

PRAB Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2020
DRAFT

Board Members In attendance: Molly McKinley, Lee Rains Thomas, David Richter, Marla Rodriguez, Leslie Twarogowski, Jack Paterson, Tony Smith, Fran Coleman, Meredith Levy, Frank Rowe, Trena Marsal, Mark Brown, Samantha Villatoro, Florence Navarro, Lynne Mason, Lisa Calderon, Tashmesia Mitchell

Absent: Noel Copeland, Mark Brown

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 by President, David Richter. A quorum was established. Introductions of new PRAB members: Lynn Mason- District 6 and Lisa Calderon- District 9

Consent to agenda items

- Slight change to Blue Print from partners (Florence)
- Happy asks to fill in chairperson and meeting times for committees, almost complete
- Happy is working to connect a DPR staff to each committee
- Motion to accept notes- Fran made a motion, Florence seconded. Unanimously approved.

Public comments

Carole Woodall- Representing Canada Geese Protection Colorado, (core team leader and spokesperson), also coming from standpoint of being an educator. Compassionate, kind and listening critically. Concerned about lack of preliminary information presented to public at large. As a historian, would like clarity on goose management program of June 2019 (document demonstrates: care, foresight, previous strategies). Egg oiling has been used since 2016. Other methods have been used, but it seems not with consistency. Q- Why was there not any opportunity given to the public? Does not understand the timeline and why public was not involved.

Board comments related to public comments:

Lisa- When suggestions are made to PRAB, would like to know what the PRAB does with these questions/ suggestions. De Baca office would like to meet with constituents. Seems that the committee meetings are not open to public and are one sided, will bring a motion to make them all public in the future.

David- as advisory board, we are to make recommendations.

Marla- Role of board is an advisory board, get updates from department, be informed about policies and practices of Parks and Rec.

Fran- When we discussed our plan to develop committees, we aim to address public comment in committees. Dates are scheduled and available publicly.

Happy- Information from committee sessions are gathered and reviewed at PRAB meetings so that feedback from public may be gathered and then come back to this group. Set to accommodate committee members, meetings are accessible and public is able to attend.

PRAB Committee reports:

Resiliency and sustainability- (Fran) Looking at things like wildlife management, pesticide usage, recycling, etc.

Members, Molly, Jack, Lee and Fran- Harvey Park on 1/31

Thanks to Scott Gillmore for arranging presenters and meeting space.

Pesticide usage and best practices, toxicity of pesticides, 350 flower beds that are, information shared from CSU, goose management- Denver's warm climate is very inviting to geese, so we have more year round residents than we should. For the culling last year, used American vet standards, lined up chefs on how to prepare the food and get it to the public. Looking at international wildlife management practices, tree canopy and emerald ash bore. Mayor's monarch pledge- planting milkweed.

Future topics include- dog parks, recycled water, Lakewood dry gulch, pests, wildlife.

Lee shared about other methods used, not just culling.

Happy shared that the first committee was set up to learn and set up collaborative methods with DPR staff. Will bring issues to committees for them to gather info and become a liaison with public and then back to PRAB. David shares his hope that we consider topics in depth at committee meetings and then bring them back to PRAB. Molly wants to publish committee rosters.

Operations and finance- Leslie, first Wednesday of each month at noon at DPS facility building.

Fred Weiss (director of finance) reviewed golf department summaries, will be a proposal coming soon to raise golf fees in order to not use parks revenue. Members had lots of questions for Scott and Fred.

Potentially will set up a session for PRAB to learn more about DPR golf issues/ regulations/ etc.

Leslie shares that in charter- we are here for one reason- to comment on the DPR budget. Produce a white paper that seems very general. Want to move to project based recommendations for DPR. Would like to change what is included in the white paper, rather than just general comments. More project based. Leslie is seeking feedback from PRAB members to inform this report.

***Email by 2/28 some items to potential include in the white paper.**

David will support increased communication and reminders through email.

Outreach committee (Tony), January 30th- Sam, Tash, Tony

Created a vision and mission to advise staff of parks and rec:

The outreach committee aspires to advise the staff of Parks and Recreations by creating a dialogue with the citizens of Denver. In order to be the best liaisons possible, this team will advise on outreach matters, including community engagement, communications and programming, This includes parketing, sponsorships, partnerships, fundraising, park naming, volunteers, educations, stewardship and human resources, sports/ youth programming, active older adults, outdoor education, arts and culture, health and affordability.

Meeting schedule will be set after meeting. 1st meeting with John M.- prioritize

Planning and design, funding and accessibility (Meredith)-

January 29th- Meredith, Florence, Marla, Noel, David

Mark Tabor- principal park planner- went into the game plan and learned about metrics and hopes to gather more info to share with the public. Next meeting will prioritize and Park Hill golf course, learning meeting.

David- asks for a tele-conference for committee chairs once a month that would be the 3rd week of each month- Fridays are best (Fran), Leslie- Molly, Meredith, Tony- 1:00

Executive Director's report

Coming Next month- 3 items coming to the board- Park Trust, Briefing on e-devices, Mountain Parks team update

Will come back in March with golf fees, if anyone wants further info before the meeting next month, Happy can share info. David- committee spent 1 hour with DPR, expects decision not to be made next month. Will need to limit time to just about fee increase.

Partnership policy will be up for a recommendation.

Goose management- likely in April with specific discussion about goose management. Met with an individual from geese group and presented ideas to DPR staff. DPR listened and will share ideas that were presented to committee and with larger report in April with goose management.

Typically we don't address public comment in the moment, but try to learn more and follow up on issues after the meeting.

Swansea Park- sneak peek event 2/5, playground- *todos activos*, students from Garden Place spent a year designing and developing the park. Shared with community and honored students. Will have larger event later in the spring.

Lorraine Granado Park- has moved to council committee. 1st read on the 18th, then a courtesy public hearing and then on Feb 24th- (Jesus Orrantia- community engagement specialist shared). Will be official on 2/24 with approval, then will set up a formal dedication event/ celebration.

Mt. Evans renaming, department asked to consider renaming and for board to consider. DPR has connected with Indian commission and other agencies to rename. Cheyenne and Arapahoe tribes are submitting rename to federal/ state commission. Mt. Blue Sky and wilderness area- proposal to USGS.

Spring activity guides- limited numbers available. Also each rec center creates a smaller, cite specific guide available. The guide is available online also.

Bison Auction- March 6th.

Lisa- where to the calves get sold to?

Happy- Calves are sold to the public. DPR is in the midst of entering an agreement with the Denver Zoo with bison heard at Daniels park. Partnering with indigenous tribes on numerous activities and worked

on use of our bison. Engaging indigenous community on best practices and management of bison herds. Lisa would like more info on how we engage the community and indigenous communities.

Public Hearing

Public Event Policy- Fred Weiss- director of finance. Made some changes, PRAB went through policy Meredith shares from constituent- allow the sale of glass, eco-waste companies- have city incentivize.

Fred- We do not allow sale of glass- must be adequately wrapped at point of sale- same goes for cutlery. Katie Strezcena- director of special events- a study on sustainability and events, looking at international cities. Looking at cost, products, sustainability. Hopes to align with city processes to develop what can be done and how. Just beginning this work. Goal of city with most sustainable events.

Happy wants to work on this and believes we can be a more responsible and sustainable. Gradual transition. Trena- wants to work with city and DPS on sustainability efforts.

David asks for motion to approve. Tony makes motion, Leslie seconds, unanimous acceptance of public events policy.

Other items

Outdoor downtown update- Mark Bernstein downtown area planner with DPR. 1 pager is the 20 year strategic plan. Downtown is growing faster than other parts of the city. Improve air quality with more greenery throughout downtown. Community driven plan, over 1 year spent on connecting with community to understand what the desires outcome is. Top 10 document- narrows from many more. How do we take our existing structures and add more amenities? Want to have a 5 minute walk to a park. Community desires drive the plan. Public space, public life- testing ideas and measuring them. Elevate Denver- Greek theatre- reinvigorate, Signature playground- commons park, skyline park- moving forward with public engagement, ice rink. Continuing work on 5280 bike trail, urban forest. Downtown Denver partnership and business community funding- 2\$ from business, 1\$ from Denver.

David opens up for general questions-

Lynne- concern about naming parks that are actually just cement plazas- parking on 21st- pop up parks- challenging with lack of trees and shade. We don't have more space downtown for more parks.

Lisa- equity- who does it exclude? Appeals to certain demographics. Concern about further scattering the homeless. These people can, these people can't. Catalyst for greening downtown, but what about other areas of the city? Globeville/ Swansea- issues of equity, lack of business money and lobbyist dollars.

Happy- Tree canopy in downtown area is particularly important with heat issues. Will also be focusing on other areas of the city with tree canopy initiative. Intend to focus on other areas of the city as well- using the park tax \$. Downtown is not the only area that needs a better tree canopy.

David- basic amenities- how can we approach the river as an amenity?

Happy- The Gameplan includes the river corridor, undertaking river vision plan (DPR). River as an asset, nature, etc. Will beginning with River Vision Plan and developing new plan. Better development, access, improving habitat, improve water quality.

Tashmesia- context of information, where does this go? What does this align to?

Happy- Resources TBD, very much aligned to the Gameplan.

Mark- outdoor downtown pre-dated the Gameplan, but it became part of the Gameplan

Full document is on the planning page with lots of recommendations- improvements.

General board comments

Fran- will follow up with committee about meeting times.

Email Leslie- 2/28 with specific line items for white paper

Happy- Before budget is created, DPR meets with each councilmember for feedback to inform budget

David- Ruby Hill rail yard opened. Amazing how much work goes into planning and getting a park project up and running.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35.