

Meeting Minutes- FINAL
DENVER PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
October 14, 2020 – 5:30- 7:30 pm
Virtual Meeting: Via Webex

Board Members In attendance:

Fran Coleman, Florence Navarro, Marla Rodriguez, Molly McKinley, Amy Razzaque, Leslie Twarogowski, Meredith Levy, Frank Rowe, Lisa Calderon, Tashmesia Mitchell (Tash), Trena Marsal, Noel Copeland, Lynne Mason, Jack Paterson, Lee Rains Thomas

Absent: Samantha Villatoro, Pam Jiner

Denver Parks and Recreation Staff: Happy Haynes, Arthur Gilkinson, Jesus Orrantia, Bob Finch, Brian Martin, Jason Moore, Laura Morales, Scott Gilmore, John Martinez, Joshua Glover, Yolanda Quesada

CALL TO ORDER

Marla calls meeting to order at 5:32

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Approve September Minutes

Fran makes a motion to approve minutes, Frank seconds
Unanimously approved

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Courtney DeWinter Geese
References email sent on 8/15- regarding harmful effects of pesticides. Wonders if the meat has already has been passed out to vulnerable populations? Was goose meat not adequately tested?
-meat was tested for 2 substances
-meat from Denver urban meat is not wild game
-scientific sources were used
Wants a permanent ban on using goose meat for food

Ellen Kessler Geese
Compliment DPR and PRAB on work being done with volunteers- specifically coyote cutouts, Vicki and Scott have done a nice job. Thank you to First Gentleman Marlon Reis for building the bridge with volunteers and DPR staff.

Kelly Leviker
Thank you to PRAB for listening and being part of the community forum, a wider outreach to discuss the issues. Thanks to Scott.

Maria Flora Cars in Parks

Park Hill RNO, chair of open space committee, concerned about cars in parks survey timeline. Would like to announce the survey in the neighborhood newsletter. Asking for extension through end of November.

Carol Woodall Geese
Thank PRAB for engaging in critical conversations about Canada geese.
Thanks to Scott for setting up more public engagement opportunities.

Katie Fisher
Request to list committee members on the DPR website. It would be helpful to know who to contact for various topics. Represents inter-neighborhood cooperation.

PRAB COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fran- S& R, end of September
Invited staff to learn more about pesticides, goose meat, water usage
Last culling of 500 geese was tested beyond the minimum
Reports are available online- all reports came back at level 0
Scott shared- pesticides are not being used in lawns, more in noxious weed areas.
Report was done by CSU extension office and eurofins- both groups tested the meat extensively.
Invited Courtney to present the report sent to PRAB to the committee next month.

Fish die out at Sloan's- will need an aerator to mediate, learned about City and Wash park- need to invest money and repair systems
Fran attended training on using coyote cutouts
Over 20 people were in attendance
Still need to work on ecosystem balance and modifying the ecosystem.

Is willing to work with everyone, including First gentleman

Lee- all the reports are available online:

https://www.denvergov.org/content/dam/denvergov/Portals/747/documents/Natural_Areas/wildlife/Test_Results_Complete_CanadaGooseMgt.pdf

Here also is the 2020 report from the USDA:

https://www.denvergov.org/content/dam/denvergov/Portals/747/documents/Natural_Areas/wildlife/Annual_Report_DPR_Final_FY2020.pdf

Planning committee- Meredith (9/23)

Met with acquisition planning team
Got info about launch of expansive acquisition- 5 year plan, part of strategic acquisition plan
Virtual meeting 10-22 5:30-6:30
Advisory committee- 2 PRAB and other community stakeholders (Florence and Lynne)- meeting tomorrow
Florence- some focus areas of this group are on the agenda
Lynne- excited to be part of this group, using 2A money to acquire more land for parks

Outreach Committee- Lisa and Tash

Thanks to Scott for listening to community voices.

Happy to have a task force to look at alternative goose management.

Thanks to Carol and Courtney for bringing up important issues.

Still a worthy conversation to talk about cumulative effects of pesticides.

Park Hill golf course small area plan- concerns:

How are seats chosen to serve on that committee? Considering we know the plan will be contentious and there are strong opinions, seems that they have been chosen by the mayor. Feel that it is important to include other community members. Would like to have 2 PRAB seats on this board. (Leslie referred to this), RNO representation on the committee.

Lessons learned from east area plan, still unresolved questions about that process. Not enough inclusivity on committee, language access, etc.

Thanks to Georgia for a tour of city park community

Would like to talk about renaming and the process- specifically Cole and Clayton and the specific history there. Recommends- perhaps we need a sub-comm to talk about re-naming

Marla- connect the park hill Golf Course concerns with planning committee-

Park Hill golf course small area plan advisory group.

Operations Committee- Leslie

Meets prior to PRAB (next meeting is 12 at 11/4)

Reviewed public hearings for tonight

Upcoming- re-naming of La Raza park. C. Sandoval has met requirements to submit to

Another round of park designations coming up – means parks cannot be adjusted w/o voter approval

City park golf course is a topic as it reopens.

Will be discussing re-naming in general.

Agrees that this Parks Hill Advisory group should have PRAB members.

(from Lynne Mason to all panelists: 6:10 PM

what does "small park hill plan" mean?

from Meredith Levy to all panelists: 6:14 PM

Leslie: who is best contact for park hill small area plan organizing?)

Noel- Renaming of La Raza would be in November- what about timeline of 30 days

Leslie- I think we might be rescheduling the meeting due to Veteran's Day

Jesus- 11/11 is Veteran's day, proposes 11/16 to have 30 days, C. Sandoval is available, also park designations could go to council on 11/17.

Would take a vote at PRAB and give a recommendation to the director and then goes to city council.

Marla- can we change to 11/16

Leslie- I can make a motion

Fran- PRAB would be priority for C. Sandoval

Lisa- Can we get meeting invites for all of the Committees? Would like to make sure to make it to the Operations Committee to participate in the renaming dialogue, and Planning Committee to discuss the PHGC Small Area Plan.

Leslie – motion to move regular PRAB to 11/16, Noel seconds

14 in favor

1 opposition

0 abstentions

Motion will carry to change November PRAB meeting from 11/11 to 11/16.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Covid re-opening update-

Happy shares current metrics and data on Covid 19

Possibly needing to move to level 3, based on most recent data. Growing numbers this week.

Restrictions for employees to work at home are likely going to stay in order through beginning of next year

Update on 2021 budget

FTE doesn't include on call position (will lose 180)

Made some assumptions on full re-opening, hopeful 4/15

Looking at service reductions and using game plan to guide decisions- all departments were involved in identifying possible cuts.

Used a lens of equity to ensure no services were cut for marginalized communities

References the equity map

Personnel (4.7 Million) and services (~.5 Million) and supplies had large cuts

Were able to get some new agency expansions for new areas, but not much

Golf as sole enterprise fund is mostly stable

Partnership with First Tee – reached goal of 20,000 kids served

Mayor and city council are in discussion about what might need to change in the budget

FYI- zoo concession agreement

KM concessions was to expire, but due to circumstances wants to keep vendor as is, extended for 1 year

Update on Winter Park

Annual payment to city was received prior to 9/30 due date (\$2M)

Anticipate that future payments could be different

Working to manage more season passes, timed ticketing, no ski train

*Happy follow up on following:

Lisa- FB about budget- when budgets are being reduced, questions around spending- like gold admin. Necessity of replacing machines in rec center, consideration to buy building in SW Denver. Concerned about marketing for all youth, when it would be hard for youth to travel to get there.
Divest to reinvest- how can we reinvest money into rec centers (think of it as crime reduction)
Grateful for rec centers as shelters in extreme temperature, but why parks and rec are not considering how to help homeless within parks too?
Leslie- concern about Winter Park limiting day passes, available for people who can't afford season passes, equity concern
Molly- follow up needed on question to extend survey about car free parks

7:09

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Alcohol Policy

Scott- has been presented at previous meetings, very well received by community and PRAB

Happy- reminds that we got a copy of the policy to review

No public comments

Leslie- from committee- no concerns were raised

Leslie makes motion to approve policy, Fran seconds.

Lisa- for those who are watching, asks for a short synopsis

Scott- explains the historic rule of only 3.2% beer in parks. As Colorado phased out 3.2% beer, changed policy to match state. Still no glass, but full strength beer and wine, no spirits.

Unanimously pass to adopt alcohol policy

Wheeled Devices Policy

Scott- as technology has changed, people use different devices to move through city- scooters, electric bikes to help with mobility. Moved from human powered to wheeled devices- allowing use of electric powered vehicles on trails and sidewalks within parks. Began with temporary policy, gathered feedback, made policy accordingly.

Leslie- no contentiousness in committee

Frank- Parks and rec does a good job doing pilots, gathering feedback and making a policy

Trena- any impact to maintenance?

Scott- some scooters being left in parks, want the providers to collect the scooters each night.

Will work with DOTI to work with vendors to collect scooters before curfew

Molly- recommendation to provide designated parking in parks.

Scott- leaves flexibility to work with providers to create

Lisa- supports designated area to get picked up

Scott- geo-fencing will be worked out in order to not allow scooters to stop in parks

Lynne- could Scott summarize what is new in this policy? I read it but don't know the context for change

HH- was established as an interim policy, in addition to other policies. Worked with DOTI and understand that people may use these vehicles to get through the city.

Public comment

Peip Van Hueven- Bicycle advocacy group. Thanks for the policy and thoughtful study. Bicycle Colorado support the use of e-bikes and e-scooters and help reduce traffic. Reviewed policy and likes it with the same regulations as bikes. Parking suggestions- build on existing bike lock areas as well as consider designating parking spaces.

One concern raised about courtesy on trails and sidewalks.

Scooter companies- want to consider a change to not fine the company for parking after hours.

Leslie makes a motion to approve. Second from Molly

Unanimous approval

OTHER ITEMS

Board Elections

Noel- fortunate to have 1 highly qualified candidate for each position:

Marla Rodriguez- chair

Florence Navarro- vice chair

Lee Rains Thomas- secretary

Noel motion to vote on slate as it stands

Fran seconds motion

Unanimous approval

Board Announcements

Marla- equity session was rescheduled due to the Vice presidential debate

11/4 and 11/18- will send poll

Would like feedback for the next session from board members

Happy appreciates all the work PRAB members do. Very grateful.