

## Draft Minutes

### Denver Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

March 14, 2018

#### Call to Order

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

Board Members Present: Noel Copeland, Frank Rowe, David Richter, Wende Reoch, Leslie Twarogowski, Jack Paterson, Brande Micheau, Thad Jacobs, Florence Navarro, Marla Rodriguez, Ben Wilking, Felipe Vieyra, Jay Rust, Laura Cary, Fran Coleman, Shane Wright

Absent: Marcus Pachner

#### Approval of Minutes

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

#### Committee Reports

GAMEPLAN/Florence: Florence attended the GVR neighborhood presentation last Thursday. She commented that it is always interesting to see what differences there are in priorities and perspectives throughout the city.

City Park Golf Course Redesign/Frank: A meeting was held same time as this PRAB meeting to share more clubhouse design elements with the public.

Designations/Jay: Jay briefly reviewed the current list of city properties currently under review.

Recycled Water/Jay: This committee is re-convening now that background sampling data has been collected.

#### General Public Comment

Amy Harris, Friends of Red Rocks: Brought up the issue of renewing the planters at the Amphitheatre with new trees and stated the Friends are not in favor of the current proposal. Apparently the planters have fallen into disrepair over the years as trees have died. Happy stated that while DPR manages the Morrison parks, Arts&Venues is responsible for the maintenance of the Amphitheatre itself although DPR is involved in the conversation.

Jonnell Miller: Spoke on a variety of topics including the need for additional transit to Red Rocks Amphitheatre.

Katie Fisher: Katie read the INC Resolution stating the need to return park zoning decision making authority back to the city council level rather than authority of the DPR Executive Director.

Maggie Price, Hank Bootz, Marlene Johnson, Tom Norris: Spoke in favor of the INC resolution for reasons of greater accountability and visibility to the public.

Helene Orr: Spoke about her concern for the removal of mature trees at City Park Golf Course as affected by the water detention redesign project.

Ean Tafoya: Spoke in support of the renewal of Red Rocks planters for their original function to contain trees. Spoke in favor of adding to the tree canopy along 16<sup>th</sup> St Mall.

#### Executive Directors Report (Happy Haynes, with Fred Weiss, Laura Morales, Jane Broida, Rob Davis,)

Happy reiterated Jay's comments about the Recycled Water Committee and the need to study sampling data and consider possible options for trees affected by use of recycled water. Jane provided an update on two pilot projects funded by GOCO/Inspire grants. "Go Wild" links ongoing city projects with surrounding cities and counties. "My Outdoor Colorado" is coordinating a large number of partner organizations for programs serving the Westwood community. Related projects include the Cole neighborhood and Russell Square Park. Happy also reported on the City Park Master Plan update process. Further, an arts & culture survey is underway within Recreation department programs to see how to diversify programming beyond traditional athletics and thus appeal to a wider audience. The GAMEPLAN survey will end at end of the month. The Fairfax park planning process is proceeding with two additional meeting planned for April; to date community input has centered around what amenities and features the community would like to see; this input is critical for determining which parcel will best serve those needs. Fred spoke about the current DPR review of alcohol policy within the Park system and the complexity of issues related to same. The policy review has included both internal and other agencies (e.g., DPD). A public survey is planned for April, and a completed Draft to be presented to PRAB in July. Fred stated that the general rule shall be to follow state law as affected by the impending legislative elimination of the 3.2 beer category. Jay asked about Home Rule in Denver (Happy: state law dictates policy). Frank commented on Councilwoman Black's difficulty navigating policy inconsistencies in hosting last years' SxSE event.

#### Presentations

##### 16<sup>th</sup> Street Mall Redesign: Jason Whitlock, Principal City Planner for Urban Design

Jason's presentation largely covered considerations for improving pedestrian flow and optimized space utilization for a variety of activities. Essentially some changes in bus lanes is envisioned. Boardmembers inquired about a host of related concerns; not the least of which was how the tree canopy would be affected. Overall the number of trees is projected to increase nearly 50% along the mall – but at a cost of removal of existing trees and the recovery time (growth) of new plantings. Fran asked about tree

maintenance and watering, and observed that in a lot of places, overall tree health appears to be an afterthought. Jay asked if the Copenhagen group was still involved in the design process (A: yes, indirectly). Frank asked about the statistics of people moving. David asked about alternative people movers and how that might impact conventional bus lanes. Shane was dismayed at the loss of tree canopy for the sake of the overall project mission. Further he expressed concern that PRAB has not been more involved with the planning process. Jay asked about the possibility of transplanting honey locusts. Rob spoke to the issue and summarized that trees represent an investment in time.

#### PRAB By-Laws Revision

Leslie distributed a first draft of a revision for board members review. It will be discussed in detail at the April meeting.

#### Other Board Announcements

PRAB's newest Mayoral appointee, Tashmesiz Mitchell, introduced herself and provided background info of her interests, education, and work experience.

Several board members brought up procedural issues affecting conduct of these meetings. Florence felt the meetings often bog down over issues presented; Leslie commiserated but reminded everyone we are a public advisory board and it is not always appropriate to conduct business "offline". Thad stated it would streamline meeting flow to have the Agenda and presentation materials distributed in advance.

Noel provided background material handouts to the Board regarding the Park Hill Golf Course land and history of the Clayton Foundations' involvement.

NOTE: The published Agenda for this meeting included a presentation of Blueprint and Peds&Trails which was postponed due to time constraints. It will be presented at a future meeting.

#### Adjournment

Leslie adjourned the meeting at 7:49.