

## Draft Minutes

### Denver Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

July 13, 2016

#### Call To Order

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

Board Members Present: Dora Aragon, Florence Navarro, Frank Rowe, Noel Copeland, Shane Wright, Liz Drogan, David Richter, Leslie Twarogowski, Jay Rust, Fran Coleman, Thad Jacobs, Andy Sense, Jack Paterson

Absent: Benjamin Wilking, Brian Elms, C.L. Harmon, Jason Robinson

#### Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved for June, pending inclusion of comments by Jay Rust.

#### Subcommittee Reports

Florence: GAMEPLAN. First meeting is tomorrow (14<sup>th</sup>).

Jay : Recycled Water. Process underway to do tissue and soil testing on conifer trees in several parks. No meetings planned until results are in.

Shane: Red Rocks. Shane expressed appreciation to DPR for the proposal to add 88 acre parcel to the Park. It passed the council subcommittee and moves on to Council.

Frank : City Park Redesign Workshop. There have already been input received from a number of neighborhood associations. An informal drop-in opportunity to participate in concepts will be held at the Clubhouse on Sat/30<sup>th</sup>.

Jack : 39<sup>th</sup> Ave Design Working Group. Currently working to establish rules and responsibilities for the design process. Soil sampling is being conducted.

#### Public Comments

Keith Pryor : self. Fountains are operating sporatically throughout the city, and wonders why there is no FTE as a contact point. He expressed concern for the amount of city service resources required to maintain and patrol specific parks (Benedict Ftn, Commons, Skyline).

David Muelken : self. Spoke again about the lack of dog park facilities through the DPR system whereas other cities have vastly more access. Wants a subcommittee to study it. (Happy re-iterated that GAMEPLAN will address this issue).

Executive Directors Report (Happy Haynes, with presenters Fred Weiss, and Mark Bernstein, and input from Kris Wilson and Grace Ramirez)

Happy reported a recent trip to Brooklyn sponsored by DDP to view the park system there and how the partnerships operate. There are some parallels between their development and how the Downtown Denver Partnership hopes to redevelop Denver.

Mark presented an update on current activities and experiments downtown; "Summer in the City". This includes 16<sup>th</sup> Street mall traffic closures, Commons Park activation (sculpture exhibit) and riverfront activation via programs developed by Rec Division (including pop up dog off leash). Downtown park growth has not been adequate. He cited Master Plan calls for increased maintenance spending up 35 cents/sqft (avg). An 80% complete draft of The Outdoor Downtown master plan will be available next month. Leslie commented about the Riverfront Park Assoc involvement. Lastly Mark outlined a demo project for 21<sup>st</sup> Street which involves not only activation of the area but also incorporating a soft thoroughfare connector. The target start date is the Tuesday following Labor Day. The goal is to operate the demo park block for 4-6 weeks depending on weather and resources. Shane expressed the need to address the crossing at Broadway. And further dreamed of a 'grand vision' on the other side of downtown to better connect and utilize Cherry Creek. Many board members commented about the Wings of Mexico sculpture exhibit at Commons. David asked Happy whether it might be appropriate at some point to invite Harry Hill (or ?) to present to the board the difficulties and challenges of operating and maintaining the city's fountain system. Jay pointed out that a bond fund might address CIP funding but would not address the need for increased maintenance funding. Happy indicated that they're already preparing to highlight the maintenance needs in next year's budget to catch up with capital maintenance and staffing needs.

Fred Weiss presented an update on the development of Rules and Regulations. There will be a City Council briefing by the end of August; Leslie expressed the importance of PRAB's participation in the final draft recommendations at the next meeting. Fred re-iterated the difficulty of developing enforcement standards as well as consequences, and Happy again emphasized DPR's philosophy to obtain compliance with regs as opposed to punishment.

Fred reported that the consensus has been that a 1 year pilot program for park rest periods isn't enough, and so a 2 year program will likely be recommended. Fred and Kris went over some of the SurveyMonkey data regarding rest periods; some answers were clear and some not so. Andy felt that there needs to be some flexibility in addressing the impact of certain groups and activities whereas Fred said yeah but ya gotta have an equitable plan. Fred agreed the use requirements are in a sense a separate issue from the rest periods though they may become part of the plan next year. Shane wondered whether managing new events with less impact is possible outside of the proposals for rest periods. Fred went on to comment on the differences in race/walk events and "smaller impact" events and the distinctions. Happy said that the 6-7 principal parks will require clarity as to how they are affected, and also reminded us the initial concept was born out of sensitivity to the neighborhoods around these parks.

A number of questions were brought up, comments made, regarding the historical precedence, number of events, shifting events away from the top 6-7 parks; input and thoughts from Andy, Thad, Noel, Jay, and Liz; with input and info from Fred and Grace. At Aug meeting, the initial draft will be presented with redlined changes reflecting the final version. Happy expressed a desire for PRAB to vote and advise on this version before it is finalized.

#### Board Announcements

Happy began with an update that DPR has provided additional funding for a complete buildout of the Madison Rec Center (rooftop) in order not to lose momentum as construction continues. DPR has not found a vendor for the retail parcel, and is re-evaluating what to do with that space.

Thad indicated the First Creek Open Space will be opening on Aug 8<sup>th</sup>.

Leslie commented on the ribbon cutting for the Ruby Hill bike skills terrain park on July 21<sup>st</sup>.

Jay indicated Round 7 of the Designation Committee has begun.

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.