

Meeting Minutes
DENVER PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2021 – 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:

Audrey Carrillo, Fran Coleman, Lee Rains Thomas, Frank Rowe, Meredith Levy, Andre McGregor, Angela Garcia, Jack Paterson, Chandi Aldena, Marla Rodriguez, Florence Navarro, Deana Perlmutter, Trena Marsal

Absent: Ramsey Harris, Marlene De La Rosa, Molly McKinley, Lynne Mason, Amy Razzaque, Pam Jiner

CALL TO ORDER

Marla calls meeting to order at 5:33, waits for quorum to begin – goes to presentation
Lee takes roll call after presentation (6:15)

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Approve September Minutes.
Fran makes a motion to approve minutes, Jack seconds.
Unanimously approved

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments

OTHER ITEMS

Marla introduces topic- was an example of how our committees work- based on good work at retreat. Went through the operations and budget committee.
Frank introduces (met 9/27) Jenifer LaGraf, Mark Berensitein
Works with my Denver card, DPS schools, have not asked for increase in over a decade, Committee is supportive of this increase in fees.

Four Mile House – Fees

***Presentation attached**

Partnership from 1997- cooperative agreement, highlight wester heritage. In 2010, entered into new agreement, has not increased fees since then.

Improving experience and considering the language used to tell the stories. Translated all materials into Spanish. Physical accessibility, online accessibility.

Goals for the future- accessible, relevant, sustainable
Telling diverse stories, not just white settlers.

Requesting fee increase to \$8 and \$6

Discussion

Fran- would like more info on the actual programs, but overall sounds wonderful. Nice to see an effort to change language to be more inclusive and reflective.

New employee is working on the decolonization of house museums (graduate student), identifying funding for decolonization work.

Chandi- Indigenous languages, a traveling trunk, how else is that incorporated.
Working on this large project. Considering how to find partners and be thoughtful.

Trena- DPS- what type of outreach goes to the schools?
Funding from SCFD- but struggles with how to get out to kids. How to get in contact with schools and teachers? Would love to connect?

All programs were free last year, trying to reach out.

Operational superintendents can help get the word out to schools.

Angela- used to work across the street, supports the increase. Any outreach to recreation centers? Trunks and other programming?

Meredith- supports fee increase, curious about new revenue sources?
Yes- working on liquor license- can be another funding stream.

Four Mile Winter event: <https://www.fourmilepark.org/events/december-delights/>

Frank makes a motion to accept request for fee increase. Andre seconds.

Move to vote- all in favor unanimously.

Youth Ambassador

Groups of young individuals who are passionate about changing communities

1st project- Saint Charles park- located in 5 points

Mile high flood district- find youth who are interested, already have 10 new ambassadors, new outreach will be led by new ambassadors.

Current project at Highline canal- from Aurora to Golden

Susan@valerianllc.com is a good contact for the Youth Ambassador program.

Florence- share a little more about what you do with the group?

St. Charles park- invited people to come to the rec center- asked open questions about what people would like to see in the park.

Frank- in working with Denver park trust, has worked with the ambassadors. Amazing that these kids are leading others and training them to do good work.

Angela- What is the overall goal of the youth ambassador program? Going to every area?

Not going everywhere, each project is client based and not just for Denver area. Ultimate goal- influence the youth to make the community a better place- spread knowledge to other areas that need the guidance. Give them a voice to be acknowledged in their own communities.

PRAB COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning, Design, Funding, Accessibility (Meredith)

Met on 9/30- met with parks planners, will share presentation

Highlights Robinson park playground redesign, Verbena park, cook park, sand creek trail, city park nature play, 47th and Walden master plan in dist. 11,

West- Inspiration point park, Martinez park, RM lake, ruby hill, north wash park, Westwood rec center

Lots of projects happening. Pay attention to live meetings, surveys and Outdoor rec survey- need more outreach

Mountain parks tour:

Andre- great trip, was nice to see other parts of the mountain parks. Surprised about scheduling and issues with staffing. Activenet software seems to be the problem. Translation is not possible, not accessible. Technology limitations- general recreation access to sign up.

Meredith- excited to see growth of CCC camps, things are getting greater and more exciting. Braille trail is a good feature.

Operations, Maintenance, Budget

Frank- four mile house update,

finalization of comment form- go to PRAB website- link to submit comments or questions. Committee worked out a response. Could feed into the topic tracker. Part of the overall movement to be better listeners to the community.

Recreation

Outdoor adventure and alternative sports master plan.

Target youth and lower income families, would like to at least double. Have 600 now

Opportunities to do survey outreach. DPR would like to know how to get more involved. Need support from PRAB to get the word out and hear from all voices.

- www.surveymonkey.com/r/dproutdoors

Fran- thanks Laura for connecting with the rec center directors

Resiliency and Sustainability (Fran)

Began with community input, used the new form seemed to work well.

Participants talked about water in general. Upcoming meeting will delve into progress of game plan. Has seen water fowl at a lake. Martinez park- lots of potential. Valuable to have community voices.

Park Hill Golf Course Update

Chandi- Reviewed draft document that captured previous presentations. Looks at commonalities from various perspectives. Process- between now and Friday, steering members can ... additional outreach to targeted. Will have an update on the project that the steering committee is taking until the vote comes in November.

Executive Committee: Board Elections

Committee guidelines- using the flow chart, we have been able to create guidelines for committees and are all set up similarly.

***share document (from Marla/ Florence)**

Florence shared document to help guide committees. Will share document and asks for feedback.

Community engagement and accountability- bringing these tasks to each committee, executive committee does the flow chart work. Wants to have each committee learn how to better outreach. Haven't had interest from PRAB members. We have moved outreach to all the committees, so we want to not continue with this committee.

Angela- slow learning curve and like to propose to keep it, change the name of the group. Change to community outreach. We represent our community and are also community members. Schools? Rec centers?

Trena- engagement and partnerships? Advocates for the work

Florence- recalls what the original intent of the outreach committee was. It has gone far from that.

Outreach is a critical element.

Will revisit and think about it this needs to continue and how it can if that is the need. Currently the committee does not meet minimum requirements to be a committee.

Elections-

Frank, Meredith, Andre- election committee

Received nominations for each of the positions.

Fran Coleman- Chair

Florence Navarro- Vice Chair

Lee Rains Thomas- Secretary

Consider committee choices and leadership opportunities.

Jack- to Marla- we will miss you and have handled this board through some very tumultuous times.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **Recreation Membership Drive** - DPR is holding its annual membership drive in November with a deep discount of 45% to encourage residents to sign up or renew their recreation center memberships following COVID-19 closures and pauses. The membership drive will focus on what's new, membership benefits and the importance of wellness in 2022.

The membership drive includes:

- Annual memberships will be discounted by 45% (month-to-month memberships are not eligible for this promotion)
- Available for purchase in the month of November with no exceptions after November

- The discount is available at each tier and customers don't have to buy a regional membership to get the discount, unlike previous promotions
- Cannot be combined with any other discount including PLAY
- Discount will last 12 months

- **Westwood Recreation Center** - Denver City Council unanimously approved Denver Parks & Recreation's (DPR) proposal for Anderson Mason Dale Architects to provide professional design services for the new Westwood Recreation Center, a community supported Elevate Denver Bond project. The projected 40,000 square foot recreation center will be located on a 2.9-acre site at the corner of Morrison Road and West Walsh Place in the Westwood neighborhood.

A stakeholder's group made up of individuals representing several interests, including surrounding neighborhoods, Denver Public Schools, local businesses and other city agencies will work to ensure that all necessary voices are represented throughout the planning and design process.

- **Golf Audit** – The Auditor's Office recently completed an audit of our Golf Division and made a series of recommendations for changes. They identified a number of physical issues and concerns in our golf courses which they considered significant. We agreed to make the specified improvements, but don't concur with their characterization that the items identified were significant safety or maintenance concerns that require immediate remediation. Rather, we prioritize these items differently than the Auditor's Office suggests, based on Golf's priorities and therefore we address them on a different maintenance schedule than the Auditor's Office has suggested. We did disagree with the Auditor's Office about conducting another long range strategic plan that would be a costly endeavor because the elements of such a plan are already in the Game Plan and in the capital planning and budgeting process as well as the Golf Division's annual goals. Denver Golf has an active Golf Advisory Board that provides expertise and advice and Golf staff keep up with market trends and best practices in the golf industry and incorporate them in the planning and budgeting processes. Still, the questions and observations of the Auditor's Office have prompted our staff to think about additional ways to improve our processes. Here is the link to the audit. <https://www.denvergov.org/files/assets/public/auditor/documents/audit-services/audit-reports/2021/golf-report-9.15.21-final.pdf>
- **Legacy Fund Audit** – Another audit of the Golf Legacy Fund is also nearing completion and will likely be wrapped up by the end of October. We will share the results of this audit with PRAB at next month's meeting.
- **Civic Center Park Update** – Progress is being made on the clean up and restoration of park and recruitment for the additional staffing that was authorized for enhanced operations is underway. Our goal is to reopen the park as soon as the improvements are completed and at least some of the new staff are on board.
- **Ballot Questions** – There are several measures on the November ballot that will have an impact on Denver Parks and Recreation:

- Rise Denver Bond Infrastructure package, **Measures 2A – E**. The PRAB has previously received the list of Parks and Recreations projects that are included in the bond package.
- Initiatives **301** and **302** – These are the competing measures that the PRAB members on the Park Hill Stakeholder Committee have referenced.
- Initiative **304** – proposal to permanently limit the city’s sales tax rate.

We encourage PRAB members to become informed on these measures and become involved individually as you see fit. In response to PRAB inquiries, Laura Morales will share the city’s guidance on what activity is appropriate for the PRAB relative to these measures.

Laura- On PRAB time, part of the city, cannot do pro/con cannot advocate for or against any issue as PRAB members. On personal time, as individuals, can campaign.

OTHER ITEMS

Board Announcements