

Draft Minutes

Denver Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

January 9, 2019

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:34pm by Vice President Marla Rodriguez. A quorum was established.

Board Members Present: Noel Copeland, Mark Brown , Jack Paterson, Shane Wright, Marla Rodriguez, Tashmesia Mitchell, Florence Navarro, Jaime Aguilar, Brande Micheau, Wende Reoch, Jay Rust, Frank Rowe, Tony Smith, Fran Coleman, David Richter

Absent: Leslie Twarogowski, Felipe Vieyra

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the Nov 2018 meeting were distributed. A minor correction was made. Jack moved to approve the amended draft, Mark seconded. The motion passed with Jay and Tony abstaining.

New Member

Tony Smith joins the board as a mayoral appointment. He introduced himself and provided background info and his interests in our mission.

General Public Comment

Jennifer Neuhofer (self)- She asked for a pocket park (location not specified) in the University Hills (north) area. Children play in the streets in absence of a gathering place. She has spoken with Councilwoman Black and other community members about the need.

Katie Fisher (INC) added INC supports the effort. Happy indicated the (park land) acquisition group is actively developing a city-wide strategy.

Committee Reports

There was general discussion that none of the committees having had time in the last 60 days to meet and appoint a chairperson. Happy offered to provide a meeting format for each to get the groups started.

Designations/Jay: He indicated they will meet next month. He explained the general procedures and issues affecting designations and welcomed new members.

Mountain Parks/Shane: the group has a meeting scheduled for Jan 31st. Additional Noel has coordinated with DPR personnel for a department update on the 16th.

Greater&Greener/David: There are opportunities to volunteer in a variety of ways for the many conference tours throughout the city. Happy provided examples.

GamePlan/Florence: She wants to continue on this committee even if the primary development effort is wrapping up. A draft is on the DenveRight website. There are still a couple community meetings to review it. David asked if the (yet to be formally approved) document will guide DPR planning and funding priorities (especially 2A funds) in 2019; Happy emphatically responded, Yes!

Executive Directors Report (Happy Haynes, with Gordon Robertson, Pamela Smith, Laura Morales)

Happy provided update on development of a new e-device (transportation) policy, citing the general philosophy of DPR to test solutions before establishing policy. She will include the PRAB mobility committee on the effort. A "180 day" rule will be coming for the April-Sept season. On 2A Funding, Happy indicated that they can't develop 3 (CIP,2A,GO bond)separate plans, thus a 6 year plan is in progress. Gordon presented background and an update on overall DPR funding sources. The timeline shown indicated community presentations in Mar-Apr and PRAB-City Council approvals in May-Jun. Happy indicated the PRAB finance committee will be contacted in the development process. Jay asked how deferred maintenance backlog will be treated in the allocation process. Happy: right now this is just broad thinking...but there are strong tools to identify, assess, and prioritize. Last, Happy reported that the Dog Park Master Plan will go online in February.

Presentations

Golf Course Memorial Policy, Pamela Smith

Pam detailed the SOP which will first apply to City Park Golf Course since it is obvious that a significant relocation and replacement effort will be required there. A three option policy has been developed. After some questions and discussion, Fran motioned to accept the Policy, Jay seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

City Park Master Plan

Gordon made a brief introduction on the status and turned the conversation over to Serena Bruzgo concerning an MOU between DPR and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (DMNS). It has already been in the CPMP to develop property adjacent (near to) the Museum. DMNS has conducted polls and research leading them to conclude that their audiences desire a more substantive and direct connection with nature, and foregoing expanding their own perimeter, they think it best to develop adjacent outdoor space to further their mission. Thus they propose an MOU which enables re-design of DPR property for the purpose of a "Nature Play" project. DPR will have significant responsibilities in design and development and long term maintenance responsibilities of the space; DMNS will contribute significant funding and take the lead in community engagement. Happy asked for feedback on the concept. Jay asked about the level of community involvement. Shane suggested wildlife connections. Frank offered support for the project. Jay motioned to approve the MOU; Florence seconded. Motion passed with David abstaining.

Other Board Announcements

David reported that the Rail Yard at Ruby Hill is scheduled for opening Feb 2 but very likely will be delayed due to warm temperatures.

Adjournment

Marla adjourned the meeting at 7:34 pm.