

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

February 12, 2009

City Park Golf Course

Attendees: Elfenbein, S., Loshbaugh, H., Ott, Richard, Horn, E., Done, E., Kester, B., Sandoval, K., Copeland, N., Sharp, B., Gilmore, S., Navarro, F., Watson, D., Pryor, K., Robinson, D., Truwe, D., Holdman, A.

Absent: Fox, M., Norbie, D. (excused)

Staff: Kevin Patterson – Manager, Dody Erickson, Gordon Robertson, Jill McGranahan
Chantal Unfug, Devon Buckles

Guests: Nguyen Phuonglan – newly appointed as the advisory board rep from Dist 3.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Approval of minutes with correction - Ellie Horn was excused for her absence from the Jan. meeting

Determine location for 3/12 Advisory Meeting – No one voiced a problem with returning to the City Park site even if the meeting space might have to be a smaller room in case of a scheduling issue with the facility.

UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

Final Draft of Rec Facility Permit Policy – Dody Erickson

Dody gave a brief review of the year and a half process of updating and changing the Facility Permitting policy. This will require an ordinance change, because they will be asking for fee changes. A public hearing will be held at the April meeting of the Advisory Board. This policy change is an effort to take advantage of unused space at our recreation centers

Rec Center Task Force Update – Dody Erickson and Florence Navarro

Florence and Dody both thanked the Board members who attended some of the numerous public meetings that were held throughout the city. These meetings were very successful in gathering comments from rec center users.

Sometimes the meetings were heated, but they were still positive, because necessary feedback was gathered from citizens. The biggest problem was the misinformation of rec center closings. There will be no rec center closings.

Dody spoke of the partnerships that are being set up with the Boys and Girls Clubs. As partners with the city, they can run their successful programs in our rec centers. The next step is to take ideas from the public and study the feasibility of implementing

them. So far non-profit groups have not been approached about using rec space to supply services that help seniors and kids, but the department is looking to this as a new opportunity. Partnerships have been proven to work well, and the sharing of resources is something we should embrace – especially in these financially tough times. Board member discussion encouraged the speakers to “control the message” to slow the spreading of misinformation. It was suggested that the department write “letters to the editor” to get their message out and thus clarify some inaccuracies in reporting. Jill McGranahan said that she would draft a summary of the public meetings and distribute this to all Board members.

Platte River North, Phase I Plan Update – Gordon Roberson and Devon Buckles

When the city began to see the purchase of land along the Platte River by developers, they knew that they had to do something to protect this resource. The Greenway Foundation began raising money to do this. It is expected that this investment will bring a ten-fold return. Urban drainage, Public Works, Environmental Health, and Asset Management are all on board in this exciting River Corridor Project. Two well attended public meetings have taken place. Some ideas voiced at these meetings have been put into the plan. The main focus is river health, and that goal can be met by allowing commercial development, but pushing it back from the edge and thus allowing for a pedestrian walk way. They want to make sure that the river edge remains public. Private and public funding will be sought for the project. A copy of the River North Greenway Master Plan was passed around, but copies were not available as a handout for each Board member. This is a big and important project for the department, for the city, and for the ten to twenty thousand new residents that are expected to move to this river corridor.

Advisory Board Web Site – Jill McGranahan

The Parks & Rec Department web site has been completely revamped. Jill reviewed some of the key features. Every page has a section for public comment. There is a place for people to call and get in touch. The web site automatically updates itself. These are just a few of the improvements to make our web site more user friendly. Board members were encouraged to go to www.denvergov.org and check out the Parks & Rec web site.

Manager’s Report – Kevin Patterson

A reorganization of the Parks & Rec Human Resource Dept. is taking place.

There is an effort to align the Parks & Rec staff with the Advisory Board subcommittees on the Game Plan discussion. The four tenents of the Game Plan are being addressed by four different groups in the department.

Advisory Board Committee Updates

All committees have met except the Sustainability committee. No reports were Given. Kathy Sandoval announced her departure from the board and introduced Phuonglan Nguyen as her replacement.

Meeting adjourned