

## Draft Minutes

### Denver Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

August 8, 2018

#### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:35pm by President Leslie Twarogowski.

Board Members Present: Noel Copeland, Wende Reoch, Leslie Twarogowski, Brande Micheau, Jay Rust, Jack Paterson, Shane Wright, Marla Rodriguez, Ben Wilking, Fran Coleman, Frank Rowe, Tashmesia Mitchell, Florence Navarro, Mark Brown, Jaime Aguilar

Absent: Felipe Vieyra, Laura Cary

#### Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the July 2018 meeting were distributed. There were several minor corrections made, and Jay motioned to accept the minutes as amended which was seconded by Marla; the motion passed with Florence and Frank abstaining.

#### General Public Comment

Piep van Heuven, Bicycle Colorado: She encouraged the addition of a variety of alternative transportation modes which are being introduced throughout the city (electric scooters and bikes) However, they are altering the streetscape and creating confusion in public right of ways, sidewalks, and parks. She urged DPR to revisit current policy (“no motorized vehicles in parks”). Happy commented DPR is well aware of the issues and is being studied. She suggested several PRAB members be involved.

#### Public Hearing – Park Naming in District 7

David introduced former PRAB member, Councilman Jolon Clark. He described how we often identify the neighborhoods in which we live by association with the name of the local park and shared his learning experience that numerous parks within the system that have no formal name. He then turned the floor over to his council aide, Anita Banuelos. She presented an overview of the current improvement project for the park at Asbury and Tejon streets which will improve water quality of the “creek” flowing through it and the additional park amenities being planned. She then described the effort to name the park. Many local community members (including Commander Frank Martinez, DPD) spoke of the history of the area around Evans Blvd and the local café which was called La Lomita (Spanish for little hill). Happy asked all in the audience who supported the naming of this park as “La Lomita Park” to stand. Wende inquired as to how the City acquired the park land but that was not known. Frank and Jay expressed gratitude to the citizens who shared their stories. David motioned to accept the naming proposal, Marla seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

## Public Hearing –Athletic Permit Policy

Rob Sigmon, Movedon Soccer League: Rob spoke of the difficulty to permit adult soccer programs. He praised the advancements due to the automated permit process but wanted more space for adult programs. The fields they currently use Eisenhower and Hampton Heights Parks are ill-suited for soccer. Several members questioned about the league and the facilities.

Tyler Orzak, Coerver Colorado: The auction-based system is making it difficult for his programming due to continued movement from one field to another each season, affecting continuity of youth programs.

Scott Peterson, Jets Lacrosse: He stated he is ok with the historical priority process. They rely on DPS fields for programs. He would like to see the citation which is issued for not using a field (which a permit is issued for) altered and would like to see different organizations be “linked” such that better informal coordination of field use is utilized.

Kris Wilson added that Park Rangers “police” un-used fields and report back. Organizations can turn the permit back in within 3 days if it won’t be used. Happy reminded everyone that the number one complaint is over permitting; she stated there are plenty of fields available though not always the most geographically desirable ones. She also indicated that City programs are also under the same rules as the public. Further, DPR prioritizes youth programs, but DPR is open to a dialogue. Maintenance Dept will address issues regarding poor conditions. Fred added that chronic misuse partly stems from the affordability of our fields. He also cited the example of rainout re-permitting. Mark Brown asked how DPR field fees compare to other local municipalities. Fran asked about how over permitting is monitored. Fred replied that in the 3 years the policy has been in place, complaints about unused permitted fields are way down. Rangers are sent to monitor activity when reports are received. Happy added that many groups have since complied and agreed complaints have decreased substantially. Marla asked about policy addressing rainouts; Fred replied they are typically on a one-week cycle. Kris continued: all fields are now designated. Adult fields are structured for establishing historical priority, just a matter of assigning and finding fields. Leslie inquired whether field use is changeable; Kris replied multiuse field designations address that; DPR does try to adjust for seasonal sports. Fred added that some fields are taken off-line for turf restoration as needed. Mark asked how adult programs lost historical priority. (they haven’t changed). Frank asked which sports use fields the most (soccer, about 80% of field use). Leslie asked how informal communication can be arranged; Kris alluded to too many “deals” were going on so they put an end to it. It’s better to return unused fields to inventory, more equitable in the end. Marla asked about fee structure and it was agreed we will soon have a fuller discussion on that. David commented that DPR has done a good job in balancing user needs, has participated in discussions personally and seen the sensitivity which DPR has used, and felt like that the policy update will always be a fluid process which will require future amendments. Happy added that Maintenance is involved in decision making process. Leslie asked Flo about the impact to GAMEPLAN; she and Happy reiterated it’s all about meeting increased demands throughout the city. Leslie asked if there are opportunities to build out undeveloped space; Fred and Happy discussed the concept of balancing open space and athletic field needs. Kris suggested the “easiest” way to alleviate overuse is to build four mega-facilities with synthetic turf, to which Fred replied such fields cost about \$1M each and

have about a 10yr lifespan. Leslie inquired about having conversations of repurposing golf courses; apparently it's been discussed but again it's a balancing act.

Fran motioned to accept the updated athletic permit policy; Wende seconded. Motion passed with Shane and Florence abstaining.

#### New PRAB members

The two newest members had a chance to introduce themselves, their backgrounds, their interests. They are:

District 11: Mark Borwn.

District 3: Jaime Aguilar.

(It was not stated at the meeting but Marcus Pachner has resigned. We wish him well.)

#### Committee Reports

David/Oversight Committee, Overland Music Festival: A meeting will be held on Aug 21<sup>st</sup> to review responsibilities and procedures associated with GranDoozy.

Jay/Designations: A strip of land adjacent to City Park G.C. will be incorporated in the park system.

Frank/City Park Redesign: A meeting will be held Aug 16<sup>th</sup> to show the details of the clubhouse final design and update storm water detention progress.

Executive Director's Report (Happy Haynes, with Laura Morales, Jaye Amoako, Fred Weiss, Kris Wilson)

Happy introduced Jay Morocco who will manage department wide initiatives. All 4 parts of DenveRight have been released to the public in complete draft form. GAMEPLAN highlights include the goal of a park within a 10-minute walk city wide, redefining "parkland", and acknowledging the challenges adapting park development and maintain in consideration of ongoing climate changes. The Globeville Rec Center will re-open in early September; the operator will have a 4-year agreement with the City. DPR is taking over operations and maintenance of the Johnson Rec Center and is still seeking partners for programming. An open house is scheduled for Sept 15<sup>th</sup>. DPR has begun a technical update to the Dog Park Master Plan. It will include for planning new facilities, examining typologies, encouraging community planning and volunteer involvement. It's hoped to be completed by year end. An online survey is now open. Happy indicated that some re-seeding of areas within City Park Golf Course is underway. There will be a celebration of DPR's oldest (150 year old) park (Curtis-Mestizo Park) on Aug 11<sup>th</sup>. The current 39<sup>th</sup> Ave Channel Project will begin a citizen led formal naming process.

#### Other Board Announcements

Florence expressed dissatisfaction in not finding information about handicap access to the Levitt Pavilion events through their website. But she reported a great experience at a recent show there. Leslie reported that IF the current proposal to increase sales and use tax for park needs is approved in

November, PRAB will have new responsibilities in identifying proposed usage of those monies. Fran indicated an anecdote that Kennedy Golf Course looks horrible and asked Happy to look into it. Noel reported that the updated tennis courts at Berkeley Lake Park looks very good. He indicated he has seen a change in DPR's involvement and support system wide in caring for courts. David mentioned that a campaign will soon be announced for supporting the November ballot initiative for sales & use tax increase for park acquisitions.

#### Adjournment

Marla adjourned the meeting at 7:44 pm.