

Draft Minutes

Denver Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

June 13, 2018

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:36pm by President Leslie Twarogowski.

Board Members Present: Noel Copeland, Frank Rowe, David Richter, Leslie Twarogowski, Jack Paterson, Jay Rust, Tashmesia Mitchell, Laura Cary, Fran Coleman, Shane Wright, Wende Reoch,

Absent: Marcus Pachner, Brande Micheau, Florence Navarro, Ben Wilking, Felipe Vieyra, Marla Rodriguez

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the May 2018 meeting were distributed. Fran motioned to accept the minutes as drafted and was seconded by Laura; the motion passed with Jay abstaining.

Committee Reports

Leslie/39th Ave. Channel Project: Leslie indicated no recent activity though a meeting is planned for Wednesday June 27th.

Overland Music Fest Oversight/David: Two public meetings were held in May. There won't be any activity until August.

Finance, Designations/ David: He announced the current City Council proposal to add to the November ballot a bill increasing the city tax base for various DPR-specific purposes. Since several committees and numerous PRAB White Papers have emphasized the need for a dedicated funding source for new park (land) acquisition, David felt it appropriate to address this effort spearheaded by Councilman Clark. Discussions and questions flowed. Happy set the context of the dynamics of public input to a council-led proposal, its timing, and DPR's participation as it was approached in the drafting of the Proposal. She addressed the process DPR would have in planning and reporting to PRAB and Council and alluded to the normal budget review process and DPR's overriding attempts to create a balance between deferred maintenance needs and real improvements throughout the city in a fair and equitable manner. She also indicated the current Proposal would require short term financial reporting and a 5-year plan to be submitted to both PRAB and Council. Jay asked what the current deferred maintenance balance is (A: \$126M).

Mobility and Mountain Parks/Shane: Members of the Parks and Mobility Committees met to discuss public transportation options to Red Rocks and the Denver Mountain Parks.

Recycled Water/Jay: He indicated Scott Gilmore is looping back the participants to analyze and interpret the baseline data which has been collected (soil and tree sampling). Wende asked to join this committee.

Greater&Greener 2019/Leslie: She announced the formation of a new PRAB committee pertaining to DPR's hosting of this conference in 2019. She, David, and Florence are the initial members and she reached out to all PRAB members willing to participate in DPR's needs. An example is a need for hosts to conduct tours through various parks throughout our system. Wende, Frank, and Shane all volunteered. (The conference dates are July 19-23rd 2019.)

General Public Comment

Katie Fisher/INC: Thanks to Fred Weiss and Laura Morales for attending INC meetings and explaining details of the proposed alcohol consumption policy. The group's two predominant observations are: the need for more restrooms throughout the park system, and the need for more DPR Rangers for enforcement of the proposed new policies.

Megan Elenz/Councilwoman Gilmore's office. She indicated that Thad's replacement on PRAB, Mark Brown, will not report until August. She read the Councilwoman's statement as a co-sponsor of the new proposal to increase taxes for park additions, which expressed Councilwoman Gilmore's support of the proposal and the need for additional park land system-wide.

Zeke Herrera: He is a local comedian and wanted to request a waiver of fees for a Comedy Day event. Leslie agreed to work with him on this; noting the City needs more comedy!

Executive Directors Report (Happy Haynes, with Fred Weiss, Gordon Robertson, Laura Morales)

Presentations

Alcohol Policy Proposal Update

Fred described DPR outreach efforts to numerous community-based groups about DPR's changes, noting apprehension among many of the "unknowns". Almost every City department has been consulted -and weighed in- on the proposed changes. Potential policy adjustments may be expected based on all of the comments. Fred further noted two changes to the guiding policy revisions: first, that this become a "sunset" policy up for re-examination and potential revision after one year; and second, that this policy will be affected by local jurisdiction regulation not currently defined. DPR's over-riding principle is to accede to the governing body in this matter – not dictate policy from within.

David thanked Laura M. for the examination/analysis/presentation of data from the citywide poll. Jack asked if DPR is leaning to allow full strength public alcohol consumption (A: yes). Jay noted the data shows that people like to "party", but questions whether the public good is served by such responses and he's skeptical this policy will represent the common good. Laura asked if PRAB gets to vote on this

(A; yes, after public comment, scheduled for next month). She indicated the current proposals will not work in the Washington Park community. Shane commented that in his PRAB experience there has never been a more contentious and responsive issue and he alluded to prior efforts to prohibit alcohol in specific parks. Leslie reminded all board members to be prepared to represent their districts at the PRAB public hearing next month.

City Park Master Plan

Gordon introduced the two planners involved in the project, Kelly Ream (DPR) and Tina Bishop from the design consultant firm. They presented an overview of the re-design progress. Many areas will be affected: structures, roads, trails, playgrounds, interfaces with zoo, natural areas, etc.

Other Board Announcements

Paco Sanchez Park Phase 1 opening will be this on Monday June 18; and Phase 2 groundbreaking is on Saturday June 23rd. PRAB's mountain park tour is now set for Sat Oct 6th from 9-12. Wende reported the status of the White Paper; Shane has a couple comments to incorporate and then the document will be finalized. Fran reported on the impact of the new e-scooters across the city. Happy commented on the bike war's affecting Dallas Texas.

Adjournment

Leslie adjourned the meeting at 7:21 pm.

