

Meeting Minutes
DENVER PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
January 12, 2022 – 5:30- 7:30 pm
Virtual Meeting: Via Zoom Webinar

PRAB Meeting Norms

Be respectful and presume positive intentions.
Seek first to understand and then to be understood.
Stay focused on topics at hand.
Allow space for all to have a voice.
Listen without judgement.
Live our values of equity and inclusion.

Board Members In attendance:

Fran Coleman, Lee Rains Thomas, Frank Rowe, Meredith Levy, Lynne Mason, Amy Razzaque, Andre McGregor, Angela Garcia, Molly McKinley, Jack Paterson, Chandi Aldena, Marlene De La Rosa, Florence Navarro, Deana Perlmutter, Trena Marsal

Absent: Pam Jiner

CALL TO ORDER

Fran calls meeting to order at 5:35

Fran reads norms, will start taking turns each month reading the norms.

Lee takes roll call.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Approve November 2021 Minutes

Frank makes motion to approve minutes with spelling corrections. Jack seconds.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comments

PRAB COMMITTEE REPORTS

PRAB members shared Goal for PRAB in 2022:

Help develop leadership opportunities (Florence)

Assist with orientation, FAQ, welcoming (Angela)

Connect PRAB and Parks with DPS- expand services to more students (Trena)

Elevate volunteer opportunities and identify meaningful projects (Meredith)

Elevate/ improve technology- create an app, make info easy to access (Andre)

Push out more surveys, take the lead (Frank)

Improve systems and structures, gather feedback from PRAB, adjust, connect better with youth (Lee)

Connect with youth and help the outdoor adventure plan come to life (Marlene)

Opportunities for connecting with youth, connecting with community (Chandi)

Land acquisition advocacy (Lynne)

Shift to being more proactive, recommendations to policy (Molly)

More engagement with community outreach, volunteer more, DPS/ PRAB partnership (Deana)
Get out to explore more parks in Denver, Systematize and ground in equity and the Gameplan (Amy)
Learn more about what city is doing with key sustainability areas, consider parks impact (Jack)
Connect with each PRAB member to learn about each area, get to know interests, listen (Fran)

Executive Committee:

*Attachments: committees, monthly meeting schedule

Discussion on committee make up and request to balance the committees.

Will begin to use topic tracker at Chair meeting each month to keep track of important issues that come up. The chairperson group will vet topics and determine what goes on the tracker each month. All PRAB will have access to view the tracker. Will send link out after the chairperson meeting. Public will also have the ability to see what is on the tracker (still need to work out the details of where this will be).

Planning, Design, Funding, Accessibility- no updates

Operations, Maintenance, Budget- Begin gathering information for white paper recommendations

Frank- Discussed first public comment through google form-

Inquiry about Madame CJ Walker Park and George Morrison Park- from Whittier, followed up with good news that interpretive signs were repaired and other repairs are in the works. Seems like a good process for the public to submit a comment and get connected with the right staff.

Amy- check email from Amy, beginning to seek feedback on what to include in the recommendations and is working to push up the timeline to provide recommendations earlier for the department.

Seeking feedback from all PRAB- Consider equity index, Gameplan, BLM solidarity statement, consult with communities to gather feedback, connect with city council staff. Fill out survey and share ideas. Would like feedback before next PRAB meeting. Will leave survey open and glad to have a meeting opportunity.

*See email from Amy

Happy- Will be helpful to have an accelerated timeline. Gordon would like to have feedback and ideas around the capitol budget.

Recreation- push for new memberships, over 7,000 memberships in the month of November, 1.2-million-dollar revenue from that month. Fully functional rec centers, fully staffed, still hard to get life guards, some ongoing staffing issues with covid. Now offer virtual programming in every rec center.

Sustainability and Resiliency- no updates

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **Sloan's Lake Boxing Club** - DPR has sent a letter to Sloan's Lake Boxing Club informing them that DPR will not be renewing their contract when the current contract expires on May 31st, 2022. Due the approval of the voters for the 2021 RISE GO Bond funding, there is significant funding to implement renovations and improvements to Sloan's Lake Park. The renovations of the Sloan's Lake Boat House to create a community gathering space for community use that is highlighted in the 2002 Sloan's Lake Master Plan. The RISE GO Bond approval will allow DPR to move forward with these renovations. To start these renovations the current DPR satellite maintenance office that is housed in the Boat House will need to vacate the space. They will move to the west side of the park and occupy the Sloan's Lake Gun Club Building once the Boxing

Club vacates the space. There is also funding in the RISE GO Bond to facilitate the creation of this new satellite maintenance facility in NW Denver.

- **Urban Wildfires** - DPR has started discussions about fire mitigation efforts in Denver for areas of Open Spaces and Parks that are adjacent to homes. We are working on establishing consistent standards of maintenance and operations in these areas that will help maintain these areas in a manner that promotes healthy and thriving landscapes but also diminishes the threat of wildfires.
- **PRAB Mayoral Appointments** - We are seeking two new Mayoral appointees to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB). Marla Rodriguez who served as the Chair for the past year and a half has stepped down along with Ramsey Harris who was appointed a year ago but was experiencing scheduling challenges with the PRAB meetings. We are still seeking applicants that bring a recreation perspective since we have lost two members recently that had that focus, Ramsey, and Audrey Carrillo, who was Councilwoman Sandoval's representative. We will be working with the Mayor's Boards and Commissions Director to get these vacancies filled as soon as possible.
- **Staffing Issues** – We have made significant headway in filling open positions and getting new staff onboarded in the last two months, but we continue to have staffing issues related to COVID with absences due to exposures, positive tests and illness. It hasn't had a significant impact on service levels or hours yet, but that may occur if these trends remain.
- **Park Hill Golf Course** – The second phase of the community stakeholder process will kick off later this month with many of the Steering Committee members continuing, but new members will be joining as vacancies are identified. The work, with outside facilitation, will focus on a small area planning which includes initial plan elements for parks and open space for the site. Many people are confused about the impact of the recent ballot initiative relating to easements that passed in November on this process. That measure requires that any changes to an existing easement must be voter approved. If the PH stakeholder planning process results in a recommendation to change the current easement, those changes must first go to the City Council and the Council would then decide whether to place the proposed changes on the ballot for voter approval.

2022 Priorities and Goals – Divisions have begun the process of identifying priorities and goals for 2022 which we will share with PRAB hopefully by the February meeting. Those priorities include updating the 3-year action plan under the Game Plan and Mark Bernstein and his team will be working with the PRAB Planning Committee on that. 2023 Budget planning will also begin soon and early PRAB engagement will be welcome.

OTHER ITEMS

Board Announcements

Lynne- (Dist. 6) Bonnie Brae neighborhood association- advocating for new turf, sidewalks and benches to Circle Park. Wash Park- Complaints of off leash dogs chasing wildlife and bothering the residents. Wash Park concerns about walking lane space.

Meredith- maybe we can check in with staff on the dog issue.

Dist. 5- (Meredith) Mayor's youth commission from environmental equity committee. Want to explore opportunities for youth to participate on a board like this. The youth commission is already part of the outdoor adventure planning team.

Happy- Good group to connect with. Consider if we could use an existing mayoral vacancy on PRAB for the Mayor's Youth Commission.

Question about artificial turf from Meredith. Concerned about a chemical that is part of the turf. Will forward email from constituent to staff for follow up.

ADJOURNMENT