

Minutes

Denver Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

August 14, 2019

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:38pm by President Leslie Twarogowski. A quorum was established.

Board Members Present: Leslie Twarogowski, Noel Copeland, Samantha Villatoro, Florence Navarro, David Richter, Frank Rowe, Jack Paterson, Mark Brown, Tony Smith, Meredith Levy

Absent: Trena Marsal, Fran Coleman, Marla Rodriguez, Brande Micheau, Jen Dietrich, Tashmesia Mitchell

New Members

Samantha Villatoro (Councilwoman Kneich) and Meredith Levy (Councilwoman Sawyer) are new board members and each presented a brief outline of their CV.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the May 8th meeting were approved with two minor revisions made. The minutes for the June 12th meeting were approved.

General Public Comment

Brother Jeff: Spoke against the name of the Stapleton Recreation Center, and generally anything within the City named after the former Mayor due to his involvement with the KKK. Happy reminded us that the City has already changed the name of the adjacent city park, but that since the DHA has jurisdiction related to the rec facility, it is up to them to make the name change. Still, she indicated that they had already reached an agreement with DHA about such a change: "it's a done deal". Tony asked about the name change process.

Stephen Spirn/Citizens to Restore the Parks: He presented a 9 page summary of the arguments made against the recent goose culling. He suggested that only a factual treatment of the issue is relevant, not one based on emotions.

Katie Fisher/INC: Katie submitted an INC Resolution in support of preserving the Park Hill Golf Course as open space.

David Berton/ Friends of Levitt Pavilion: The management of the Pavilion is requesting several improvements to adjacent portions of Ruby Hill: 1.) Removal of grass (which is dying) in the lower bowl and replacement with artificial turf; 2.) Installation of permanent fencing in lieu of plastic/temporary fencing, to control persons entering with alcohol and to facilitate creation of security checkpoints in the

future; and 3.) an upgrade to lighting of the perimeter areas where either pedestrian or auto traffic is concerned.

Committee Reports

Jack/Recreation: Met recently with John Martinez to discuss updates to the Recreation Centers Policy and Procedures.

Leslie/Greater&Greener: She commented how well the conference came off, especially the opening ceremony at Shoemaker Plaza. Florence commented how much she learned from encounters with park staff. Frank mentioned that Denver received a national award from Toro for its participation at La Lomita Park.

Noel/Mtn Parks: The quarterly meeting was postponed due to the G&G. conference.

Executive Directors Report (Happy Haynes, with John Martinez, Laura Morales, Kathy LeVeque, Laurie Tabachnick)

Happy indicated that the G&G conference was wildly successful. She thanked the many volunteers who helped to make the event a success particularly since the whole downtown was used as a campus for the many activities. The conference broke records for attendance and fund-raising which impressed City Parks Alliance. Philadelphia will host the next conference in 2021. Happy turned to the goose culling issue, indicating that the USDA (contracted to perform the culling) was operating under a tight window. Further analysis will determine the whether the program was effective. She indicated many residents from parks with lakes wanted to know if they could be included in the effort (the program's limit was quickly reached as it was). Happy mentioned the recent open house at the CCC camp; David indicated nearly 500 people attended. Happy then went on to comment on the INC resolution regarding Park Hill Golf Course saying that since it's not a city owned facility they have no direct involvement although they have had conversations with the developer; there are numerous legal issues still to be addressed.

Last, she mentioned that updates are underway for the revised alcohol policy, several tweaks (logistical and enforcement) are needed for the special events policy, and the 180-day E-device policy will conclude in the Oct/Nov timeframe with a likely new policy to follow. Happy mentioned the Volunteers of the Parks schedule is out. There will be a playground pop-up coinciding with the South by Southeast event at Bible on Sat Aug 17, and an open house concept review for the Nature Play project at City Park on Sept 21st.

Laura Morales is leaving DPR. She's accepted an outreach position with DPAC. Happy lauded all of Laura's hard work and engagement for the department. She will be missed.

Presentations

Recreation Policy and Procedures/John Martinez

John spoke to the handout which was presented. The effort was largely done to standardize the process for recreation center reservations. An online system will be created which will streamline inquiries and better present alternative sites. The fee schedule for the Carla Madison "loft" will be the one exclusion from the fee schedule. He indicated that monies received will go into an equity based account to fund amenity upgrades throughout the system. There will be a public hearing at the Sept PRAB meeting. Florence asked about insurance requirements. Meredith asked about facility rentals for special groups (e.g., RNO's). Samantha asked about including additional languages content for the reservation system (Happy indicated that is happening on a city-wide basis).

John then addressed a few other recreation items such as the Congress Park outdoor pool (closing after 2020 season, reopening in 2022), the Sept 10 public meeting for the Green Vly Ranch pool addition, and the project status for the Westwood Rec Ctr (site secured, RFP's released in Jan 2020, community input process to begin Q4 2020).

Dog Park Technical Update/ Laurie Tabachnick

This is a tech update from the 2010 Master Plan. It includes input from two public meetings and two pop up parks. A 10-person internal team was formed to evaluate all of the data. A new pilot program proposal has been articulated from experiences with current community partnerships regarding admin and operations. Otherwise Laurie highlighted the background, design, community support, and regulation of dog park policy. Florence stated it is good to see the amenities being considered as well as potential separations for active v. passive dog activities. David lamented that DPR doesn't provide poop bags at dog parks from a cost vantage; Jack added that if the city bans plastic bags in grocery stores, it should re-examine that policy. Samantha added that an educational outreach program would be beneficial in detailing owner's responsibilities and conduct; Happy agreed. Frank expressed concern over the available properties in high density areas.

Other Board Announcements

Florence noted that with many new board members, we need to get the pertinent admin and general expectations of service to everyone. She also noted the quality of art presented during Denver Days activity at Sloan's Lake. Jack reminded everyone of the SxSE event at Bible Park this weekend. Tony mentioned the 50th anniversary of Capital Hill United Neighborhoods being held on Sept 18th at the Botanic Gardens.

Adjournment

David adjourned the meeting at 7:14pm.