

Meeting Minutes  
**DENVER PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**  
**February 9, 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, Pam Jiner, Jack Paterson, Chandi Aldena, Marlene De La Rosa, Florence Navarro, Trena Marsal

Absent: Deana Perlmutter

**CALL TO ORDER**

Fran Coleman calls meeting to order at 5:32

Fran calls on Frank to read norms. Will take turns each month. Lee Rains Thomas takes roll call.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Approve January 2022 Minutes

Florence makes motion to approve minutes. Molly seconds. Minutes are approved unanimously

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

General Public Comment

- 1.) Danny Katz – Advocate for Winter Sports to be allowed on golf courses. Area has an awesome sledding hill, but not open to sledding. Willis Case could be a more welcoming place in the Winter when there is no golf. Sledding, cross-country skiing. Opportunity to create community. <https://denverite.com/2022/01/31/so-why-cant-you-cross-country-ski-on-denvers-golf-courses/>
- 2.) Jenna Farley- Advocate for sledding at Willis Case. Would like to re-open some of the areas of Willis Case for sledding. As recently as a few years ago, sledding was allowed. An opportunity for community building.
- 3.) Peter Foley- Advocate for sledding at Willis Case. Would like to see sledding be allowed.
- 4.) Matt Plavnick- Advocate for sledding at Willis Case. Would like to know what can be done to change this. Neighborhood kids want to be able to sled there.
- 5.) Joshua Klein- Advocate to allow sledding at Willis Case Sledding
- 6.) Dart Winkler- Advocate for winter activities on golf courses, open to sledding when the golf course cannot be used for golf. Snowshoeing, sledding, cross country skiing. Would like to open a dialogue about how to make this happen.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Quarterly Acquisition Update

DPR staff: Luke McKay/Kathy LeVeque

\* Link to quarterly acquisition update is provided below:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/7187ecf386f24d9691e3ca32781a7c71>

### Outdoor Adventure/Alternative Sports Master Plan Update

DPR staff: Stacie West, Meredith Wenskowski, Molly Laphier, Leslie Pickard, and Darrel Watson of the Trust Board

\* Link to Outdoor Adventure/Alternative Sports Master Plan is provided below:

<https://www.denvergov.org/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Agencies-Departments-Offices-Directory/Parks-Recreation/Planning-Community-Engagement/Park-Facility-Projects/Outdoor-Adventures-and-Alternative-Sports-Master-Plan>

### Board discussion (Outdoor Adventure Plan)

- Mountain parks have trouble getting people to utilize the parks already. How can we help connect people to the services and opportunities in mountain parks?
- Need to find out people's preferred ways of communication, use technology.
- Advocating for an app to ease with sign up, reminders, etc.
- Questions about numbers of surveys from diverse groups.
- Wondering about how to make sure we have access to outdoor hubs across the city.
- Transportation is a key issue for access to mountain parks.
- What other efforts were made to reach more youth? Incentives for youth to participate?
- Demonstrations and learning at community rec centers for kids to learn some basics. We can get parents interested when kids get excited.
- Are we connecting with schools? Focus on the youth.
- Youth commission- opportunity to reach more youth through their connections.

### **PRAB COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### Planning, Design, Funding, Accessibility: Meredith Levy, met 1/18

Discussed themes- budget advocacy for planning and design, review acquisition, increase engagement with master plans, look for ways for PRAB to support master plans. Want to work on finding gaps and providing solutions for inclusive play. Pam Jiner will be the new chairperson.

#### Operations, Maintenance, Budget: Frank Rowe 1/19

Focus has been gathering input for budget recommendations for DPR budget. Capital projects are defined by the aspects that can't be changed (fixed). Hope to have input from all PRAB members. Will take information and begin to sort through it. Need more responses!  
Next meeting Feb 16 at 5:00 p.m.

#### Recreation: Marlene DeLaRosa Met 1/20

Outdoor adventure plan has been a focus.

#### Sustainability and Resiliency: Lee, Met 1/22

Will take turns facilitating and being chair of the committee between members.  
January/February- Lee, March/ April- Deana Perlmutter, May/June- Jack Paterson

Discussed some areas to focus on at committee.

- Health of waterways and lakes

- Wildlife management update
- Update on sustainability objectives within DPR and city efforts

Denver Digs Trees- sign up for low-cost trees by 2/15

<https://theparkpeople.org/what-we-do/denver-digs-trees>

## **Executive Director PRAB Report February 9, 2022**

**Urban Forestry Roundtable** – Those PRAB members that attended the Urban Forestry Roundtable last week will agree, I hope, that it was an incredibly engaging and informative event. Several City Council members attended, and we heard from Councilman Clarke and Councilwoman Torres who shared their personal stories and perspectives. Lots of partners attended and we had presentations from several cities that shared best practices around tree planting, care, and maintenance, addressing climate issues, identifying tree species and addressing development issues both in the public-right-of way and on private property. The second of these two events will take place tomorrow.

**Mask Mandate** – The City has officially lifted the mask mandate for indoor spaces. In office and maintenance shop spaces, employees are free to take off their masks except for those employees that are covered by vaccine exemptions. The new order also includes recreation centers where both employees and patrons are no longer required to wear masks, except for employees involved in transporting participants in our small activity vans.

**Nordic Activities on Golf Courses** – We have heard from a number of residents recently particularly from two neighborhoods, Park Hill, and NW Denver, regarding their concerns about not being able to use golf courses for various winter sports activities – sledding, cross country skiing and snow shoeing. I am sure that PRAB members have also heard from many of these residents. We have engaged with several of these individuals and have committed to exploring opportunities for allowing these activities in certain facilities. We have started with an internal review and analysis of the data and information that will be needed to have the broader conversation with the community. As all of you know, we have for several months already been considering, through the Outdoor Adventure Master Plan process, access, and opportunities to increase winter outdoor activities, so the issues that these residents have raised are very timely. The focus of this group’s work has been primarily focused on increasing these activities in our parks, especially our regional parks. We are open, however, to studying and having a conversation about how, where and under what conditions some of our golf course facilities might be available for certain winter sports. We do that while keeping in mind the special needs of managing and maintaining the turf on golf courses which is very different than what most of us experience and understand about the grass in other parks facilities and in our own yards. It is our intent to address these specific concerns on a long-term basis within the Outdoor Adventure planning process, but also to determine whether there are limited shorter term opportunities as well. Of course, we expect that PRAB will be engaged through the appropriate committee/s.

**Governor’s Park Reopening/Quality Hill Dog Park** – As you may recall, Governor’s Park was closed a few months ago due to severe safety concerns and damage to the park especially near the children’s playground area. We have used this time to evaluate the measures that can be taken to improve safety in the park and plan for park improvements and restoration. Also, in that same neighborhood, we are working on the implementation of the long-awaited dog park in the Quality Hill Park. We have continued to engage with the community that has been working on the proposal for that dog park for

the last few years. We will be starting with a pop-up approach before settling on permanent design and construction of the facility.

**OTHER ITEMS**

Board Announcements

Chandi Aldena - Park Hill Golf course committee is continuing and will still be on the board. (Also, Andre McGregor)

Last meeting dealt with park land, working from a Parks first approach. Wide range of uses were proposed. Working with DIG studio.

Link to current information from the city for Park Hill Golf Course:

<https://denvergov.org/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Agencies-Departments-Offices-Directory/Community-Planning-and-Development/Plans-in-Progress/Park-Hill-Golf-Course>

Pam- Has been out visiting parks all over the city. Encourages all PRAB to visit all parks in their district.

Lee- Moving S & R committee to 2/11.

Florence Navarro / Meredith Levy- Youth Commission wants to be involved. Continue to develop relationship.

Andre- Meeting with Gordon from DPR was very informative. Digging into how to make the neighborhood equity index be deeper, using assets.

**ADJOURNMENT**