survey and other public outreach activities to date. She said 30% of respondents already use recreation centers.

Pryor asked if it were possible to get a computer for survey at rec centers? Navarro agreed about need for computers on site since a lot of people don't have them at home. Green asked what is a good response for surveys? Brown said they'd like to get about 4,000 surveys. Green asked what does a senior area look like? (Reference to a dedicated senior room in presentation). Brown said it's usually flexible classroom space.
Dannemiller said a trend now is not to create senior areas because seniors are more active than in the past. Hall said it's interesting to hear from people not currently using rec centers and asked why Bromwell wasn't included in survey. Brown said they will add the site as a survey location.

**Board Announcements:**
Clark said there is a groundbreaking at South Platte River project on 4/26 at 10 a.m.

**Adjournment**
Twarogowski adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

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