

Meeting Minutes  
**DENVER PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**  
**April 13, 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:**

Lee Rains Thomas, Frank Rowe, Meredith Levy, Lynne Mason, Andre McGregor, Pam Jiner, Jack Paterson, Chandi Aldena, Marlene De La Rosa, Florence Navarro, Trena Marsal, Deana Perlmutter

Thank you to Angela Garcia and Molly McKinley. This is their last PRAB meeting- thanks for your advocacy and service. We appreciate your time on the board and wish you both the best.

Welcome new PRAB members- Ben Williamson (District 1), Jessica Zender (District 9)

Absent: Fran Coleman

**CALL TO ORDER**

Florence Navarro calls the meeting to order at 5:33.  
Florence read norms. Lee Rains Thomas takes roll call.

New members will have a mentor as part of the new member orientation process. We encourage board members to reach out to each other and learn from each other as well.

Ben Dist 1- will be mentored by Marlene  
Jessica- Dist 9- will be mentored by Chandi

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Approve March 2022 Minutes  
Molly makes motion to approve minutes. Marlene seconds. Minutes are approved unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

General Public Comment

1. Mika Gans- Opposed to dog park at Veteran's Park. Disappointed about lack of community engagement. Concern about no one to assigned to clean up the park. Lack of care in the park. Neglected area.
2. Monica Elbot- Opposed to dog park at Veteran's Park, concerned about traffic safety, small parking lot. Wants to know who responded to the survey about dog parks and what will the next steps be. Concerned about maintenance.
3. Carol DeStefanis- Opposed to dog park at Veteran's Park. 3 proposed areas for dog park. Space from housing regulations. B and C not viable. Large fence to protect dogs from baseballs. Wants to have this location re-considered.

4. Reese Edwards- Opposed to dog park at Veteran's Park
5. Dino Piacentini- Want to increase opportunities for small permits- Private Outdoor Fee-based Activities (POFA) permits at Alamo Placita Park. Only 64 available throughout the city with a large city. Outdoor classes in parks- not enough to meet need. Revisit process, limited POFA
6. Katherine Harrison- POFAs at Alamo Placita
7. Heidi Milliken- Wants to allow POFAs at Alamo Placita- changing to meet needs- allow more permits for outdoor fitness classes.
8. Rachel Abrams- Wants to allow POFAs at Alamo Placita- changing to meet needs- allow more permits for outdoor fitness classes. Hard to have limits on the POFAS.

### **PRAB COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### Executive Committee (Florence and Lee)

Updating operations, guidance, New member orientation.

Discussion of going back to in person meetings

- Perhaps quarterly, not every meeting
- Hybrid option/ call in for public comment
- Flexibility of online option- advocate for different rec centers
- Hybrid option- wondering about bylaws stating in person to be able to vote, would need an update for a hybrid option.
- Provide virtual option for community members, accessible and inclusive for all of us.

PRAB is invited to the Mayor's Youth Commission meeting on 4/20- 6-7.

#### Recreation (Marlene)

Pickle ball is under discussion and department is taking on the issue

Outdoor spring sports are underway

Westwood rec center design meeting

Swansea- new swimming pool

La Alma rec center is back open

Summer camps are ramping up. \$630/ \$500 for summer camp. (June 6-july 29)

Play scholarships- 1640 individuals, 161 so far this year.

Want to share this information and make sure people know about it.

Closed Outdoor Adventure Plan survey

#### Sustainability and Resiliency (Jack/ Lee)

Discussed wildlife in the parks with Vicki Vargas- Madrid.

Link to notes below:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1T3gD\\_d5iK7f\\_X0FYdAoClPV\\_6OSxpl2D5QyUc\\_GnKuA/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1T3gD_d5iK7f_X0FYdAoClPV_6OSxpl2D5QyUc_GnKuA/edit?usp=sharing)

DPR wildlife management plan link below:

<https://www.denvergov.org/files/assets/public/parks-and-recreation/documents/wildlife-mgmt-geese-qa.pdf>

Planning, Design, Funding, Accessibility (Pam)

Link to notes below:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/11rMGhwMijl1hIEgMaEYqMo9B-37qtW88vHA6wppPlo8/edit?usp=sharing>

Met with Kathy Leveque- regarding master plans  
Tracker is up and running- will be brought up to all  
No planning meeting on 4/29, will be joining budget committee on 4/20.  
PRAB engagement with acquisition plan- how to? Will reach out for outreach support.

Operations, Maintenance, Budget (Frank)

Alaina McWhorter - DPR staff regarding increasing fees, learning about setting fees, look at community benefit overall. Consider lower fees for more access for all residents. Went through 7 different fees and went through process. Will be on the May agenda for PRAB.

PRAB will make a recommendation to the department.

Park Hill Update

Mtg was 4/12. Update on community navigator (surveys and conversations). Public meeting at end of March, went over site development with park land as the centerpiece. Land being developed around parkland. Additional outreach being targeted to hear from more diverse members of the community. Greenway and city grid selected, feel strongly to not have road through. Consultant took feedback and revised concepts. Car, bike, pedestrian friendly. Want to ensure there is adequate parkland. Lots of development planned nearby, needs to be considered. About 80 acres of parkland in both concepts. Not counting the 25 acres of stormwater retention. DIG studios- doing analysis of property and make conceptual designs.

For sake of process- city wants to develop possibilities, although there is still an easement.

Public comment opportunities at steering committee meetings.

Ben and Jessica- consider what committee you might like to join in the next month or so.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

John Martinez- DPR staff

### **PRAB Executive Director's Report April 12, 2022**

- **Civic Center Park:** The park is open to the public and several changes have been implemented to facilitate the reopening, including new safety features such as upgraded lighting and additional cameras, and an increase in staffing both in operations and maintenance as well as park rangers. As we have mentioned before, certain areas on the east side of the park will

remain fenced to provide time for the full restoration of those turf areas. We have been working in partnership with the Civic Center Conservancy, Arts and Venues (McNichols Building) and the Police Department on these plans.

- **South Platte River and Tributaries (SPRT) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Project Update:** After more than 14 years of lobbying congressional and federal officials for funding of this project that will provide environmental restoration and flood control for nine of the eleven miles of the South Platte River that flows through Denver and its tributaries, we were successful in obtaining full funding of the project. We had succeeded in getting authorization for the project in 2019 which was itself a huge milestone and this year had requested \$4 million dollars to begin the work but receiving the full \$369m in funding was like finding the “holy grail.” The local match of approximately \$206m can be attained in multiple ways, including the donation of land as well as grants and private donations. We are beyond thrilled about this achievement, noting that the restoration of the South Platte River was among our top goals as an agency, arguably the achievement of a generation or career if not a lifetime! There are many partners to credit for this extraordinary accomplishment, including our sister agencies DOTI, DDPHE and the Mayor’s Office, and a host of non-profit organizations, but we are particularly grateful for the leadership and support from our Colorado Congressional delegation. Letters and messages of thanks to them would be much appreciated.
- **Central Park Pickleball Update:** Denver Parks and Recreation has referred the matter at Central Park Recreation Center to mediation to work mutually toward a resolution. The District Attorney has not yet charged Mr. Guney, which will allow the parties to move forward with and complete mediation. No further statements will be provided through the course of mediation. We are hopeful a resolution can be reached.

Discussion:

Staffing challenges- life guards have been challenging.

Congress park pool will be open this summer

Fencing at Civic Center- some sections are still closed off

Restrooms open at Civic center? Portable showers?

Restrooms are open and have an attendant. Would like to bring shower program back.

Bicycle pump track question?

Meetings-

Rosemond Park- 4/28

Solar car port meetings for various locations

Westwood rec center- 5/10

How can people find one off rec programs, like disc golf? John will get it out.

## **OTHER ITEMS**

Board Announcements

Link to article from Bicycle Colorado below:

<https://www.bicyclecolorado.org/bike-news/colorado-safety-stop-becomes-law/>

Thank you to Parks and Rec staff and for all the PRAB members.

Weir Gulch trash blitz 4/30- 1<sup>st</sup> and Irving

Barnum Lake clean up- 4/23

May 7- Shakespeare in the parks event

Flyer link below:

[https://www.facebook.com/events/2114172658737989/?acontext=%7B%22ref%22%3A%2252%22%2C%22action\\_history%22%3A%22%7B%5C%22surface%5C%22%3A%5C%22share\\_link%5C%22%2C%5C%22mechanism%5C%22%3A%5C%22share\\_link%5C%22%2C%5C%22extra\\_data%5C%22%3A%7B%5C%22invite\\_link\\_id%5C%22%3A365955768867996%7D%7D%7D%22%7D](https://www.facebook.com/events/2114172658737989/?acontext=%7B%22ref%22%3A%2252%22%2C%22action_history%22%3A%22%7B%5C%22surface%5C%22%3A%5C%22share_link%5C%22%2C%5C%22mechanism%5C%22%3A%5C%22share_link%5C%22%2C%5C%22extra_data%5C%22%3A%7B%5C%22invite_link_id%5C%22%3A365955768867996%7D%7D%7D%22%7D)

District 5- May 15<sup>th</sup> clean up

Event May 21<sup>st</sup>- Parks Rivers Trails and Trees Event for 5 non-profits

Sloan's Lake issues were brought up, equity with other parts of the city, large scale parks?

Mt. Evans- will be renamed to Mt. Blue Sky

Article from Colorado Public Radio below:

<https://www.cpr.org/2022/03/16/mount-evans-renaming-mount-blue-sky-colorado-proposal/#:~:text=Jared%20Polis%20formed%20an%20advisory,if%20approved%20by%20higher%20authorities>

Link to map of Veteran's Park below:

[https://www.denvergov.org/content/dam/denvergov/Portals/747/documents/ParkArt/ParkArt\\_Veterans%20Park.pdf](https://www.denvergov.org/content/dam/denvergov/Portals/747/documents/ParkArt/ParkArt_Veterans%20Park.pdf)

## **ADJOURNMENT**

7:20