

Meeting Minutes

**DENVER PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

**February 10, 2020 – 5:30- 7:30 pm**

Virtual Meeting: Via Zoom

**PRAB Meeting Norms**

Be respectful and presume positive intentions.  
Seek first to understand and then to be understood.  
Stay focused on topics at hand.  
Allow space for all to have a voice.  
Listen without judgement.  
Live our values of equity and inclusion.

**Board Members In attendance:**

Noel Copeland, Fran Coleman, Lee Rains Thomas, Frank Rowe, Meredith Levy, Lynne Mason, Amy Razzaque, Leslie Twarogowski, Lisa Calderon, Molly McKinley, Jack Paterson, Chandi Aldena, Florence Navarro, Marla Rodriguez, Trena Marsal, Andre McGregor, Ramsey Harris, Marlene De La Rosa, Deana Perlmutter, Pam Jiner

**CALL TO ORDER**

Marla calls meeting to order at 5:33

Lee takes roll call

Welcome to new members-

Ramsey Harris- Mayoral (lives in Dist. 9) GRASP project

Marlene De la Rosa- Mayoral (lives in Dist. 1)

Deana Pearlmuter- Mayoral (lives in Dist. 10)

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Approve November Minutes with amendments

Noel makes a motion to approve minutes, Florence seconds

Unanimously approved

**Public Comments**

Ellen Kessler- coyote with mange in Wash Park, P & R said it was not something we can do, "mange is not treatable in wildlife". Is treatable and vets can treat mange in wild animals. All we can do is monitor. "Let nature take it's course". Did not let nature take course with the geese. Wants animals to be treated better.

**PRAB COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Executive Committee: Retreat discussion

Retreat will be a zoom meeting- time to revisit committees, run by a facilitator, a Saturday morning in March or April, many new members and members since last retreat, helping clarify the role of the PRAB along with the role of committees, what drives the work, ground ourselves in the Game Plan- 20 year plan from the dept. Will include discussion of Black lives matter solidarity statement and helping DPR increase equity.

Will share Black Lives Matter solidarity statement with new members in packet of information.

### Outreach Committee

Discussion at PRAB: Concerned about outreach within some communities of color, Park Hill golf course small area plan- lack of PRAB representation.

Wants to bring forth a motion to have a PRAB rep on this committee.

Clarify that meetings are or are not recorded? Wants them to be accessible.

Visioning processes with re-development of parks- not good opportunities for the community to be involved.

Notes from meeting:

Attendees: Lisa Calderon (Chair) Jeffrey Hirsch, Georgia & Woody Garnsey, Carole Woodall, Mary Francis Nevans, Gerald Hamel, Leslie Twarogowski, Mark Bailey, Arthur Gilkison, Jesus Orrantia

Closed Streets: Closed streets mini-briefing for Outreach Team? Gerald - microgrant for traffic calming mural in park roads and other intersections. He has been through the process - paint the park movement. Georgia - Student Art Clubs - overseen by an artist - Similar to PS You Are Here! **Art in park application and process documents were sent out. Folks requesting more information on this street closures are encouraged to attend the Planning Committee, the committee of reference for this topic. Street Closure will be on the agenda of the March 10 PRAB meeting.**

Park People: Mark Bailey (Vice President) Denver Digs Trees will be back on line later this year. He is here promoting a Community Forester Program. Looking for a workforce development project - get the community involved to get skills to enter the workforce. Help our community and help our youth.

Canada Geese: Carole Woodall - shared newsletter, look ahead to Auditor's office who will be looking into questions around transparency on the spring docket. We have a moment to voice the way the public is or is not notified. Billboard campaign will be located at Colorado Blvd and Mexico. USDA - a lot of attention on profit driven mechanism - wildlife on a local, state, and national level. The city oversees the contract lawsuit against RNC processors. Use of taxpayer \$ are not transparent. Lot of activity around forming a task force with Scott Gilmore. Updates will come to this group.

Park Acquisition Survey: Leslie Twarogowski - Game Plan list of park deficient neighborhoods. Survey asks questions about where you want to see acquisition. Recommend that it remains open for an additional couple of months. Lisa Calderon: Rather than pushing survey - should be quality of the data. Interviews with underserved populations would help fill in the demographic gap and we need more time to do that.

Motion to recommend extending to Feb 28 and ask that interviews be incorporated. 11 ayes.

**Agency consulted with planning group regarding request to extend survey but were unable to accommodate the request. Agency recommended attending the Planning Committee, the committee of reference for the strategic acquisition plan, which is on the Third Tuesday of each month at 5pm. Next public meeting regarding Strategic Acquisition is on March 11 at 5:30pm via Zoom.**

Marla- Wants to clarify PRAB members role on committees at the retreat  
PRAB meetings are recorded and given upon request, Arthur can send recording.  
Learning more about visioning process, would like for committee to connect with a DPR staff member

Seems that we are somewhat confused of Park Hill golf course and PRAB representation.  
Marla will follow up with appointees.  
Andre- Represents dist. 8 on PRAB/ park hill golf course is in dist. 8

#### Planning, Design, Funding, Accessibility

Meredith- met on 1/19  
Acquisition updates (Kathy Loveck)- analyzing survey, areas to support the Game Plan  
Mountain park acquisition- family gift Axton Ranch 436 acres  
Gilpin/Jeffco districts, 1<sup>st</sup> gift since 1939

Park road closures survey- Cheeseman, Sloan's, City, Wash, Ruby Hill  
[Molly- shares letter in support of process for car free parks](#)  
Welcomes more dialogue on the park hill course.

#### Operations, Maintenance, Budget

Frank, Amy and Trena- a pitch to join the committee for new members  
Last Monday of month on zoom  
In city charter- PRAB is responsible for reviewing the budget and making recommendations to the dept.  
Goal of gathering feedback for department from all PRAB  
Invites everyone to next meeting to begin working on this (2/22)  
Challenges throughout the city and we can all weigh in.

Marla- one of our most important roles is to give recommendations to the department about the budget.  
Meredith- when should we connect with our city council/ reps to gather district priorities?

#### Resiliency and Sustainability

Fran- discussed restroom situation across the city, will have full PRAB presentation tonight.  
Learned about pollinator gardens- Sanderson gulch and will involve the community  
Geese protection update- have come a long way and we worked hard to hear all voices. New members will get more info. Thank you to Cincere Eades for the information in power point.  
[View the presentation.](#)

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Covid recovery update-

Spring outdoor programming- city wide, will begin in late March

Rec centers- hoping for may 1 opening, depends on dial from the state

Limited to schedulable programs and classes, want to consider various ways to get involved and work to distribute equitably.

In June- activities in rec centers- my Denver and tasty meal program

Have been distributing food throughout the pandemic.

Pools- targeting in June for outdoor pool opening

Starting slow philosophy- with staffing and phasing in. Learning and getting better as we go.

Indoor pools in the fall hopefully.

Park hill steering committee-

Open application process- no given seats

RNOs in the area were able to choose their own reps- the only group

Many people represent multiple perspectives, but all needed to be close to the golf course, demographic balance, lots of factors considered.

## **OTHER ITEMS**

### 1. Restrooms in Parks update

[View the presentation](#)

Denver day works- employment, used to keep skyline open every day.

Looking at other cities to learn how to have open restrooms. Have implemented restroom attendants at several restrooms where issues come up

Advocacy from councilperson Kneich allowed for additional \$350,000

Let Scott know if there are specific issues.

More cleaning in the summer for programed events and use.

### 2. Mountain Park Acquisition

[View the presentation](#)

Luke McKay/ Brad Eckert

Seeking a recommendation from PRAB to approve donation. Request a formal action.

488 acres Gilpin/ Jefferson County

3 generations are in agreement to donate land to DPR

Key terms- 450 acres of 488, remaining 38 acres will be retained by family, DPR right of first offer, DPR agreed to cover transition costs (~\$80,000), subject to several deed restriction as a public park and open space. Protections afforded as a designation and more with deeds.

Lisa- Would like to be part of the conversation about increasing access for people of color

Parking, restrooms, accessibility, signage.

Brad- end of the road is gate to ranch, area used as parking area juts outside of the gate. Will be working with outdoor recreation group and add Axton Ranch to offer more mountain areas for people of the city. After surveying the property, will be making more permanent.

Happy- strong effort to help broaden access, lots of programming opportunities, helping get people up to the mountains who haven't been up to the mountains.

PRAB would like to learn more about the Axton family since the park will be named after them. Committee recommends bringing this to the PRAB for a motion.

Makes motion bring before PRAB to Fran, Lynne make recommendation to support acquisition. Unanimously supports the recommendation of accepting this gift.

March city council will approve donation and terms and then will have 7 months to close. Hope to complete this before then. Once that happens, then designate the property and then begin to implement interim uses. Can begin thinking about planning and programming on the property.

Some discussion about mountain parks more broadly. Since there seems to be interest in that maybe we should revive the mountain parks subcommittee? or develop a working group to come up with some recommendations?

For now, will continue to have mountain parks within the planning committee and being on the PRAB agenda every 3 months. Something to consider at the retreat.

### 3. Car Free Parks

[View the presentation](#)

Equity, accessibility, functionality

Owen Wells- shares information on each of the 5 parks.

Discussion on parking and timeline, updated signage needed.

Beginning to think about permits for the summer.

### 4. New Business/Announcements

Rocky Mnt. Arsenal- how is DPR part- federal land access land permit- built access points along 56<sup>th</sup> ave. will have improvements on 56<sup>th</sup> and trail access.

3/11- 5:30 strategic acquisition plan

Loss in the city- Nettie Moore passed this week. A champion for west Denver and the Villa Park neighborhood.

**ADJOURNMENT @ 7:54**