

## Draft Minutes

### Denver Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

November 8, 2017

#### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:35pm by President Leslie Twarogowski.

Board Members Present: Noel Copeland, Wende Reoch, Frank Rowe, David Richter, Shane Wright, Leslie Twarogowski, Jack Paterson, Dora Aragon, Ben Wilking, Felipe Vieyra, Brande Michaeu, Florence Navarro, Marla Rodriguez

Absent: Fran Coleman, Jay Rust, Marcus Pachner, Thad Jacobs, Laura Cary

#### Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the October PRAB meeting were reviewed; two minor spelling errors were corrected and Jack made a Motion to accept, Dora seconded, and motion passed, with abstentions from Florence, Brande, and Marla.

#### Committee Reports

Leslie/ GO Bond: She happily reported the GO Bond passed; particularly Bond D for Parks and Recreation funding.

David/Overland Music Festival: An organizational meeting will be held next month.

Peds&Trails Task Force: The final meeting will be held on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

Florence/GAMEPLAN: A healthy roundtable discussion was held several weeks ago involving numerous government entities and civic organizations (about 30 people) to look at new ideas not previously considered in GAMEPLAN development. Some ideas were presented which can be implemented immediately. Happy commented that the overall activity is rounding the corner; yet not too late to have a fresh set of eyes reviewing the development process. The Task Force meets again Nov 9<sup>th</sup>. Another round of public presentations are scheduled for late November and Happy reminded PRAB members to try to attend. Drafts of all DenverRight programs are due Q1 2018.

Frank/City Park Golf Course Redesign: Saunders had two more public meetings at which plans were shown for both the clubhouse interior space and how the overall detention layout affects the course. Public concerns for the proposed entrance will be addressed in a meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### Public Comment

None.

Executive Directors Report (Happy Haynes, with Scott Gilmore, Brad Eckert, Cary Rhodes, Cincere Eades)

At a roundtable discussion the Mayor reiterated his commitment to making the Mountain Parks more accessible. The PRAB committee for Red Rocks shall be involved in that going forward. DPR effort to redefine the Athletic Permitting Policy has to date centered on Special Events permitting. Happy did brief City Council on that process and discussed their concerns for the conflicts between athletic field and neighborhood programming in several parks. Dora asked if the 1 year priority would be appropriate compared to the Special Events historical precedent policy; Happy commented that 1 year is appropriate given that athletic programs usage varies considerably from year to year. She indicated that fences will start going up around City Park Golf Course next week but that allowance will be made to accommodate joggers around the course perimeter. Lastly, Happy presented the request of the Civic Center Conservancy to recognize the significant contributions of the Cydney and Tom Marsico Family Foundation by adding their name to the Greek Theatre's west side colonnade. She wants PRAB to address (and consent) this request explicitly. Wende asked if this was affected by the current partnership policy review to codify relationships of all entities doing business with the DPR. Frank asked if the name inclusion meets criteria for park naming policy (Happy: it's consistent with its spirit). Dora asked if the monetary threshold of the policy has been met (way in excess of the \$250K value).

### Presentations

Mountain Parks Update: Brad Eckert, Cary Rhodes .

Brad presented the development and refurbishment activities for the CCC camp facilities to house HistoriCorps. Now expected to take occupancy in July/Aug 2018. The commitments of HistoriCorp to begin work on several mountain park structures have been identified and plans for 6-8 week long volunteer sessions next year. Cary detailed the efforts to activate several facilities (e.g., Genese Challenge Course, camping sites, Echo Lake Discovery Program, Ski&Ride at Winter Park) as well as the intent to expand these activities. Several questions were posed about the process to select and attract partners and programs as well as DPS involvement.

Heron Pond Master Plan: Cincere Eades.

She presented proposals of the plan to integrate the varying parcels (approx. 80 acres) in the area into a comprehensive plan. Drainage and access considerations are a big part of the effort to both activate new portions while preserving the open spaces of the parks and pond. Marla expressed concerns for neighborhood and environmental impact of the adjacent recycling facility.

High Costs Campaign: Dan Rowland (City Office of Marijuana Planning).

He described the Mayor's plan to develop youth education regarding marijuana use and behavior. One facet of this is to develop fence art at several DPS facilities and is asking PRAB if it is interested in possible inclusion of DPR parks for similar projects. Boardmembers asked numerous questions about programming and highlighted concerns for suitability of facilities for this kind of education outreach. Happy and Dan added comments and clarifications. Happy suggested this be done in a pilot program format and indicated that community engagement is important. Installations must be chosen carefully and not to adversely affect park neighbors.

### 28<sup>th</sup> & Fairfax Park: Scott Gilmore.

Scott presented the concept which was proposed by a nearby developer to do a land swap across Fairfax Ave. for the purpose of providing a new park to the community and to the project (Park Hill Commons) which the developer is already permitted and underway with. The City acquired a small property from Excel Energy several years ago but has not figured out what to do with it nor has funding for park development. It seems the developer's interests to fund and develop a park are sincere and would benefit the community. The proposal would commit the developer to fund and develop a park which would then be handed off to DPR.

Happy said that some neighbors and nearby residents have expressed concern that the proposal doesn't feel like a park and is not representative of the neighborhood. Both city council and State representatives have become involved.

### Other Items

A survey will be sent out soon to gather input for content and format of a PRAB retreat potentially to be held in January. There will be no PRAB meeting in December.

### Adjournment

Leslie adjourned the meeting at 8:05pm.