

DENVER PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

May 12, 2021 – 5:30- 7:30 pm

Virtual Meeting: Via Zoom Webinar

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:

Audrey Carrillo, Fran Coleman, Lee Rains Thomas, Frank Rowe, Lynne Mason, Amy Razzaque, Andre McGregor, Molly McKinley, Pam Jiner, Jack Paterson, Chandi Aldena, Marlene De La Rosa, Ramsey Harris, Marla Rodriguez, Florence Navarro, Deana Perlmutter, Trena Marsal

Absent: Meredith Levy, Lisa Calderon

CALL TO ORDER

Marla calls meeting to order at 5:34, reviews board norms (above)

Lee takes roll call.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Approve April Minutes

Fran makes a motion to approve minutes, Frank seconds.

Unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

General Public Comment (Public comment first, before roll call, approving minutes)

1. JP McGlaughlin Conservation Efforts

Dist 3, polar planet, lake watch, Canada geese protection Colorado. Thanks to the staff for helping, Amy, Lee, Meredith and staff thank you for providing resources and time. Trash blitzes are highly effective, plastics are polluting water ways. Call to increase awareness of use of plastics, support plastic pollution reduction act.

2. Carole Woodall Outreach Team

Thanks to Lee and Amy for Barnum park clean up. Resident of Dist 7, parks outreach committee. Would like to see outreach, BLM statement- call to action. Opportunity to practice points of this statement at the retreat.

3. Mary Frances Nevans Open Meetings

Open records meeting specialist. CORA- elected and appointed officials. Notice of meetings, 24 hours or 48 hours, must adhere to stricter law. Social event may occur with no notice with no visit. Encourages learning about open records act info and

4. Leslie Twalogowski

Outreach committee member. Would hope to hear from executive director report- plan for upcoming bond process? 2020 Revenue from legacy tax report. In retreat, would hope to be able to record the meeting and be able to use the chat function.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Strategic Acquisition Plan *Power Point Presentation attached

Presented by DPR staff:

Kathy LeVeque

Luke McKay

Back to PRAB on June 9th for a recommendation.

Strategic Acquisition Plan (SAP) Public Hearing: Public Comment:

1. Darrell Watson In Favor

Dist 9 resident, Denver park trust chair, in favor of plan and encourages PRAB support. Equity and resilience addressed in this plan. This plan provides accountability for this plan. Specific goals and measurable outcomes. Comes with a toolbox when engaging with DPR in acquisition. Plan can be operationalized.

2. Woody Garnsey Park Hill Golf Course...

Consistent with recommendation From PRAB in 2020, encourages support of acquiring Park Hill golf course, purchased easement in 1997, 2019 partners bought land subject to agreement, restoration money provided to repair the golf course. West side is pushing a planning agenda. Easement- open space and conservational purposes. If west side does not, Denver should purchase land and should be no more than fair market value. Denver has fallen behind and we need 150 acres of open space.

3. Amy Harris In favor

Supports the acquisition plan. NE park hill resident. 2A funding- buy this property (Park Hill) as a park, would benefit the neighborhood.

4. Carol Woodall

What do Kathy and Luke mean by unique species? Considering migratory birds?

Response- no specifics, depends on property to determine if there might be a unique opportunity. Each site is different with different unique species to the site.

Board discussion in support of plan: outreach, strategy to engage with community.

PRESENTATIONS:

CIP Briefing- Gordon Robertson

*Power Point Presentation attached

Needs to add a line for acquisition

\$5M this year and next, moving to \$7.5M

Equity index considered in making decisions

Board discussion to clarify various locations mentioned:

Where is Heron pond park in Globeville? Along river, East of Washington of 53rd

Harvard Gulch- Rosedale

South Platte- CDOT project, alameda north to wastewater building

New bridge crossing at waste water building (I-25)

Scott- will have a public process that DPR will announce next week.
This is just a list of high priority projects.

Equity map- also considers safety.
Many projects being funded with limited funds.
Various buckets of how these projects are funded.

PRAB COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee: Retreat discussion

Acknowledge that it was disappointing to cancel, apologize for inconvenience.

June 5th seems like a long time away, but it is not.
Have time to understand each others perspectives and build relationships
Public meetings doesn't seem to work for building relationships, solely on committees and the role of PRAB.
Would like to create at least 2 opportunities for relationships building outside of that.

Molly- what if we can't attend? Questions or prompts in advance to contribute to discussion

Marla- we will try to get all voices if people can't attend.

As of now, 5 PRAB members can't come on 6/5.

Reminder that Dr. Tyler recommended that we do this work- committee work, functions of the PRAB.

Role of the public will be only to watch, not participate. Part of the conversation is how we can dialogue with the public, will propose a plan and discuss at the retreat. If it were in person, public would be allowed also.

Outreach Committee (Marlene)

Discussed retreat, Park Hill golf course, naming of Isabel Phalis park (mother requested naming), interested in guidelines for park naming.

Lee- rec center outreach needed from PRAB. Seems like a topic that Outreach committee can take on. How do we help get the word out about rec centers re-opening and the summer activities for youth?

*Youth sports flyer attached

Audrey/ Marlene- So far on this committee, we have had nothing to do with recreation and it seems like the outreach committee should take on issues like recreation.

Planning, Design, Funding, Accessibility (Florence)

Opportunity to strategic plan moving forward.

Next steps for dogs off leash. Requesting more information about this issue and the committee is working on gathering the information. This is in the process and will be brought back to PRAB. Discussion about engaging with the public.

Operations, Maintenance, Budget (Frank)

Sent an email to PRAB with an update on process so far. Please read this email and send any feedback to Frank. Went through the report and checked game plan, equity, BLM, community voice. Cut off on the 24th for any further feedback.

Clarify whether it is an aspirational statement or a realistic statement. Will send out after meeting and can get final feedback on 6/9 and then hopes to have them ready for department on 7/14. Use notes section on the google doc and add your name in case there are questions.

Resiliency and Sustainability (Fran)

Reviewed report from Jonathan Rogers. Some questions about how much renewable energy is being used at rec centers, etc. will meet a week earlier- may 21st at 1:00. Vicki Vargas will present info on wildlife management. Shared Canada Geese task force statement.

Park Hill Golf Course Update

The meeting was rescheduled to 18th of this month. No update at this time.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

ED Report PRAB – May 12, 2021

(Presented by Scott Gilmore)

- **Recovery Funding**

Denver to receive \$308 million in federal COVID relief funds beginning this month

- **Rules and Regs update**

The department will soon be moving forward several code updates for park and event facility permits to be more consistent with the rules and regulations. We are not changing any policies.

Currently there are some provisions in the Denver Revised Municipal Code referring to permitting that are outdated and/or no longer apply in practice to the Public Event Permit Rules and Regulations and Policy (2017, updated 2020) as well as the Athletic Permit Rules and Regulations and Policy (2018) that were recommended by the PRAB, and accepted by us. We want to ensure that the code reflects the current standards that are being done by our Permitting Division.

The code changes will affect Public Events, Athletics, Event Facility and Private Outdoor Fee-Based Activities (POFA) permits. Fees must stay in code and approved by council if they will be increased or decreased. Some of the fees will be removed as they are no longer in use and causes confusion to those who are looking to get a permit.

There are steps that the department still must take before this goes to council, but we want to make sure to let you all know that this is something coming down the pipeline. The City Attorney's Office is still working on the draft ordinance, hence why we are unable to give more specifics here.

DPR will also be moving forward an ordinance alignment related to wheeled devices and alcohol use in parks. The rules and regulations related to both these items has already been approved by PRAB and implemented within the department.

- **Dog off leash update**

We acknowledge receipt of the Change.org petition and correspondence about the proposal and we are seeking guidance from the PRAB regarding what the next steps should be. The proposal is in contradiction to existing current city ordinances and rules and regulations, so no immediate action can be taken.

Our next steps are to:

- 1) prepare a list of the pertinent ordinances and rules and regulations, both DPR's and DDPHE's;
- 2) have Denver Park Rangers prepare a report about dog related issues over the past 2 – 3 years;
- 3) have DDPHE Animal Control prepare a similar report to present to the appropriate PRAB Committee;
- 4) and to research whether any other city has a program or policy similar to the one being proposed.

Geese update

The 2021 goose management efforts are underway, and so far, results of the multi-strategy approach that we use for managing goose populations in Denver parks, is proving to be successful, and showing that goose number objectives are being met. These results have also indicated that we will not be controlling goose populations through culling in 2021.

The Egg Oiling season was late this year, most likely due to the colder temperatures that hung around later than usual, causing the geese to mate and build nests later in the spring.

- Natural Resource staff, District staff, Volunteers, and USDA-Wildlife Services are all participating in the egg oiling activity (Mar – June)
- This year's Egg Oiling Permit allows egg oiling on other properties other than just park properties. We have extended our egg oiling efforts to any Denver property that gives us permission to oil eggs on, and are working with private neighborhood HOA's on this effort.
- Resident Canada goose numbers are down from last year, and previous years, showing that the culling in 2019 and 2020 was effective in reducing the resident population.
 - Recent data of the estimated Resident goose population in each of the parks where culling took place:
City Park - 50
Sloan's Lake - 68
Washington Park - 31
Garfield Park - 42
Harvey - 26
Garland – 10
- We continue to use non-lethal methods for controlling the resident populations:
 - Hazing – Use of the Goosinator – September through March
 - Hazing – Deterring – District using a Grid/Flagging system on the athletic fields to keep geese from landing
 - Coyote Silhouette Pilot Project – Used volunteers to set out decoys in various parks to deter geese (Sept 2020-Mar 2021)
 - Landscape alterations – from traditional bluegrass to native vegetation - making park property undesirable to geese
- Continue to research and learn more about other methods and strategies and what other states are doing to control goose populations.
- We continue to work closely with USDA-Wildlife Services on goose management and research.

Recreation Update 3 Fitness centers and 4 program centers opened on May 3rd.

1. Our reopening has gone well, and the public has responded favorably.
2. Attendance/Registration
 - a. Week 1 attendance = 744 with an 81% attendance rate
 - b. Week 2 registrations (as of Wed) = 1131
3. Starting June 7
 - a. 3 additional fitness centers open
 - b. 8 outdoor pools
 - c. 4 Youth Sports camps
 - d. 7 Summer in the Parks camps
 - e. 14 meals sites

Recruitment efforts – Help

DPR is in the process of filling many positions to support our business operations including leadership, full-time and seasonal positions. We would appreciate your assistance in getting the word out about these positions to anyone who is interested in public service, qualified and passionate. External candidates can apply for a variety of open positions at denvergov.org/jobs. Some of the positions we are currently or will soon be recruiting for include:

- Lifeguard
- Parks Utility Worker
- Irrigation Maintenance Technician
- Horticulturalist
- Recreation Supervisor
- Fitness Program Administrator
- Citywide Sports Site Lead
- Senior Accountant

To advertise our open position, we have a robust social media presence, relationships with diversity networks, and talent pipelines at schools and technical schools. Still, since we do so much hiring each year, we also rely on word of mouth to get strong talent in all of these positions. Thank you for sharing with your networks!

- **Celebration of the Sullivan Gateway \$4.7M restoration project**
- **Upcoming events at Lowry with the Avs - Thursday (formal opening celebration with mayor/game with DPR kids) & Saturday (citywide hockey stick and ball giveaway)**

Other notes:

Scott thanks staff for presentations CIP and SAP

Many decisions made with city council.

May 19- June 6 community engagement opportunities

Several code updates coming to make consistent with rules and regulations.

Dog regulations are very embedded in other city ordinances.

Will not be culling geese in 2021.

Have been able to open some rec centers. More fitness coming, outdoor pools, meal sites...

Need staff- having challenges recruiting people.

City park road closures- needed to leave 17th open for access to park.

Fran- Thanks to team and department for Harvey Park cleaning

OTHER ITEMS

Board Announcements/ New business

None.

ADJOURNMENT