

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**  
**September 8, 2011**  
**Wellington E. Webb Building**

**Attendees:**

James T. Allen (JT)  
Jay April  
Paul Burton  
Noel Copeland  
Michelle Fenton  
Scott Gilmore  
Conor Holis  
Florence Navarro  
Derek Sandos  
Bernie Sharp  
Leslie Twarogowski  
Darrell Watson

**Absent:**

Mary Ewing - excused  
Richard Ott  
Keith Pryor - excused  
Ryan Ross

**Denver Parks and Recreation Staff in attendance:**

Dody Erickson  
Fred Weiss  
Gordon Robertson  
Britta Herwig  
Arthur Gilkison

**Introduction and Welcome – Darrell Watson**

Darrell Watson called the DPRAB meeting to order.

The August minutes of the DPRAB were approved. The minutes for the DPRAB meeting will now post to the website within two weeks of the meeting date. The posted minutes will read not approved. The board will approve the minutes at the following months meeting and at that time the minutes will be official approved on the website.

Darrell introduced Leslie Twarogowski who will be representing District 5 and was appointed by Councilwoman Mary Beth Susman. Leslie is a native of Denver and has a young family that uses the parks and recreation center regularly. She prepares taxes leaving her plenty of time to serve on the DPRAB.

## **Public Comment**

Dave Felice ([gelato321@aol.com](mailto:gelato321@aol.com)) - Dave Felice encourages new members to the DPRAB to attend RNO meeting in their community. DPRAB members are welcome to attend the INC meetings on the second Saturday of every month and INC Park subcommittee meeting on every third Tuesday. Dave opposes Admission Based Events in parks. Visit [savecitypark.org](http://savecitypark.org).

Tim Gordon – Colorado Coalition for Skate Parks, students from Ellis Elementary contacted the Coalition to see if they could help build a skate park somewhere within their community. The nearest Denver park is Ashgrove Park. Tim's contact info is [tim@skateparkdenver.com](mailto:tim@skateparkdenver.com).

Cathy Fisher from the INC (Denver Interneighborhood Cooperation) Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee wanted to thank the DPRAB for adjusting when and how information is posted to the web. The INC Parks committee meets every third Tuesday which in September is, September 20 from 6:00-8:30pm at the Heritage Club which is located at 2020 Monroe.

Barbara Harris a cancer survivor had concerns relating to a program called Summit Cancer Solutions, INC. I have included a copy of that letter in the minutes. Dody Erickson explained that this program is a very extensive program and Colorado Parks and Recreation provides training.

There was a request to provide bio's of DPRAB members on the Denver Parks website. Anthony Aragon with Boards and Commissions informed staff that this is not standard protocol to provide bio information on board or commissioners in the city. At this time a decision will not be made on this issue.

## **Managers Report – Dody Erickson**

This past month DPR held their Annual Employee Expo. Mayor Hancock attended the event and visited and talked with employees. Staff will invite DPRAB members next year. Upcoming public meeting are the River North Park planning meeting and the Weir Gulch Community meeting. The DPR 2012 Budget presentation will be Downtown on September 20 at 10:30. Please visit the Trestle Bike Park if you haven't had a chance to see it. The park is being utilized by 25-75 bikers regularly. Staff is looking into adding a temporary vending site to provide services to the bikers.

Denver Golf received a grant for \$385,000 to improve Evergreen Golf Course. Jay wanted to know about the Strategic Plan for Golf. DPR staff received the Plan about 1 month ago. DPR will be moving suggestions and recommendations to the Golf Advisory Board. Staff will see what recommendations DPR will move forward with. Staff might present recommendations to the DPRAB in December.

The Pro Cycling Tour was a huge success. The event sponsors pulled permits for the site and handled all set-up, tear down and support. Dody visited Civic Center on Monday after the race and the park looked great.

## **Nomination and By-Law Committees**

The nomination committee members are Keith, Paul, Conor, Mary, and Michelle. Please e-mail a committee member if you would like to serve on the Executive committee. You need to be in good standing on the DPRAB, which means you have a good attendance record.

The By-Laws Committee will be looking over the By-Laws to revise them to reflect the work the DPRAB has been doing.

## **City Park Playground and Community Space**

Britta Herwig presented the plans for the City Park Playground and Community Space. The plan incorporates all aspects of the DPR Master Plan for Playgrounds. The new playground will be a creative environment where a family can interact together. The existing playground is a wooden structure that is 15 years old that is named after Dustin Reed, a young boy that participated in programs provided by Denver Parks. The playground was built in 1996 during a 5 day volunteer effort.

This playground (learning landscape) will fit the parameters of the Playground Master Plan and the City Park Master Plan. This will insure the playground fits within the park. Staff will have an ideas completion for aspects of the playground and then there will be a jury selection. There will be a public process that will include surveys, community meetings, stakeholder groups, and volunteer input.

The playground will cost over 5 million dollars. The playground will be built in two phases, phase 1 will cost an estimated 3 million dollars and phase 2 will cost over 2 million dollars. DPR has received a grant from Colorado Health Foundation to assist in the design aspect of the project. The design criteria will include historic aspects of the park and city, neighborhood connections, multigenerational and cultural aspects, playable art, and healthy living. Examples (images) were provided from around the country and world. These included parks from NYC, Chicago, Vancouver, Ohio, and Europe.

The time line for the project:

Public Idea Competition – Now to December 2011

Project design and phase 1 –spring and summer 2012

Fundraising (3 million) – summer 2012 to summer 2013.

Florence had the question of who will be handling the fundraising? Fundraising dollars will come from private sources and corporations. There will be dedicated funds from DPR budget for this project, \$500,000. The board would like to post the competition as soon as possible to the DPR website and distribute information about the competition to as many people as possible. Make sure playground equipment does not get hot during the summer months.

## **Fee Increase Proposal**

Fred Weiss presented the fee increase proposal. The main concern in the proposal was the proposed change of youth athletic fees for field rental was going to be increased from \$5 to \$10. Mayor Hancock wanted no fee increases for youth. Staff met with Janice Sinden, Chief of Staff, and discussed the rationale for this proposed increase. Possible compromise is to drop proposed youth fees from \$10 to \$7.50 and increase adult fees by \$1.00.

The proposed fee increases will be presented to the Land Use, Transportation, and Infrastructure Committee of City Council, it will then be presented to the Mayors Council, then will move on to the full City Council.

There are athletic groups that have stated that they could hold tournaments that could raise money for the primary purpose of helping support the upkeep of the fields.

Facility rentals for non-profits: There was concern that the discount of 50% that non-profit organizations receive being changed to a 25% discount would price some groups out of using these facilities.

There was a motion by Noel Copeland to approve the fee structure as presented to the board, second by Scott Gilmore.

Discussion: Michelle is concerned that for festivals and special events, some of these groups seem to be making a lot of money. DPR seems to be charging a very low % in fees for park usage in comparison to what the groups are making. Fred stated there are numerous other charges these groups have to incur to hold these events in the parks; these include: fencing, security, port-a-potties, stages, etc. The organizers have to be in compliance with city and state rules regulations: fencing, trash pick-up, security.

There are 9 to 10 very large festivals held in the city. Lots of different types of running events are held. Hard to balance what we charge for events due to the size and nature of the events. There could be a possible tiering for different size events.

Conor stated that the overall impact to the city is important. Lots of money comes back to the city by tax revenue because of visitors and citizens spending money at the festivals and events.

Fred Weiss has meeting with the larger festival organizers and have invited DPRAB members to attend to have a conversation about raising fees. There was the question: Can the city gain transparency into how much revenue the organizations/groups are making? The city could require groups to have an audit.

Disparity in fees seems to discourage smaller events and favor larger events.

1-350 people (\$2 per person)

Over 25,000 (\$.18 per person)

Fees for festivals should be increased.

Motion has been made by Noel. Vote taken and Fee Proposal as presented to DPRAB passed.

Additional discussion: JT wants to make sure we are recouping enough to maintain the fields we have. Conor wondered where do fees DPR collects go? 100% of all fees collected go to the general fund. Fred is working on keeping some of these fees within DPR. Jay seeks transparency of finances of events.

### **KUDOS to DPR Staff**

Florence Navarro attended Dogapolloza at the Berkley Recreation Center and wanted to commend the staff on how well it was run. Great event!!!!

### **Meeting Adjourned**

#### **Next Meeting:**

**When: October 13, 2011**

**Time: 5:00pm – 6:00pm**

**Meeting: October Board meeting**

**Time: 6:00PM – 8:00PM**

**Meeting: Annual Meeting/Board Retreat**

**Where: Wellington Webb Building**

**201 West Colfax**

**Conference Room 4G2**

**Enter: Security Entrance on Court Street and 15<sup>th</sup> Street**