

Draft Minutes
Denver Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting
December 11, 2019

Board Members In attendance: Noel Copeland, Molly McKinley, Lee Rains Thomas, David Richter, Marla Rodriguez, Leslie Twarogowski, Tamesha Mitchell, Jack Paterson, Tony Smith, Fran Coleman, Meredith Levy, Frank Rowe, Trena Marsal

Absent: Brande Micheau, Mark Brown, Samantha Villatoro, Florence Navarro

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by President, David Richter. A quorum was established.

Approval of previous meeting minutes

- Noel requested to amend minutes to include all auxiliary documents that are reviewed at each meeting, including handouts from community members and DPR staff. Also, to include electronic links to documents on the PRAB website.
- Fran requested to change email to cell numbers on notifying committee members.
- Molly asked that she be marked present on 11/13/19, as she was in attendance.

Fran motioned to approve minutes from 11/13/19, Tony seconded, minutes were approved unanimously.

Public comments

Carole Woodall/ Canada Geese Protection Colorado: Brought up perceived lack of accountability from Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR) pertaining to geese mitigation. Ms. Woodall reviewed information available on DPR communications page about "Goose Management" and highlighted page 13, section 8 from 2019 Goose Management plan regarding need for public acceptance for use of lethal control. Advocating for more transparency regarding decision making, community involvement and consideration of alternative methods.

Ellen Kessler/ Canada Goose Protection Colorado: Advocating for use of different, non-lethal methods to manage geese population. While the gooseinator has not been successful, she is concerned that other alternatives were not considered. Ideas presented:

- Tow and collect machine- cost \$5,200-8,800 to clean excrement, (Possibly rent or borrow from Boulder).
- Solar lights
- Motion activated sprinkler system
- Flight turf- geese won't eat it

Mary Frances Nevans/ Canada Goose Protection Colorado: Advocating for more engagement with the community regarding geese mitigation. Felt that the information provided to public was insufficient, both before and after geese extermination in 2019. Would like to assist with forming a forum to bring community together to inform future actions regarding geese.

Kenyan Moon/ Self: Seeking clarity about actual amount of geese in Denver population (20,000 vs. 40,000 in some estimates). Highlighted lack of communication with community about geese and other wildlife in Denver. Seeking knowledge about what led DPR to deem geese a problem and an update on what the status is now.

Debbie Main/ Self: Identified previous positive and working relationship with DPR and community when dealing with wildlife issues. Wonders what has changed? Has worked on taking care of animals in public housing and working with the state. She wants to see more of an effort to protect animals and work with the community. Wants to keep the relationship going and thinks that more about what else we can do to tackle the geese problem should be shared with the community

Happy responded to say that she will follow up with an update at a future meeting.

Katie Fisher/ INC- PARK: represents citizens who voice concerns about parks and recreation. Group will be meeting every other month on the 3rd Tuesday, beginning in January. Expressed gratitude for collaborative work with DPR and PRAB. All PRAB members are invited to the meetings and some attend already. Next meeting will be on January 21st at 2020 S. Madison. Fran stated that she needs to also let PRAB know when their annual INC dinner will be held.

6:00- David closed public comments

PRAB committee reports

Retreat next month on Saturday, 1/11/20 more focus and attention to PRAB committees

Let David know if you are interested in a committee

Dec 18, 19, 1:00 -2:00 p.m. Mountain parks staff meeting @ CCC camp

Happy indicated a future topic for PRAB is the CCC camp redevelopment, asked

Mountain Parks committee members to think about how to present to the whole group

No additional reports from committees

Executive director's report- Happy Haynes

Urban forest initiative- partnership on trees downtown

Several downtown property owners are in support of sustaining urban canopy by committing to 115 trees starting in upper downtown, part of a 5-year commitment to reforest, and adding new trees in downtown area. Funding planned: One-third funds from property owners, one-third funding from the city, and one-third from private donations

Park Naming: Lorraine Granado Community Park (Happy Haynes)

Document (11/13/19)

Document- letter to Ms. Haynes- Happy Haynes document dated November 13, 2019 advocating for naming the Lorraine Granado Community Park. A letter from the community (Gomez family) was also read into the record in support."

- Paul Garcia- son of Lorraine Granado, spoke about his mother's lifelong contributions to the Swansea and Globeville community especially fight against Asarco, Purina Mills and how she sought mitigation for elimination of their pollution.
- Councilwoman Candi CdeBaca- Spoke of personal memories of Lorraine Granado and her mentorship, She was an Environmental justice crusader and founder of Cross Community Coalition.

Board comments:

Jack- Councilwoman Ortega supports naming of the park, brought forth document of support
 Noel- spoke of importance of knowing the history of individuals who have a park named after them.
 Wants to make sure that is shared with the community with signage and information at the park.
 Happy- thanked the family as she reviewed the accomplishments of Lorraine, and explained next steps on naming of park- going to city council for approval, likely in January.
 Wants to address issue of memorializing individuals with interpretive signage with background information, will do so on this park and will work on improving signage at other parks.
 All PRAB members that were present individually spoke on their approval of this park naming.
 David- called for a motion on renaming of the park
 Jack motioned to approve naming of park. Fran seconded the motion.
 Unanimous board approval of naming park after Lorraine Granado.

Tony inquired about timeline and next steps.

Happy explained now the vote will go to city council- ordinance request in January
 Likely to unveil the sign and have celebration in the Spring at the renamed park.

Alcohol rules and regulations- Fred Weiss (Director of DPR Finance)

Explained brief history and reasoning for changes to the Alcohol rules pilot:

- Feb 2011- 8 years of initial alcohol policy
- January 2019- change in policy- 1-year sunset on 12/31/19
- Not enough time to gather more input and make significant decisions
- Requested that PRAB approve to extend the policy to sunset on 12/31/20
- Come back in late spring/summer with any additional edits
- Hopes to have new rules and regulations in place in January 2021
- Change in semantics is simply a technicality. Police and rangers can only enforce rules and regulations, not policies.

Fran inquired about changing date to 11/30 or 1/31, since December is during holidays. Fred responded that it would be possible, but likely not necessary since policy would most likely be in place by late spring or early summer 2020. Happy shared that end date to pilot will be posted for public, along with rules and regulations.

Fran motioned to accept, Marla seconded. The vote was unanimous to extend the pilot.

David shared reminder about PRAB retreat 1/11/20 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. approximately at Carla Madison rec center

Every year retreat with PRAB, usually in January

At retreat, we work to identify what we do as a board, how we work together

Let Arthur know about food restrictions or other needs

Send an email with agenda item to Marla or David with any topics you want to have covered at retreat.

Upcoming dates:

January 8, 2020 - PRAB meeting

January 11, 2020 - PRAB retreat

Meredith- update on Verbena Park

- Worked with East Colfax Neighborhood Association, Councilwoman Sawyer
- Playground will be updated, planning in 2020, construction in 2021

Marla- update on box lacrosse-

- Now able to play 3x3 on Washington Park court, new signage on courts

Happy- update on community issues brought up at PRAB

- Previously talked with David on how to share updates on community issues.
- Will bring issues back to the PRAB at future meetings.
- Asked that the PRAB try to identify items/issues that need follow up
- Executive board will review monthly

Fran- requested to revisit dog parks planning at future PRAB meeting

David- shared that there is still a need in the southeast for a dog park

Frank- shared information regarding Eisenhower tennis courts- 4 courts into three, 1 pickle ball through Councilwoman Black, installing an acoustic net, temporary response, felt compelled to try to mitigate the problem of noise since it is inherently a loud/rowdy sport. Shared that DPR is doing a nice job trying to address it.

Meredith- Participated in Crestmoor Park volunteer day stating there is a large network on volunteerism in parks, wants to learn more about opportunities.

Happy shared that DPR manages volunteers and brings supplies, saves money for the city and is at \$1 Million.

6:55- Adjourned

Denver Parks and Recreation
Attn: Happy Haynes

December 11, 2019

Dear Ms. Haynes,

Please accept this letter of support in the naming of the park at 52nd and Steele after Lorraine Granado. I was very lucky to work with Lorraine in the lawsuit that gave the neighborhood this park. I know she worked very hard to get justice for the neighborhood after the toxic spill. I think it is proper and just that the park she fought to acquire be named after her, especially now after her passing. I will cherish the time we spent working together on behalf of Swansea. My husband will miss her dearly as they grew up together in Swansea all their lives.

Sincerely,

Louis and Debbie Gomez
4905 Clayton Street

From Kenyan Moon, sent by email on 12/13/19

Good evening, and thank you for having the public tonight. My name is Kenyon Moon, over the last several years I have worked with or for a variety of wildlife nonprofits and businesses, and am currently part of opening a bird/nature hobby specialty store, as well as what I hope will be a (separate, future) nonprofit focused specifically on questions regarding urban wildlife. In the course of these many jobs & projects I have come to be a person others talk to when questions of injured wildlife or wildlife conflicts arise. While I am not the only nor the best such person in the metro-area for these topics, I am the one here tonight to speak on the topic of government functions and transparency.

Please note that because of my affiliation with these various groups, I can not take a position on the question of management methods, though I do have a request related to management in general. I mentioned wildlife conflicts and, as you can imagine, geese are no stranger to me. The two most common and critical questions I have been asked the last few months are: (1) whether the population needs to be managed, and (2) whether the current efforts to manage the populations are efficient and effective. While I can share general thoughts on the matter, I can't readily address the specifics of these questions without knowing what data, methods, literature, research efforts, etc have been considered and in what regards.

For example: some estimates put the regional population at 40,000 individual birds, others at 20,000. This is not a small discrepancy-- which was used in the decision, and how are the differences between these estimates being resolved? By the same token we can ask whether the population is steady, shrinking, or growing. And if we find it difficult to assess current populations, how can we expect to know whether the program is working when it comes time to assess progress? These sort of discrepancies and the questions around them lead to a sort of socio-political version of 'he-said, she-said', one in which the only outcome is frustration-- a heated frustration that usually leads to a divisive race at the ballot box.

As an example, what do I point to when approached by a supporter of the current efforts who is frustrated by an apparent lack of progress? Or what information do I give someone who opposes lethal management to shape their emotions and response? As noted, I can provide only broad strokes without knowing the specifics. I am unable to forward the public conversation without knowing what underlies the city's decision. I can only say "If this data-set, then A; but if that dataset, then B" or "according to one census, this may be what we are looking at, but a study done on a similar population in another state suggests C..."

In order to head-off the 'he-said, she-said' the public needs the ability to read, analyze, and understand the specifics of how the city made its decision. Of course, not everyone will agree on how to move forward, but that discussion can only happen if there is disclosure, until then you and we will only meet frustration.

With this in mind, I ask that policies addressing the publication of data and processes used in decision making be strengthened to improve future dialog on these sorts of questions.

Thank you.

Hope that helps, if you need anything further please let me know.



November 13, 2019

Re: Proposal to Officially name the Park at 52nd and Steele in the Swansea Neighborhood

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members,

For nearly twenty-five years, residents of the Swansea community have been dealing with the aftermath of a toxic spill that effected the health and environment of the neighborhood for many years. The community's efforts, led by Lorraine Granado, Neighbors for a Toxic Free Community and the Cross-Community Coalition shed light on the circumstances of the spill, identified the responsible parties and the devastating impacts to the community. Lorraine's fought fiercely to hold the company accountable not only for the damages that occurred, but also for the restoration that would be needed to make the community a safe place for all children and families.

Lorraine's leadership and tenacity led to the settlement of a lawsuit brought by the community against the responsible company which provided hundreds of thousands of dollars for community improvements in the Swansea, specifically for a park to be built near the site of the spill. She brought together groups of residents to give input into the park design and function and led the effort to obtain a GOCO grant for the purchase of the property and the raising of additional money used for materials and playground equipment for the park. The following describes the improvements that were gifted:

1. \$175,000 – GOCO Grant for Land Acquisition
2. \$74,554 – Matching Funds from the City and County of Denver
3. \$219,000 – Partner Match, Settlement funds provided by Lorraine and Swansea Neighbors

As benefactors of the acquisition and development of an important neighborhood park and playground, I request your consideration of a proposal to officially name the park at 52nd and Steele Street as the **Lorraine Granado Community Park** pursuant to 4.5.1 of the policy, *Naming of Parks and Recreational Facilities*, effective July 2017. The naming would be an honor and recognition of an extraordinary leader and champion for the Swansea community and the City parks and recreation system. Lorraine Granado embodies the values, commitment and generosity that make Denver a great city to live, work and play.

Sincerely,

Happy Haynes

Gilkison, Arthur J. - DPR CA1002 Staff Assistant

From: Carole Woodall <carolewoodall@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2019 8:12 PM
To: Gilkison, Arthur J. - DPR CA1002 Staff Assistant
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Dec. 11th advisory board meeting comments

I apologize, Arthur. Resending this again as I made an error with your email address. Noted .com as opposed to .org

Regards,
Carole

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Carole Woodall <carolewoodall@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Dec 16, 2019 at 8:06 PM
Subject: Dec. 11th advisory board meeting comments
To: <DenverParksLee@gmail.com>, <Arthur.Gilkison@denvergov.com>

Dear Arthur and Lee,

Thank you for providing a space to hear public comments at DPR's Advisory Board meeting. I would like for my comments on December 11th 2019 to enter into the advisory board minutes if possible. I apologize for not being able to send them to you until now.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,
Carole

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Thank you for providing a space for public comments this evening. My name is Carole Woodall, and I am a core team member of Canada Geese Protection Colorado. This evening I want to limit my comments to the lack of accountability and transparency.

I will begin with a date. On June 27th 2019, David Sachs, *Denverite* reporter, broke the first story about the forcible removal of geese from city parks with the headline: "Denver is capturing geese from city parks to be killed and given to hungry families." I, like many other residents, were unaware that the Canada geese were being removed from City Park and Wash Park. In fact, the removal had started three weeks prior to Sachs's report.

The silence surrounding the forced removal of the geese without general public knowledge was disconcerting and alarming. As a historian, I started with the following questions:

1. How did this happen?
2. Who authorized such an act?
3. What were the motivating factors behind the removal and slaughter of the geese?
4. What is not being said, what is being erased or silenced?
5. What are the overarching narratives or framing of the geese removal by city and DPR officials?
6. How was the general public informed, or were they?

I cannot provide a comprehensive analysis. Instead, I will provide one example to demonstrate lack of accountability.

First, the DPR Public Engagement, Notifications, and Communication policy, pg. 5, provides a list of possible “Communication Tools/Vehicles”, which will “help achieve and supplement [DPR] outreach efforts for all levels.” From the list, I want to isolate press releases.

Second, a review of DPR press releases back through January 2017 reveals no press release on geese as a problem or any press release on forthcoming solutions. Again, the focus on press releases is just an example given the 3-minute time limit.

Third, the June 2019 DPR Goose Management Program acknowledges the importance of garnering public support. On pg. 13, section 8, entitled “Public Support”, it states: “Besides hazing and egg treatment, the next most important part of a Resident Canada Goose Management Plan is public outreach and support. [...] Public acceptance of lethal control, partnerships, and assistance from state and federal wildlife agencies, and Denver City Council support will also be sought.”

Fourth, the June 2019 DPR Goose Management Program also acknowledges under section F, entitled “Removal through Capture and Euthanization”, pg. 15: “Because these measures are, however, subject to much public criticism, and opposition, and is a solution that will require yearly maintenance, the final determination to capture and euthanize resident Canada geese at any one park would have to be a decision made and endorsed by the DPR Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director.”

As an aside, although section 8 presumes that the decision was made by Happy Haynes and Scott Gilmore, the decision does not override the public being made aware of the decision to use lethal measures.

In two forums, (1) Denver Field Ornithologist’s August 26th 2019 meeting, hosting “Wild in the City: Birds and Habitats in Denver Parks,” with Kelly Uhing and Vicki Vargas-Madrid”, and (2) Multicultural Mosaic Foundation’s September 7th 2019 sponsored panel discussion on “Goose Management in the City of Denver” with Scott Gilmore and myself, moderated by Adrian Miller, had one common denominator. Both Vargas-Madrid and Gilmore in response to the question of how the decision was made, referenced the 2017 Goose Management Program. At the CPFAN meeting, dated December 3rd, Scott Gilmore did not reference the 2017 GMP. Instead, he referenced the 2019 GMP.

I do not have time, right now, to discuss issues of ahistoricism and chronology, but will do so at another public comment session. For now, the discrepancy in response as well as other overarching questions, namely overriding motivations behind the decision to remove the geese this past summer, need to be discussed at a future date.

DPR’s advisory board should call for a public forum before the removal of geese at other city parks continues.

Thank you.

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"I saw much more deeply into the soul of a person to whose speech I listened through the melody of the word"

- Leos Janacek's opera "Jenufa"

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<https://www.facebook.com/DUCenterforMiddleEastStudies>

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Anderson Grant Webb bdy 201 w Coy on
#1500 4th Floor 530-730

town collect \$5200-8800 + ship

ironing from Boulder?

solas agents \$400 directed at sup. level

07 ggoose 1000 guana

proton activated sprinkler \$50

noise, movement, water

Light Turf

goodman