

Meeting Minutes
DENVER PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
March 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

Florence Navarro calls the meeting to order at 5:33.

Florence read norms. Will take turns each month. Lee Rains Thomas takes roll call.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Approve February 2022 Minutes

Fran makes motion to approve minutes. Frank seconds. Minutes are approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Patrick Murphy- Has seen the plan for Sloan's Lake to keep cars off roads permanently. Would like to see the installation of bollards or swing gates as identified in plan. Cars have been driving there because current barricades can be moved. Need a more permanent solution.

PRESENTATIONS:

Quarterly Mountain Parks Update- Brad Eckert (DPR)

*Presentation Attached Separately

Support for mountain parks through capital funding has been important.

Many completed projects and many more in the works.

Planning improvements- Operations buildings, updated signage, Echo Lake study (UNC scientists studying), historical preservation, multi-use space development, considering accessibility and spaces for programming.

Historic preservation training-

Partners- Hisoricorp, Mountain Parks Foundation, Colorado Mountain Club

PRAB discussion-

Who is eligible Mile High Youth Corp?

People don't know about Denver Mountain Parks and how can we better connect?

Projects have come a long way, ideas for wide range of future uses.

Personal and professional growth ideas

Echo Lake- potential Mountain park hub

Mountain parks this summer- PRAB trip!

Federal highway administration, forest service, DPR has been working on road to Summit Lake reestablishing drainage routes, no new concerns have been brought forth.

Beaver Brook Trail- found easement deeds from 1917, now DPR owns 3 more miles of the trail through Jefferson County.

Budget Recommendations

Document link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EG0-FntdU1xZGC0nraPzWjYjEgJ5HC8HP5bMBRrXJ7RA/edit>

- Will become a PDF with live links to access some information
- Organized by key principles to align recommendations
- Reiterate priorities from last year
- Considered categories- community resources, community alignment, connection/ partnership

Discussion:

Equity index- would like to add to document

Lighting to cross parks included?

From S & R committee - Spending money on technology to clean lakes, oxygen into lakes,

Solar gardens initiative, add to assets, following energy codes within buildings

- Update with committee recommendations

Fran- Will consider updated version at chair meeting on 3/24.

PRAB COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Lee shared google tracker. Will use document to track issues that come to PRAB and note resolutions. Will update after PRAB meetings, chairperson meeting and as new issues arise.

Operations, Maintenance, Budget- Thanks for all the input for the budget recommendations.

Special projects manager will come to next meeting.

Link: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/11rMGhwMijl1hEgMaEYqMo9B-37qtW88vHA6wppPlo8/edit>

Recreation-

Ruby Hill Rail Yard is open, lots of work. Make snow and provide gear and learning.

Westwood rec center is in planning stages and will have a community meeting

Outdoor adventure plan- Survey still open, need more outreach, encourage responses:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DPROutdoors>

More than 2,000 people signed up within 5 minutes for spring activities.

Need to consider equity- how can this work if there is no access at this time?

How can we try to monitor "new users" and encourage new people?

PLAY scholarships- working with department with more detailed info to go to families.
Working to expand PLAY scholarships and let more people know about the benefits.

Link to information about youth opportunities for out of school time:

<https://www.denvergov.org/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Agencies-Departments-Offices-Directory/Parks-Recreation/Activities-Programs/Out-of-School-Time-Special-Events>

Sustainability and Resiliency - Discussed recommendations for the budget:

- PRAB supports DPR efforts to improve and protect water quality in waters in and adjacent to DPR assets, including applying technologies and practices to mitigate excessive algae and low oxygen levels (ex., lake eutrophication).
- PRAB supports DPR installing solar energy generation on suitable DPR assets, changing gasoline powered lawn equipment to electric as available and feasible, including other efforts to reduce air pollution and the carbon footprint of DPR assets and operations.
- PRAB supports DPR establishing building criteria for new or renovated buildings to be in line with the current Climate Action Sustainability and Resiliency (CASR) building standards, and/or at least silver LEED according to US Green Building Council (USGBC).

For March meeting- Update from Vicki Vargas about Wildlife.

Link to committee notes:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1T3gD_d5iK7f_XOFYdAocIPV_6OSxpl2D5QyUc_GnKuA/edit?usp=sharing

Planning, Design, Funding, Accessibility- Discussed Nordic activities, inclusive play, Outreach to RNO's about acquisition opportunities. Reviewed upcoming meetings- Bear Creek Master Plan, Westwood Rec Center Community Meeting. Looking into Rocky Mountain Park- no master plan.

Link to committee notes:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/11rMGhwMijl1hEgMaEYqMo9B-37qtW88vHA6wppPlo8/edit>

Park Hill Update

Discussion about development of property, more of a planning session.

Allowed for reflections- detention area concern, park land is separate. Will not be considered a park. March 23rd- community work shop with DIG studios. DIG studio- Bear Creek master plan

Contracted in 2021 to do planning process,

Conservation easement? Is currently still in place

Charge of steering committee- small area plan for site

Pulled together a document based on meetings, surveys and public meetings and created the document- "the prevailing vision". Available on website.

Mailers went out to Park Hill residents.

List of who is on steering committee?

Public Workshop link:

<https://www.denvergov.org/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Agencies-Departments-Offices-Directory/Community-Planning-and-Development/Community-Engagement/CPD-Calendar/2022/Park-Hill-Golf-Course-Virtual-Community-Workshop>

Updated info regarding Park Hill Golf Course Plan Development:

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Scott Gilmore)

Pickle ball master plan underway, are working on pickle ball courts with upgrades at Congress Park and in other areas across the city.

Link to pickle ball survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KVPXQV9>

For regulation tennis, must have 6 courts for tennis and only tennis lines painted.
Lincoln/ La Alma- shots fired, working with DPS, have come to help find solutions, off duty officers, will be re-opening on 3/24- 3-8, starting regular hours in April.

Civic Center Park- Updating lighting, hired staff, hope to open April 1. Will close off some areas outside of festivals.

What supplemental services are offered, how to address other needs of unhoused in the area?
Restrooms? With new staffing, will be increasing restroom hours, after hours supports people in the park and have a good neighbor agreement. Wants to bring showers for all back. Civic center- Denver day works program. Sonny Lawson Park restrooms should open soon.

Sloan's Lake gun club building. With passing the bond, maintenance needs to move from current location, lease ends May 31- Quintana boxing lease.

OTHER ITEMS

Board Announcements

Fran- shared she is on the steering committee for Bear Creek master plan

Pam- shared she is on the Denver participatory budget steering committee

PRAB is encouraged to attend city council planner meetings with park staff for each district

New PRAB member in April- Ben Williamson, Marlene will be mentor

Pay attention to calendar and survey- lots of information in PRAB emails

Play scholarships- apply for summer in the parks

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:35.