

## Minutes

### Denver Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

September 10, 2019

#### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:33pm by President Leslie Twarogowski. A quorum was established.

Board Members Present: Fran Coleman, Leslie Twarogowski, Samantha Villatoro, Florence Navarro, Lee Rains Thomas, David Richter, Frank Rowe, Jack Paterson, Mark Brown, Tony Smith, Meredith Levy, Tashmesia Mitchell, Marla Rodriguez, David Richter

Absent: Trena Marsal, Noel Copeland, Brande Micheau

#### Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved with several minor corrections; Fran abstained.

#### General Public Comment

Courtney DeWinter/ Canada Geese Protection Colorado

She pointed out the gap in the city's oiling program which they believe created the explosion of geese population. The group wants a more consistent approach to management of the population as well as a more resourceful way to deal with it than culling.

Bob Rosenblatt/ 3 By Federation

Bob's group was fined by a DPR Ranger for their use of tennis courts to play a new game called 3-By; a non-contact derivation of lacrosse player with a stick and a tennis ball. They are seeking a special variance to allow this sport to utilize tennis facilities; similar adjustments in DPR policy have been made for pickleball.

#### Committee Reports

David/Mtn Parks: A meeting was held recently with Mtn Park staff and attended by Noel. He noted the opportunity for PRAB to tour the mountain parks coming up on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Also the Mountain Park Foundation is holding its annual fundraiser at Chief Hosa Lodge on Sept 26<sup>th</sup>; all are welcome.

Florence/Nominations: Election of officers is scheduled for the next PRAB meeting and if anyone is interested in a position, please contact a committee member. Samantha asked where to find a description of the duties and roles of each position. Leslie replied it isn't well defined but Happy indicated the bylaws address this.

Florence/Administration: Florence indicated the committee met to discuss ways to assist and possibly mentor new board members in ways to engage them in PRAB activities and responsibilities. Arthur is

working on a boilerplate document for future use. This was also discussed with Happy at the last Exec Comm meeting.

#### Executive Directors Report ( with Seth Howsden)

Happy noted the Mayor has released his version of the annual budget and that DPR has a very modest increase considering the inclusion of new 2A funding to the department as well. The Mayor's priorities for the year center on affordable housing, transportation and mobility, safety equity. The budget will be reviewed on Sept 18<sup>th</sup> with city council. DPR is actively engaged in studies and policy changes for a number of programs throughout this fall: E-device usage, Alcohol usage, and Special Events.

#### Presentations

##### Recreation Policy and Procedures/Seth Howsden

Seth commented to the policy which John Martinez presented to the board last month and distributed copies of the updated policy.

##### Public Hearing Recreation Facility Permitting Policy

There were no public comments made.

The board asked a few questions. Frank said he likes the centralization and interactive procedure created for the permitting process. Marla said she is in favor of the equity of funds throughout the rec system which will be achieved from the monies received. Tony inquired about how facility availability is to be promoted; Seth explained the website functionality. Tash asked how this affects outdoor rec facilities (it does not, those requests still funnel through Kris Ryan's office). Florence thought it helpful that the policy is being clarified. A motion to accept the Policy was made by Lee Rains and seconded by Marla; it passed unanimously.

#### Other Items

John Calderhead, CFO of the Denver Botanic Gardens, explained the justification for a proposed general admission fee increase from \$12.50 to \$15 per person. An increase has not been addressed since 2009. Happy indicated that Fred Weiss would be forwarding a more detailed package immediately to PRAB members via email. A public hearing will thus be scheduled for the October meeting. Marla asked about special discounts available and John provided examples of such including those for seniors, veterans, students, and free days which occur regularly. Fran asked when this would be implemented (Jan 1, 2020). Tash asked about the progress on the new construction (Newman Center) which is expected to complete in March 2020. Meredith asked if they had explored providing limited daily complimentary passes through the Denver Library museum and cultural passes program.

### Other Board Announcements

David thanked DPR for the recent updates and improvements made at the College View Rec Center which was recently re-incorporated into the system. Florence reminded everyone to contact her if there is any interest in running for an officer seat. Fran asked how DPR will followup on public comments made regarding the goose cull program (Happy indicated a more complete response will be provided next month). Leslie indicated that while she does respond to community correspondence addressed to PRAB, she does so only representing herself and not the board as an entity. Due to the Yom Kippor Jewish holiday next month, PRAB will look at holding our next meeting on either Oct 10<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>. Tash reminded all about the upcoming Russell Square Park event on Tue the 17<sup>th</sup> which will include final review of the master plan update.

### Adjournment

Leslie adjourned the meeting at 6:45pm.