

Draft Minutes

Denver Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

July 12, 2017

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:37pm by President Leslie Twarogowski.

Board Members Present: Noel Copeland, Wende Reoch, Frank Rowe, David Richter, Shane Wright, Leslie Twarogowski, Jack Paterson, Ben Wilking, Jay Rust, Felipe Vieyra, Marla Rodriguez, Thad Jacobs

Absent: Dora Aragon, Marcus Pachner, Florence Navarro, Fran Coleman, Bev Cox, Jason Robinson, Brande Michaeu

Special Announcement

Leslie informed the Board of the passing of Fran's husband. Happy indicated DPR would be sending condolences to the family and would include expression of PRAB as well.

Approval of Meeting Minutes, June 2017

Minutes were approved with abstentions from Marla, Thad, and Frank.

Public Hearing/ Naming Policy

There were no speakers on the topic.

Board Discussion

Happy began by pointing out that the PRAB recommendation in May to rename Northside Park to Carpio-Sanguinette Park, initiated under previous naming policy, is inconsistent with the policy which was just approved by PRAB in May (with respect to the seven year waiting period for deceased persons). Her original instructions were to create a policy not requiring her office to make exceptions; thus if the Carpio-Sanguinette renaming was acceptable with a three-year wait period, then the Naming Policy should reflect that. There was input from Jay, Jack, and Thad regarding the semantics of the change from "should" to "shall" and the need to eliminate ambiguity. Jay pointed out in this last renaming case that the public's desire for a park renaming (rationale) is at least as important as an arbitrary number which we unwittingly condoned in the re-write. To which Happy also pointed out that in this particular case perhaps a legacy has been established and the impact on the community takes precedent. Leslie wondered if we should eliminate the reference to specific time period and just rely on the General Principles of Section 4.1 a-h. With additional input from Shane, Marla, David, Thad motioned to change the Naming Policy wait period provision in 4.3.1 from seven years to three years. This motion passed. Jay then motioned to grandfather the Board renaming of Carpio-Sanguinette Park in light of the prior motion; this motion also passed.

Public Hearing / PECAN Policy

There were no speakers on the topic.

Board Discussion

Laura Morales clarified the change requested for public hearings from 45 days to 20 days is consistent with the city charter. The PECAN policy misstated the days needed per charter. DPR aims for 30 days notices, which will not change, despite this adjustment.

With little discussion, a motion was made to approve and the change was passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Leslie/GO Bond. Leslie reported that the final bond package re-instated the recommendations of the Executive Committee. Happy further explained how fortunate DPR was to start with an \$80M recommendation by the Exec Committee and then to have that increase by \$57M for a final version of \$136.6M which enables funding to many additional projects.

Wende/Finance Committee. Wende circulated a first draft of a PRAB white paper for establishing guiding principles for budget allocations within DPR. While the budget formally goes to the Mayor in August, there is still time to revise the draft.

Marla commented that Wende did a good job in condensing this document. Shane said he would like to see more emphasis on recreation programming for existing rec centers and commented about the consistent issues between private event (fee-based) versus public use. Happy reiterated the argument for equity in public use versus generating revenue from private use to enable more overall programming. She stated DPR usually errs on the side of lower fees which essentially relates to subsidizing public activity at the expense of the general fund. Happy provided an example of the Mountain Parks Challenge course monies collected for corporate events and how it enables youth programs that otherwise wouldn't be possible. Jay felt the document needs to address deferred maintenance priorities. Thad reiterated that overall park health should be emphasized. Jack said he would support the document but needs more time to consider it. Noel agreed this is a good first draft which we can build improvements into and achieve consensus on later. Wende said she would add the document to the drobox. Leslie asked all to review and provide feedback to Wende within the next week.

Frank/Athletic Field Permit Policy. Laura started by commenting that public meeting last week was small but went well. It is possible to provide online input in July top park.permits@denvergov.org.

David/Outdoor Downtown. The Outdoor Downtown Master Plan review with LUTI was postponed but now scheduled to committee on Aug 8th. Square on 21st is going well and DPR is learning from activities and public comments. DDP operates the Beer Garden/Skyline Park thus no specific numbers available to DPR regarding its success. New music programs are underway at Commons Park. DPR has gained an intern position through year end to assist in downtown programming activities and coordination.

David/Overland Music Festival. The specifics of the proposed contract are still being finalized but many details are available and were presented earlier this month to LUTI. Ben inquired as to how the golf course condition (pre-and post event) would be assessed; Happy indicated that DPR has plenty of experience with this throughout the department but in this case additional care and outside experts would be called in. Jack attended a neighborhood meeting with Council members Kashmann and Ortega and reports that many in the community feel steamrolled by the process. Frank's view is that most citizens are in favor of the proposal. Jay expressed concerns over the magnitude of response required for infrastructure, parking, and people moving and is concerned that safety may be impacted. Marla feels more comfortable with the site selection after meeting with Superfly, to learn more of their rationale. Wendy hears mostly positive comments from the public and recognizes the opportunity for the City to gain revenue. She feels the promotor is cognizant of the issues and she is supportive of it. Thad shared an experience with a 4th of July event at GVR in which last year had many problems but this year went considerably better; he feels comfortable with Superfly's intentions and expertise. Shane is concerned about transportation arrangements into the festival. He also is curious of the specifics of how Superfly's programs will directly enhance the local community. Noel is concerned as to whether the proceeds received will offset the neighborhood impact. Happy clarified that while the seat tax will go to the general revenue fund, the Mayor and Councilman Clark are working to ensure that the neighborhood will receive funding to address and improve the adjacent neighborhoods. Leslie cited that in her seven years on PRAB she has never seen a proposed admission based event receive so little opposition (directly to her as PRAB member), though acknowledging this event will occur at a park already operated under fee-based admission/enterprise (golf course). She is not aware of a ground swell of opposition towards the proposal and feels they are on the right track.

David further outlined the Mayor's commitment to the local community to establish a citizen based committee to report directly to him after the event and provide input as to what went right and what went wrong outside of the contractual responsibilities which the city will track. A small group consisting of Athmar, Ruby Hill, and Overland RNO representatives, Councilman Clark, a golf community member, a PRAB member, a local business member, and "opponents" of the event will comprise the committee and report to the Mayor.

David asked if PRAB wanted to provide any further statement to City Council for their consideration at the July 24th, contract reading, and the consensus was not to. Jack and Thad suggested we observe how the first festival unfolds before taking any further position regarding it. Happy encouraged PRAB to make comments directing to their appointing body.

Jay/Designations. Next meeting is later this month. Katie Fisher/INC gave a thumbs up sign of support.

Executive Directors Report (Happy Haynes with Laura Morales and Grace Ramirez)

Happy updated PRAB on preparations to attend the City Park Alliance event this summer in Minneapolis since Denver will host the following event in 2019. A video has been prepared to show in Minneapolis which encompasses many perspectives about DPR system and is intended to generate publicity for

Denver's subsequent event. She noted this conference will have many workshops and panels and will provide PRAB members opportunities to participate.

Other Board Announcements

Thad thanked DPR maintenance for their efforts to clean up and rectify issues related to vandalism at the GVR pool.

Adjournment

Leslie adjourned the meeting at 7:42pm.