

Draft Minutes

Denver Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

January 10, 2018

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:34pm by President Leslie Twarogowski.

Board Members Present: Noel Copeland, Frank Rowe, David Richter, Shane Wright, Leslie Twarogowski, Jack Paterson, Dora Aragon, Ben Wilking, Florence Navarro, Marla Rodriguez

Absent: Fran Coleman, Jay Rust, Wende Reoch, Felipe Vieyra, Brande Micheau,

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the November 8 meeting were distributed. Marla made a motion to accept the draft and it was seconded by Ben; the motion passed with Thad abstaining.

Committee Reports

Florence/GAMEPLAN: Meeting was held in late Nov between representatives of all of the key DenverRight components. Also, public open houses were held in December and several boardmembers attended.

Leslie/Overland Music Festival Oversight: First meeting was held in December and no other group activity is planned until early summer.

Mtn Parks/Shane: He described the effort to create a bike library at Westwood, as well as ongoing effort to create a more comprehensive bike course and opportunities to make the Mtn Park system more accessible to cyclists.

Public Comment

Katie Fisher/INC: Katie reminded the board that it's almost never too early to begin budget cycle again.

Executive Directors Report (Happy Haynes, with Sara Davis)

December was actually a very busy month for DPR. Regarding the 39th Avenue project, city council approved plans to move forward with water retention at Park Hill, and acquiring the easement for the channel itself. Development of the City Park Master Plan update is underway with a draft anticipated in 2-3 months. An Open House is scheduled for Feb 1st at the Museum of Nature and Science. Discussion of the creation of a park at Fairfax continues. DPR is seeking better clarity/definition of what the community is seeking in a park; amenities, appearance, even location (the property swap). Happy indicated the process is back on track but wanted to make clear that the developer's current proposal is not necessarily the same as what DPR will develop. Laura stated that the Ink Coffee meeting at which it

was stated “the deal is done” was a misrepresentation. Marcus observed the meeting stream and believes the development to be an open process.

Happy reported the opening of the Carla Madison Rec Center earlier this week and the great reaction of the community as well as the overall turnout. DPR is not losing momentum as it turns attention to development of the next project center. She also noted the positive response to the My Denver PRIME program which became active this year.

Presentations

EAB Status – Sara Davis

Sara offered a brief recap of the development and spread of the bug, its impact throughout the Midwest and its migration into Colorado. The proactive program to selectively remove 1/3 of the canopy on a rotating 3 year period includes public r-o-w and parks. In addition, about 6,000 new trees will be planted. She outlined some of the efforts and programs to continue community education (e.g., Be a Smart Ash). The outreach is working well with a wide range of target media and audiences involved. The city has licensed about 200 tree services contractors to make it easier for citizens to select the right treatment for a particular tree or location, but there appears to be a shortage of skilled tree workers and the city is working to develop a pilot program to develop skills in the workplace as well as for city staff. For 2018 a number of developments are planned: additional messaging will be developed in Spanish, a new “app” providing info and treatment options, City Forester will don Super Hero status for combating the EAB, Forestry also set to hyper focus on the downtown district and further effort to update/revise R&R policies consistent with the above. There were questions from the board about the bug and detecting infestation. Ben was impressed with the content presented and the comprehensive effort to combat EAB. Marcus commented about funding for commercial zone projects vice private citizens or the City. Happy explained how The Park People is further educating neighborhood groups insofar as private property trees very much affect the overall canopy across the city. Thad provided a personal experience. Noel asked about availability of low income group programs. Happy shared another example of utilizing kids to spread the word about programs and treatment options in communities.

PRAB Resolution re: Civic Center’s West Colonnade

After Happy advised PRAB last fall about the Civic Center Conservancy’s request to add a foundation name to the west colonnade of the Greek Theatre, David developed a draft resolution for the Board to consider; consenting and supporting inclusion of the Cydney and Tom Marsico Family Foundation as detailed. Marcus motioned to adopt the resolution, Florence seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Other Board Announcements

Dora stated this will be her last meeting as a PRAB member, and expressed gratitude for the education she’s received in viewing issues and programs throughout the DPR system.

Leslie suggested two dates for a PRAB “retreat” (typically a Saturday morning presentation about procedures, processes, and additional background useful to the board.). The dates are Feb 17th or Feb 24th and she asked each board member to advise her of which date is best.

Adjournment

Leslie adjourned the meeting at 6:45pm.