

Draft Minutes

Denver Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

September 14, 2016

Call to Order

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

Board Members Present: Noel Copeland, Florence Navarro, Frank Rowe , Liz Drogan, David Richter, Leslie Twarogowski, Thad Jacobs, Andy Sense, Benjamin Wilking, Jason Robinson, Shane Wright, Marcus Pachener,

Absent: Fran Coleman, Jack Paterson, Jay Rust, Dora Aragon

Subcommittee Reports

Frank Rowe/City Park Redesign

Last community meeting was on Aug 25th at which draft design guidelines were the primary focus. Plenty of community input received. There hasn't been a consensus for clubhouse re-location and/or how to re-position the driving range. Frank showed the project timeline culminating in a re-opening in 2019.

Leslie/39th Ave Greenway Development

Leslie indicated the community has 'settled down' of late with more interest and positive feedback centered on the greenway alignment. Although there will be property acquisitions, the Hyde St. Bar & Grill is thought to be preserved. Chris Proud stated that there is now general consensus as to which properties will be purchased. Happy stated that community guidelines input is invaluable to handoff to the contractor. C.L. asked how many properties are being acquired (Chris: 8) and she asked about the purchase process.

Florence/DenveRight

Workshops will be held city-wide on October 4th and 5th. There's also a website survey through which citizens can also provide input.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved for August.

Public Comments

Katie Fisher/INC: Katie expressed gratitude for the level of support and information provided by Sarah regarding the Be A Smart Ash program.

Darlene Smith: Darlene was unhappy with the DPR response to her concerns for grass mowing and picnic table removal at Sanderson Gulch.

Nick Dasdaln: Recommended a health and fitness program to DPR.

Keith Pryor: Praised DPR for the inventive approach to dog park pop-ups and rotation at Commons Park. The turn-out has steadily increased. Also commented that the Park Host concept has been successful. He'd like an update on the EAB program.

Executive Directors Report (Happy Haynes, with presenter John Martinez; and input from Chris Proud).

Happy expanded on the comments from Pryor (above) regarding three pilot programs; rotating dog parks, Sonny Roslin neighbor presence, and her directive to DPD to suspend park access (6 months) to repeat offenders of illicit activities within parks. David inquired about resource impact of continuous pop-up dog park placement (Happy: it's a collaborative effort between Rangers, DPR, and the community).

Happy presented an overview on the Mayor's budget as affects DPR; approved expansion requests and a lesser number which were denied. She indicated that most of the proposed funding increases are the result of demonstrated metrics (e.g., 22% increase in park program participation, and customer satisfaction surveys). There were several questions from the board on specifics; Noel asked about the gap between Rec staffing (Happy: there are always some vacancies, seasonal programs, promotions, etc.). Frank praised DPR for the favorable funding in the budget proposal in light of the work the PRAB committee did upfront and the anticipated response. Happy thanked her Budget Director in the process (see below also).

John Martinez/Director of Recreation

John outlined the Recreation Dashboard Metrics that are collected and how the data is collated (membership usage, customer satisfaction). He presented some data from the MyDenver program and the free meals for kids programs and the partnership with the Office of Children's Affairs as well as DPS.

Frank inquired about metrics sources (John: 90% online registration). Shane asked about exactly what entity approves/disapproves budget proposals (Happy outlined the process. She also praised the PRAB budget committee's effort. But overall, DPR's priorities on safety, growth, customer service were aligned with the Mayors desires and that's largely why the budget increases were funded). Happy also described how DPR's budget and finance teams operate (Fred's role overseeing both finance and budget administrator, Sarah's role as budget director).

Other Board Announcements

David: Participated in ranger ride and found the process and interaction with a ranger illuminating in terms of issues and coordination between staff, 311 requests, and the variety of tasks addressed. Also indicated this is the last weekend of the Skyline Park beer garden pop-up.

Shane: Mestizos-Curtis Park will be the site of a community event on the 24th, intended to bring together several entities to foster kids programs in particular and adults as well for better health and wellness through recreation. Happy indicated she is very excited about this program.

Thad: October 4th will be a service day at Northfield High School; improvements and maintenance at school athletic fields.

Andrew: Asked whether PRAB will vote on final version of newly proposed special events rules. Happy indicated this is still in the City Attorney's office; PRAB will see the final document but it will not vote on it. He also commented on the Webb building public access to PRAB meetings; process is in place but not always well executed.

John Martinez stated that Cyber Monday offers 40% off the Annual Rec Pass fee. Online; one day only.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18pm.