

DENVER PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

June 9, 2011

Wellington E. Webb Building

Attendees:

(Not mentioned)

Absent:

(Not mentioned)

Denver Parks and Recreation Staff in attendance:

Chantal Unfug

Arthur Gilkison

Dody Erickson

Introduction and Welcome – Conor Hollis

Has a background in art and urban planning/design. He owns a design fabrication factory and builds large sized art pieces.

Public Comment

No public comment. “Ice Cream” solstice at Overland Park from 5:30pm – Sunset.

Manager’s Report – Chantal Unfug

1. **Election update** – John Huggins is heading up the Mayor’s Transition committees are vetting for candidates for manager and deputies positions. Chantal will be providing an overview of PRAB to the committee on DPR. On the Council side, Gordon Robertson is leading the transition documents for council members and council is organizing briefings for new members for July 19th-20th. Same presentation as Chantal’s overview presentation.
2. **DPR held a public meeting on Eddie Maestas Park** – Keith was in attendance. The community meeting was about 2 hours long and had presentations by Denver Police Department(DPD), Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR), Human Services, Denver Rescue Mission (Mission), and Judy Montero. The meeting was concerned with the history of the Park, current conditions/problems, and DPR outlined the MOU with the Denver Rescue Mission. DPR is working with city attorneys on a document not as binding as a “MOU” but a letter of intent that isn’t legally binding. It states that DPR, Mission, and the community have the intention of working together in the next several years in order to find solutions for the Park. It outlines the next steps: community led public process for fundraising and design for potential improvements to the park. These improvements should take about a year or two to gain funding. Mission will outline what they will be able to contribute to i.e. chess games in the park. The mission will only add these possible events after funding and construction is done on Eddie Maestas Park. The political document/letter of intent will be signed. If the funding is raised and approved by next Mayoral administration, there may be possible construction on a courtyard with potential fence with a locking gate (certain hours of operation) for the Mission to have authorized access to. However, this action will require a contract and

undergo a full public process and city council approval. Any future actions will have to be contracted and go through a formal process for the Mission to have authorization on Park access and/or authority. DPR will create a paragraph form explaining what the "MOU"/letter of intent is i.e. **not** legally binding.

3. **Rec Center Task Force** – Update for city council
4. **Ice Cream Social at City Park/county fair** – 500+ ppl in honor of Carla Madison. 2nd year that DPR has head up with the created county fair.
5. **Communications** – We're now in the peak season DPR is on camera 4-5 times a week with interviews. In papers 5-8 times a week. We don't have the staff to catch all the stories.
6. **Closing Mountain Parks?** – Former staff member complained about DPR removing picnic tables due to restoring and re-vegetating areas. Also, DPR staff is low so we're trying to discourage littering. There's a full assessment of mountain park trails and picnic areas being done by DPR and relocation/strategic planning.

RNO and Partner Presentations:

Proposed Fee Structure Meetings

Florence and Dody – Meeting at Scheitler and Central Park rec centers for fee tiering meetings. There were 20-25 people at the meeting at Scheitler. The questions at Scheitler were about the process; not many questions about the fee changes. Central Park's meeting was in conflict with another meeting, but there were a few people in attendance including people from the Rec Center task force. Angela did the presentation for the neighborhood group that night. At Barnum, there were about 8 people in attendance; Councilman Lopez attended. The questions were centered on informational changes. At Cook, there were about 30 in attendance. The questions were about programs, i.e. silver sneakers. There were also some complaints about the software program, and government in general. One complaint was about the tiering method. Overall, the community meetings were uneventful.

- Increased crime with new fee structure NOT mentioned at the Fee Structure meetings. This subject has been brought up after words with Councilman Linkhart.
- Q: Are the increased fees hoping to maintain current community usage at Rec Centers?
A: Community members mentioned (in 2008) want more programs, amenities. Community complained about fees for programs during that time (2008). The R.C. Task Force attempts to address that with the amenity based Tiering Model. Budget for 2012 showed a recovery rate of 30% for fiscal planning for DPR without the Rec Center Tiering Fee structure. The recovery would still hover around 19-20%. With the estimate for fees going into effect 9/1/2011, the staff is forecasting that the recovery rate will come close to the 30% recovery; reducing the deficit impact.

With the fee proposal, BMO is allowing DPR to take the projected revenue to offset the budget reduction for FY 2012. If the fees don't pass, DPR will be coming up with \$950,000 in reductions.

Council Committee Update: Chantal Unfug

All of the council members have noted that the research/recommendations were well done. The plan was tabled for a week. Councilman Linkhart wanted to see improved plans (math) for free

annual youth recreation. Complex problem, we would have to raise the fees for adult passes & memberships. DPR does not believe in a free youth program as the increase in adult fees on passes and memberships will unravel the tiering model plan. If the DPR plan does not pass, Rec Center closures will occur. DPR's general fund budget alone cannot provide full coverage for free youth passes, other departments across Denver city government will have to provide financial support for free services.

- Board discussion/Feedback/Alternate ideas:
 - o **Jay** – DPR should hold its ground in the tiering proposal's goals.
 - o **Dody** – Councilman Lopez mentioned having proposal's for teens
 - o **Chantal** – Council members were all supportive of the tiering model fee proposal; Nevitt and Robb support the notion that "if people can pay, then they should pay."
 - o **Conor** – economic impact analysis – "if the youth have free passes and the adult fees increase, what will be the impact of adult percentage loss?" What is the cost/benefit analysis?
 - DPR believes that the current tiering model is at the tipping point for cost/benefits. If there is an additional increase in adult fees for free youth passes, the percentage of loss will increase substantially.
 - o **Conor** – is the structure still 6 month, 12 month payments?
 - **Dody** – month to month payments and 15-30 visit passes. DPR research noted the 3 month passes were inefficient.
 - o **Dody** – increased hours of operation; adding 3 Rec Centers on the West side with Seven days/week operations. (Athmar, Rudy and Scheitler)
 - o **Noel** – what is the timeline?
 - **Chantal**- we'll be looking at the plan weekly and monthly as it develops.
 - o 24 Hour Fitness rates – comparable in price to Tiering fee

Board Partners Comment:

Transitions/Non-Profit Groups

Denver Broncos Boys and Girls club

- Part of 9 boys and girls clubs in the metro area
- Membership dues: \$2.00 a year from 6-18 years of age.
- Schedule 3-9 M-F
- Some programs available on Saturdays
- On average 80 teens/day
- Income demographics: over 51% come from families with incomes of \$20,000 or less
- 64% qualify for free or reduced lunch
- Core program areas: education, career development, technology, life skills & the arts, sports fitness and recreation, and character leadership development
- Power Hour program: paying kids \$10/hr to do their homework.
- Accelerated reader program: star test → find reading range → reading buddies (have seen results that raised reading levels by one academic level) 1h3m30s
- Toy drives: usually after Christmas...used for Power Hour auctions
- Scholarships through Charles Schwab, financial literacy program

- Junior staff program
- Technology program – battle of the bots, where children build robots
- Internet safety program/partnered with district 5 police
- Full time staff in all areas/programs
- Smart Moves/Smart Girls
- Health/Dental fairs and offers – 2 year free dental coverage/alternative healthcare programs
- Pay teens stipend to be peer leaders (3 day training for smart moves/smart girls program)
- Full time art director- award winners
- Sport fitness – specific leagues (internal coed) Rockies help with softball league; entry level leagues. Gold Crown also recruits from these internal leagues.
- 5k Race against violence/health fare/partnership with District 5 DPD
- Partnered with Americorps (2 teams at Aurora central)

Street Kids

- Founded in 1989; Globeville Recreation Center
- 2000 youth in program 1989-1992
- Partnered with DPR
- Various programs, free programs and registration
- Programs: Movie night(food donations), 3 month birthday party, JAM basketball league involvement, summer lunch program (100 kids 3x/week), summer high school team, girls cooking class, girls day, work fair program (assistance for food stamps)
- Registration between April and June: 87. Three month head count: 2105, average count: 24 participants. Youths: 2065, Adults: 40
- Partners: DPR, Food Bank of the Rockies, Work fair Program, Denver Foundation, Extreme Community Makeover, and Dominoes/little Caesars (food donations)
- Committees: Globeville Cares Committee- active group of community members
- Hours of Operation: (Summer hours) 12pm-1:30 (at park) 2-5pm at Rec Center
- Leagues: JAM league, Boys & Girls Club, MMYB...
- Events: community cleaning, (Extreme Community Makeover), BBQ's, Painting the Center
- Programs: Lens Crafters vision program, Community Service program of Denver
- Volunteers: 3 youth, 8 adults
- Grant for AED through Red Cross (will need 10 volunteers certified)

Denver Inner City Parish

- College View Rec Center
- Open 49hrs/week
- Ping Pong, foosball, Basketball, Weight lifting,
- Average daily sign in is 85 people
- Average monthly 2,100
- 1,300 memberships, free registration/membership

- Night school GED program, active roster of 14 participants (7/day). Open to anyone over age of 17.
- Food bank currently serving 100 families. (moving towards client choice model/client needs assessment)
- Food bank partners: community ministries, His hands, Fellowship Food Bank of the Rockies
- After school program with 22 youths enrolled. Adjusted hours in summer 12-5pm in the summer, during the school year 3-6pm.
- Seniors program. Active roster of 20. Bingo, dancing, field trips
- Zumba program (Mon-Sat) 65-75 roster. 40/day on average.
- Yoga; once a week (Mondays) 6 people
- Ceramics/Pottery class, Saturdays 20ppl
- Community Brunch, (1st Plymouth Community church helps with), community outreach. 150 ppl at first, 120ppl at last brunch
- Volleyball, 70 ppl on roster (league)
- 1 full time staff, others are volunteers or from AARP, TANF, DPS, and interns
- Girl's class, grant from City of Denver (education, recreation, cooking..)
- HIV testing, DAZE provided (sp?)
- ?College View advisory council meeting (participant driven)
- Partners: Grasp community ministries, His Hands, Southwest early College, Crossroads of the Rockies, college view elementary... 1h28m22s
- Two other building locations

Colorado Minors

- Founded in 2004
- Youth: free; Adults: \$20/month membership fee
- Former Johnsons Rec Center
- Youth Monitored Facility (i.e. front desk, gym room, community room)
- First non-profit transition piece/group
- Volunteered programs (have people work the desk/services)
- New weight equipment, new computers
- BBQ's, donations etc.
- 30-40 kids/day
- Programs: Shots for tots – Saturdays, Justice High, JAM Basketball, TASC, Basketball camp/tournaments, internships (community service hours for high school students)
- Pro athlete visits (Stevie Johnston) – giving back to the community, teaching lessons, etc.

YMCA

- 5 facilities in Denver
- Youth Sports branch- serves 16,000 youths in the Metro area
- Jr. Nuggets, Jr. Rockies
- 900 kids served a day with childcare

- 2 early childhood locations
- DHS partner with family to family site
- Partner DPR- competitor relationship & customer (renting pool services), collaboration with DPR per summer camps (7 in DPR facilities)
- Dody/Florence - Partnerships were a recommendation from PRAB. It's been a great benefit for the community to have these partnerships. PRAB will have to welcome the partnerships back to meetings to show, recognize future updates.

Procedural Items:

1. Recommendation to change bi-laws to change annual meetings in October, PRAB asks for a vote to move the annual meeting. Elections would remain in October as in last year (2010). Moved and seconded. No discussion. PRAB members in favor, 0 opposed.
2. **Noah/Nole/Nolan** – Feb/March 2011, Derek, Gwen and Noel met with Scott and Chantal as the equity committee to engage on the process and management of planning/park development activities relative to the equity goals based in the “game plan.” 4 categories: sustainability, equity, engagement and sound economics. Equity subcommittee has had a passive monitoring role; exemplified by this matrix of monitory of equity. There's another opportunity for the subcommittee to take a more active role in addressing the disparity of equity of opportunity across the city of Denver. (in regards to open space and the park plan's distribution throughout the city of Denver)
 - West Side of Denver underserved- DPR gulch planning and other efforts that are making opportunities for park space accessible within 6 blocks of every household. (doesn't currently exist) subcommittee could help by supporting and taking an active role in discovering the vision for the west side, gulch development and acquisition of open spaces, utilization of recreation centers. (bringing the reality of equity to the underserved section of the city)

Q: how will this be presented?
A: Parks works independently and in conjunction with all activities. Subcommittee could assist in bringing planning initiatives in a layered approach within a comprehensive plan to help organize another bond issue initiative. Open space acquisition. Comprehensive approach

Q: What are you counting as the bounds of the west side?
A: From district 1 all the way down, west of Broadway.

Q: How are the allocations currently decided?
A: Different “pots” of money. Capital Improvement – a couple of million dollars a year. Produces two things: city wide options i.e. trails. Bonds – 3-4 year process for larger projects like the Rec center out at Stapleton/Central Park.

Management/Operation master plans: restroom, playground master plans.

 - Asset longevity studies
 - Annual maintenance/sustainability

Used Aurora's system as an example for drainage example.

Final Comments: Florence – event for encouraging families to get outdoors. Variety of activities will be presented for community families.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: July 14, 2011

Time: 5:30pm – 7:30pm

**Where: Wellington Webb Building
201 West Colfax
Conference Room 4G2**

Enter: Security Entrance on Court Street and 15th Street