

Draft Minutes

Denver Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

May 12, 2016

Call To Order

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

Board Members Present: Marcus Pachner, Dora Aragon, Florence Navarro, Eric Clayman, Frank Rowe, Noel Copeland, Brian Elms, C.L. Harmer, David Richter, Leslie Twarogowski, Jason Robinson, Jay Rust, Jack Peterson, Andrew (Andy) Sense

Absent: J.T. Allen, Liz Drogan, Dwane Matthews, Shane Wright, Thad Jacobs, Fran Coleman

Eric announced that he has resigned from PRAB for personal reasons. Councilman Brooks has appointed Andy Sense as his district's new PRAB representative. Andy offered a short biography of his career and complementary interests to PRAB.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved for April 2016, **Jay Rust abstained** and pending correction of date of Mtn Parks Tour which erroneously stated as May 28th, it is May 27th.

Committee Reports

Noel / Red Rocks

Noel commended Scott G, A&V, Friends of RR Board, and the Mtn Parks Foundation for their participation in the work to complete the landmark boundary designation in particular and the commitment to guidelines for RR environment overall. The committee was an excellent reflection of the varied stakeholders and interests, and would make a good sounding board for the ensuing guidelines.

David / Outdoors Downtown

Now that District 9 has a new representative (Andy), David suggested to Happy that Andy become a member. He noted that the seasonal EATS has begun at Civic Center Park. Skyline Beer Garden proposal goes to city council subcommittee on the 18th and potentially will begin ops mid-July.

Frank / 2017 Budget Recommendations

See below.

Public Comments

David Muelkin spoke concerning the need for more dog parks within DPR.

Shana Miller spoke to the need for dog parks as well and she noted the community and social value also.

Executive Directors Report (Happy Haynes, Fred Weiss, Scott Gilmore, Kris Wilson)

Happy addressed several topics:

First replied to the public comments about dog parks and the challenges of space and accessibility for them. She indicated we do have a dog park Master Plan but thought perhaps the updating of GAMEPLAN might enable updating of it.

She offered a heads up about formation of a working group beginning about October to update forestry and tree ordinances / Rules & Regs. Principally as necessitated by impending EAB issues.

Scott provided an update and overview on Parks Designation Proposal, Round 7. Roughly 6 total acres added to: Bear Valley Park, Chavez Park, City of Karmeil Park; and in the mountain parks additions to Summit Lake, Genesee, and Fillius. DPR has agreed to manage 198 acres of open space owned by DIA, which includes a connector for bike/ped along the DIA corridor. Scott reported that the recent Denver City Audit recommended the development of a Parks' Designation Policy and that the Designation Committee will work on it in the near future.

Frank and Fred spoke to the inclusion of the PRAB 'white paper' providing guidance to DPR in developing current and future budget priorities. Frank stressed that despite all of DPR's effort, this is the Mayor's budget. Jay, David, and Florence commented to the quality of the draft. Jay moved to accept the Draft; Jason seconded, and the motion passed with one abstention (Brian). Happy gave an example of how it has already been used in the current budget development process. It was stated that it would be helpful to get occasional updates stating progress of the implementation of the paper's recommendations.

Fred addressed the start of multiple conversations and further development to the Event Rules and Regulations (Timeline and Working Draft provided). Marcus and Andy are on this subcommittee. Leslie suggested all board members review the document offline.

Of particular note Fred re-iterated the dilemma concerning historical priority in event registration. There is still dialogue with the city attorney over enforcement consequences, but as both he and Happy noted, the intent here is to foster compliance and not to punish anyone – emphasis is on creating good events! So a healthy discussion ensued with all of the board examining some issues and pitfalls associated with a variety of ways to address the historical precedent, ranging from changing from 2 consecutive years in a row to 3,4,5,etc; elimination, doing nothing, creating "tiers", defining simultaneous passive use, prioritizing 'green' events, skewing policy towards heavy vice light use parks, etc. Fred cautioned it is not possible to prioritize based on event content; and suggested we think about this in the form of what is legally defensible. Brian stressed an approach which doesn't "over-regulate". C.L. wondered if an alternative approach giving events points for a list of desirable attributes might be explored. Leslie felt

that we can't do nuthin'. Kris Wilson spoke to the challenges of issuing permits, the process, and how her department attempts to counsel and offer alternative facilities when possible. PRAB will revisit the rest period provision at the June meeting.

Other Board Announcements

Florence: noted kickoff of GAMEPLAN discussions.

Brian: Colfax Marathon this Sunday.

C.L.: rededication of AIDS memorial on Sunday.

Leslie: addressed activation of Jefferson Park.

Noel: hearing on the 18th regarding rate increases created by Platt-Park Hill project. Read Fran's email about Councilman Flynn's concerns of project cost increases.

David: reminded board members to reply to Arthur Gilkison if interested in the 5/27 Mountain Parks Tour.

Adjournment

Leslie adjourned the meeting at 7:39pm.

Approved May 12, 2016

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)

Review and Comment of the Proposed Annual (2016) Budget for the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department)

Guiding Principals for Budget Allocations

The PRAB strongly encourages the Department to allocate funds in an equitable manner with an eye toward increased quality of services (safety and access) and long-term sustainability (maintenance and conservation). Specifically, PRAB requests a prioritization of the allocation of funds to bring underserved areas to a position of 'equity/equality' within the system as a whole, whether it be in recreation services or access to quality open space.

Invest in Success

Through hard work and a focused effort the Department has been successful in many areas particularly youth and senior programs, the park ranger program and the recycling. PRAB suggests that the Department's budget prioritize all projects which have shown demonstrated success.

Support Long-term Objectives

PRAB encourages budget allocations that support efforts to expand and protect park acreage, fund capital improvement projects and promote health and wellness among all citizens. Specifically, PRAB would like the Department to prioritize the park designation process and increase efforts to locate and secure additional park acreage, particularly in underserved communities.

Focus on the Future

PRAB would like the Department to invest in technologies designed to enhance user experiences (wifi to help rec centers compete in the marketplace, cameras and alarms to ensure safety, etc.) and collect user information that can assist in monitoring, evaluating and improving services. Also in the area of investments, PRAB suggests budget allocations be made for innovative pilot programming at targeted recreation centers in underserved areas. Additionally, PRAB would like the Department to explore and create fundraising strategies designed to bring additional revenues to the table for use in supplementing, not supplanting, budgeted initiatives.

The Game Plan

PRAB encourages a greater effort by the Department to achieve the stated goals and principles of the current Game Plan. Additionally, PRAB would like upcoming revisions to the Department's Game Plan to take into consideration all of the strategic recommendations outlined in this white paper.