

## Draft Minutes

### Denver Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

March 8, 2017

#### Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:40pm by Vice President Jason Robinson.

Board Members Present: Noel Copeland, Frank Rowe, Wende Reoch, David Richter, Fran Coleman, Andy Sense, Jack Paterson, Shane Wright, Ben Wilking, Florence Navarro, Jason Robinson

Absent: Jay Rust, Bev Cox, Felipe Vieyva, Marla Rodriguez, Marcus Pachner, Leslie Twarogowski, Thad Jacobs

#### Public Comments

Keith Pryor/self: Keith spoke in favor of the DPR policy of banning individuals from parks for 90days if they are in successive violations of the policy aimed at curbing illicit activities.

He also spoke about the need for GAMEPLAN to specifically address restoration of fountains within the parks.

Katie Fisher/INC Parks Committee

She addressed many concerns about the condition of Wash Park due to the overabundance of geese. Councilman Kashmann organized a March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting with city and state wildlife personnel. The issue has is now at a stage of significantly affecting quality of life and residents are frustrated with the lack of action/resolution. Kashmann pledged more work on this; but funding is a real road block.

#### Approval of Meeting Minutes, February 2017

Several corrections to the minutes were noted: spelling of "alluded"; Happy Haynes questioned the phrase from Outdoor Downtown report (" ½\$B", the phrase was removed); Fran was referenced as both present and absent from prior meeting. With corrections, Noel motioned to accept; Frank seconded, minutes were approved; Florence and Dora abstained.

#### Executive Director's Report (Happy Haynes also w/ Grace Ramirez , John Martinez)

Happy commented on Keith Pryor's observations on park policy. Several people were cited for trespassing under the policy. The directive expired end of February. It was challenged in court with the ruling being it was unconstitutional. DPR intends to find a permanent solution which is broader in scope, possibly in the next month. Jason inquired about which parks were predominantly those with repeat violators (Happy: a new policy will stress citywide compliance). Both Fran and Florence are interested in a committee addressing the new policy.

Happy spoke about the GOCO bond process. Several task forces have been established, and DPR is participating as well. The package should be completed in June. She indicated that department needs will likely outweigh what funding might be available; so the balance between increasing demand and addressing deferred maintenance as always requires tough choices. Further to Keith Pryor's comments about fountain operations: Happy indicated both historic buildings and fountains are in the DPR list. Noel asked about the creation of a dedicated funding source and suggested GAMEPLAN would be an appropriate place to address that. Happy says it's essentially the Mayor's prerogative.

A FAQ's summary was presented regarding the ongoing community discussing regarding the possible Overland Golf Course Music Festival. Grace Ramirez provided details on the next community meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> and also indicated another survey (internet based due to time constraints) is going out. Fran commented on her meeting with Councilman Flynn who asked how wide the meeting notification was. Also he questioned as to why Ruby Hill Park might be used in lieu of the golf course. Andy asked about the lawsuit process (Happy doesn't know).

Happy indicated the Platt to Park Hill storm detention project procurement process is moving forward. CP golf course redesign RFP's are expected back in April. She acknowledged a lawsuit filing against the project; court hearing might be in August but the department is moving forward. The 39<sup>th</sup> Ave Greenway and Open Channel project is developing final design guidelines should be complete by mid-month to go into design documents. Happy said she would follow up with him.

#### Committee Reports

39<sup>th</sup> Ave Open Channel, Leslie: An update presentation handout on the was distributed but Leslie was not present to go through it.

GAMEPLAN, Florence: The task force meets on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Three open houses throughout the city have been scheduled. Fran commented she was impressed with the contractor's responses and the overall process.

Outdoor Downtown, David, Andy: Neither David nor Andy was present at the McNichols building presentation of the draft plan, but Happy was. She indicated the plan will begin introductions to City Council soon. Noel asked about the formation of a downtown maintenance district (that's in the Plan). Happy further expressed satisfaction in the Downtown Denver Partnership involvement as a partner in the project and cited that they are providing money for Skyline/Block One. Shane expressed a desire to see the plan connect with other parts of the city (e.g., Globeville Landing, stock show commitment to build a bridge over the Platte to create park space as a piece of the National Western redevelopment.

#### Executive Directors Report cont'd.

John Martinez updated PRAB on the process of re-allocating rec center hours to better meet the needs for daily operations. The goal is to have at least 6 day a week operations, particularly after school hours. Additionally funding is available for 2017, and a phased approach to providing equity and access and programming amenities is being utilized. An effort to update communities as to the rationale and details

will begin in the next couple weeks. Dora asked about capacities for programming. Online registrations have ballooned. Shane expressed concern for gaps in the approach. Jason asked about continuance of late night basketball (John: 4 centers will have late operations with additional programming too; the St. Charles rec center is going year round).

#### Other Board Announcements

Fran expressed interest in seeing Colorado Heights be incorporated into DPR system.

Andy indicated with redistricting he no longer lives within Councilman Brooks' district thus he will be stepping down from PRAB.

Shane commented a drop-in meeting tomorrow at the Tramway Center to address how to get kids outdoors.

Jason has asked the Greenway Foundation to update PRAB on activities within the coming months.

David committed to Happy that the Naming Committee will have something to present at the next meeting.

Happy indicated the Park People organization is seeking volunteers for distributing trees under their free tree program.

Jason Robinson adjourned the meeting at 6:45pm.