

## Draft Minutes

### Denver Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

September 12, 2018

#### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:34pm by President Leslie Twarogowski.

Board Members Present: Noel Copeland, Felipe Vieyra, Leslie Twarogowski, Jack Paterson, Shane Wright, Marla Rodriguez, Ben Wilking, Fran Coleman, Frank Rowe, Tashmesia Mitchell, Florence Navarro, Mark Brown, Jaime Aguilar

Absent: Brande Micheau, Jay Rust, Wende Reoch

#### Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the August 2018 meeting were distributed. Laura motioned to accept the minutes as presented which was seconded by Frank; the motion passed unanimously.

#### General Public Comment

None.

#### Committee Reports

Ben/ 39<sup>th</sup> Ave. Canal: DPR and Public Works are working to create access from the proposed channel to 40<sup>th</sup> Ave. along the west side of Bruce Randolph Middle/High School. Discussions have included a concrete walkway, trees, and a fence between the connection and school property. The scope will also include improvements for the storm water detention area near the baseball field for the school.

Florence/GAMEPLAN: She reminded the board to read and comment online or to her before the end of October.

David/GranDoozy Oversight: The comment forms for the community were finalized at last meeting. The Festival is Sept 14,15,16 at Overland Golf Course. Fran commented that the traffic patterns have been disrupted and this was not supposed to happen.

#### Executive Directors Report (with Gordon Robertson, Scot Gilmore, Rob Davis, Sonia Johns)

The city budget will be announced by the Mayor on Sept 13<sup>th</sup>. She is pleased so far with how DPR will fare; looking like an approximate increase of around \$4M. However it's badly needed and will allow additional staff to provide basic services. Rec Centers are slated to receive additional funds from the GO bond. A new maintenance facility is being planned for the downtown district. Additional ranger staffing

is being considered. Some funds are being allocated for mountain parks transportation. DPR continues to fund and implement EAB measures (this effort is tracking on budget).

Happy provided updates on the 3 transition centers (recreation). Johnson Rec Center has an open house this coming Saturday; some programming is active but they are still looking for additional partners. Denver Inner City Parish has pulled out of the College View Rec Center and DPR is providing temporary staffing and maintenance until a new plan can be developed. (David expressed gratitude to DPR for stepping in.) Happy reported that a meeting was held last night concerning the City Park playground re-design effort and the partnership with the museum in the process. Kids feedback was received too. Also the City Park Master Plan is close to be finalized and will be published this fall. Regarding “alternative electric motor transportation methods”, she indicated the city is experimenting with a pilot program to try out some ideas. Finally, Leslie asked for status of the Wash Park playground; Gordon reported that some structural issues required closing some equipment but also that the playground was planned to be closed about this time of year anyway for refurbishment.

#### Presentations

##### Fee Establishment and Increases / Happy and Laura Hiniker

The Carla Madison Rec Center Rooftop Event Space does not yet have an established fee schedule; one was proposed. Laura presented an updated rate scheduled for 4-Mile Historic Park along with a short introduction as to the programming offered at the Park and facilities. Fran motioned to accept both fee proposals; seconded by Marla, and the board voted unanimously to approve.

##### Recycled Water / Scott Gilmore with Rob Davis, Sonia Johns and Debrah Binard

About one-third of our parks are currently on recycled water which represents a huge potable water savings (and cost). Studies have shown that certain nutrients stress certain conifers. An advisory committee was formed to study the causes and effects. Baseline data was collected in 2016. Debrah reported this is the beginning of a 5 year study of soil and water testing. Scott pointed to successes at Westerly and Great Lawn Parks as examples of how redesigns can eliminate stresses on plantings. Rob provided perspectives of the differences between soil vice plant tissue testing. Several questions were addressed regarding other contaminants. Sonia spoke about the need to examine Lindens (deciduous trees) in several locations. Scott addressed DPR maintenance practices (flooding and flushing) which are hoped will provide some relief to stressed conifers. The characteristics of City Ditch are also being studied system-wide. Noel asked about Aurora’s recycling programs; apparently there is very little data to share. A question was asked about turf quality in ball fields. Fran asked about the Denver Country Club’s use of fresh water; Happy replied they’re a customer of Denver Water, not the city.

##### GAMEPLAN Draft / Gordon Robertson

Gordon provided an overview presentation of what has already been posted online. Leslie encouraged all to read it but to start at the implementable parts towards the back. Florence represented it to be a living working document. Shane thanked Florence and Darrell (Watson) for their involvement in

GAMEPLAN's development. Gordon commented the first task is to implement a 3 year plan and then roll it every 3 years to monitor and update progress. Happy contributed that GAMEPLAN is steered by the budget process and all staffs and agencies evaluate their work and programs against GAMEPLAN principals. Tash asked how GAMEPLAN implementation (comment and response) affects PRAB.

#### Other Board Announcements

Shane: He commended the progress at Paco Sanchez and the kids play opportunities. He still has reservations about the overall tree canopy and maintenance on The Mall. He mentioned several council members have expressed interest in transportation issues to the Red Rocks Amphitheatre. He noted the improvements at the Rocky Flats Arsenal. Thought the Sloan's Lake soft surface design is good and commented on the public/private partnership initiative there as commendable example.

David: Noted that the Nov Ballot Proposal (2A) for a sales tax increase reserved for parks acquisition and related had cleared City Council and will be on Nov ballot. He suggested PRAB take a stand; the issue of PRAB statement had been reviewed and cleared by City Attorney. He motioned for a Resolution to recommend passage of the measure in light of PRAB's awareness of, and continued Whitepaper recommendations for, dedicated funding for parks acquisition. Florence seconded, and the motion approved with Fran abstaining. Specific language to be crafted, reviewed offline, and approved as soon as possible.

Leslie: PRAB Elections: Leslie asked (and received affirmatives from) Florence and Noel to again accept nominations for next years' Executive Committee elections which will be voted on next month.

Leslie: Noted Councilwoman Black, and Frank's, recently establishment of the Denver Parks Foundation, a proposition to create a sustainable funding opportunity for DPR. Timing aligned with the ballot proposal but also separate in nature.

Marla: Committee Assignments: She referred all members to review existing committees and assignments and to comment and re-evaluate their responsibilities and future preferences; the issue will come up at another PRAB meeting this fall.

The CCC / Mountain Parks Tour will be Saturday, Oct 6<sup>th</sup>. Logistics/details soon forthcoming.

#### Adjournment

Leslie adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.