

## Draft Minutes

### Denver Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

April 16, 2016

#### Call To Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by President Leslie Twarogowski.

Board Members Present: Marcus Pachner, Dwane Matthews, Dora Aragon, Florence Navarro, Eric Clayman, Frank Rowe, Noel Copeland, Shane Wright, C.L. Harmer, David Richter, Leslie Twarogowski, Jason Robinson, Fran Coleman, Thad Jacobs

Absent: J.T. Allen, Liz Drogan, Jay Rust, Jack Peterson, Brian Elms

#### Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved for March 2016, and pending inclusion of board member's present at the Nov 2015 meeting this is approved.

Executive Directors Report (Happy Haynes, Fred Weiss, Scott Rethlake, Kris Wilson, Mark Bernstein, Chris Proud)

#### Budget

Fred outlined overall budgets for Gen Fund (\$3M), CIP (\$10M), Golf/Enterprise (\$11M), and Special (?)

Fred noted that the White Paper report doesn't really include any specifics until it has been to City Council.

DPR's core elements (criteria) are equity, quality, sustainability, community, employment, and use.

PRAB's budget recommendations are due as of the May 12<sup>th</sup> PRAB meeting.

Frank Rowe presented the Budget Subcommittee report. The white paper should provide some guidance in budget development. Next subcommittee meeting is April 25<sup>th</sup>. Fran asked about the Golf/Enterprise relationship. Noel asked about differences between DPR and PRAB priorities to which Fred acknowledged there are some differences.

#### Event Rental Facilities

Fred noted one key change is the inclusion of alcohol consumption. He presented the proposed rate increases for 13 facilities, which have different rates for weekdays and weekends. Increases are recommended for Wash Pk Boathouse, City Pk Pavilion, and Platt Pk Fleming Mansion. Fee proposals occur about every two years. Dora asked how the changes are expected to affect bookings; Fred replied

not really sure but thinks are fees are very competitive with many commercial venues. Someone asked about the possibility of creating different fees (city resident vice non-residents); Happy replied that it could be evaluated.

Fred presented proposed rate increases for golf fees throughout the city. With a very few exceptions, increases are relatively small. The last update was made in 2014. Frank pointed out these proposals are intended as “maximums” and are not absolute at present. Fran asked how much the proposals would net on an annual basis (Fred: about \$250K). There were no objections to the proposed fees for golf and event facilities.

The Levitt Pavilion fee structure will be presented in May.

#### Event Rules and Regulations

Fred stated that DPR has never really formally adopted a plan before. Five sections are being included. Happy indicated the R&R subcommittee has only evolved ad hoc so far but there will be more on this next month.

#### Beer Garden at Skyline Park

Mark Bernstein reported on the proposal as an experiment developed under the Outdoor Downtown project. They are shooting for a June 1<sup>st</sup> initiation, to run through October timeframe. It will run for three years in order to allow the vendor to recuperate some of the facilities and equipment investments needed. Mark introduced them and provided a little background on other successful projects (e.g., Lowry Beer Garden). Eric asked about hours of operation (11am-9pm) and location (Block 2). Happy indicated David will chair a subcommittee for Outdoor Downtown and related development projects (“Next Stage” and “Mall Experience”). Fran asked “why here?”; Mark clarified the other “pop-up” at Skyline (skating rink) location. Thad asked about opportunities for sponsorships for the Garden; it is possible. There were no objections to the proposed Beer Garden at Skyline Park.

#### Civic Center Conservancy EATS

Fred indicated that some net positive effect can be achieved by adding Wednesday to the summer schedule without adversely affecting maintenance and park recovery efforts. He also indicated it may add synergy to other activation efforts running side by side with the food court. There were no objections to the proposed additional day for Civic Center Eats.

#### Platt to Park Hill Detention System

Chris Proud presented an update on the recent decision to move forward with detention projects at CPGC and PHGC. He indicated that outreach efforts continue with metrics but no specific timelines. No impact is projected at CPGC until about Nov 2017. Happy apologized to PRAB for mis-judging the timing of the decision process resulting in PRAB’s inability to participate, provide input or advise on the proposal. Insofar as the Prelim Design phase is scheduled for about 6 months through this fall, moving forward we should have an opportunity to be more involved and in this process. Thad asked how long

the CPGC will be closed (Chris: 2 seasons) and the expected impact on enterprise revenue (Chris: no appreciable impact). C.L. asked about the budget impact to DPR.

Board members commented further. David expressed dismay in the breakdown of DPR-PRAB timelines and resulting dysfunction. Fran commented that there wasn't enough notice for PRAB to act, and not enough public comment as well. She asked for more information on the technical aspects which Happy then asked Chris to follow up with Fran. Bruce from Public Works addressed the effort to prioritize monies for infrastructure (pipes, etc) and properties affected throughout the city. Thad asked about the percentage of protection. Leslie asked about how the 39<sup>th</sup> St open channel would be treated vis a vis park land. Shane questioned the overall process and politics at higher decision making levels, particularly the CDOT project influencing the city's detention project. C.L. stated that she felt unprepared to evaluate much of the proposal from both the way information was presented and the technical nature of it; but expressed a willingness to see PRAB participate going forward.

### Park Naming Public Hearing

Councilman Paul Lopez introduced the personalities behind the proposed west park renamings ; Section of Weir Gulch to Ruth Lucille Dreiling Park and Barnum North to M.L. Sam Sandos Park) Why two renamings together? Both Councilman Sandos and Ruth Dreiling both worked to create park space together. Leslie affirmed that all renaming requirements had been satisfied.

Members of the Public speaking on behalf of Ruth Dreiling: Bill Dreiling, Will Dreiling, Erica Pilon, Tim Sanders. Fran shared an anecdote. A motion was made seconded and approved to rename a section Weir Gulch to Ruth Lucille Dreiling Park.

Camera Montoya outlined a history of Weir Gulch. Public input on behalf of Sam Sandos's park renaming was received by Crystal and Paul Sandos, Dan Sandos, Ethel Sandos, Katie Fisher. Fran shared an anecdote as well. Councilman Lopez suggested creation of a plaque with some of the history about Sam. A motion was made seconded and approved to rename Barnum North to M.L. Sam Sandos Park.

### General Public Comments

Aaron Bennett spoke on behalf of Harlequins Rugby. Due to lack of available park space and reservations secured by other organizations that dominate park space, this group of approx. 400 players are forced to hold all events well outside city limits. Leslie commented that the Rules & Regulations subcommittee discuss possible changes with Fred.

Keith Prior commented on various topics; Rules&Regs changes done in two years; how is liquor licensing handled for the pop up Beer Garden?; how does DPR allocate and change entities uncontested park space?; need for additional bathrooms; excessive trash throughout parks necessitates personnel to spend significant time doing removal and budgets should reflect this; and when are fountains turned on throughout the city?

### Other Board Announcements

David asked if all board members had replied to Brad Eckert or Arthur Gilkison regarding participation in the Mountain Parks Tour which has been arranged for May 28<sup>th</sup>.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24pm.