

Draft Minutes

Denver Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

May 10, 2017

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:37pm by Secretary David Richter.

Board Members Present: Noel Copeland, Frank Rowe, Wende Reoch, David Richter, Marla Rodriguez, Leslie Twarogowski, Jason Robinson, Maruc Pachner, Jack Paterson, Ben Wilking, Thad Jacobs, Jay Rust, Felipe Vieyva, Brande Michael

Absent: Bev Cox and Shane Wright

Approval of Meeting Minutes, March 2017

Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes; Jay, Florence, and Dora abstained.

Committee Reports

David/Pedestrians and Trails Task Force. Next meeting is scheduled for June 9th. Happy added that a website will be created for PRAB to track DenveRight activities and milestones, as well as other important documents normally shared via e-mail.

Florence/GAMEPLAN: Next meeting will be next Thu for the DenveRight committee chairpersons to meet again and review overlaps and/or gaps in each program's plans. Florence indicated the process has been helpful so far.

Leslie: 39th Ave Open Channel and Greenway. The recent storms underscored the need for the overall project to control flowing in the Cole and Park Hill neighborhoods. Three contractors have been identified for the 39th Ave project.

Frank/City Park Golf Course Redesign. Committee work is finished for now as the City examines bids; contractors now down to two. Leslie indicated that the Park Hill Golf Course has agreed to remain open during the season-long shutdown at City Park beginning end of 2017 season.

Leslie/GO Bond Committee: Leslie indicated the intent to prioritize DPR funding projects with equity and across all districts. She indicated that a new Westwood Rec Center is at the top of that list. Happy added that an Executive Committee will further evaluate this input to decide which projects will be presented to the mayor's office.

Happy addressed the board with a need for several new committees (more info throughout the agenda). An Overland Music Festival Oversight committee will be formed with David and Jason currently identified. An Athletic Field Permitting Process policy update (next meeting June 7th) will task Felipe, Dora, and Frank. An expanded Red Rocks Committee will address additional Mountain Parks issues.

Public Comments

Katie Fischer/INC Parks and Rec Comm. She requested DPR to update the website for new members, contact information and currently committee assignments.

Executive Director's Report (Happy Haynes also w/ Fred Weiss, Mark Bernstein, Kris Wilson, Laura Morales, Brad Eckert)

First comment addressed the on-going review of the permit and failure of the permittee to perform during the 420 Event last month. This is the first significant test of the new permit policy's effectiveness. And an FYI that an audit of the permit office (publicly released) will also be placed on the new PRAB clearinghouse website. Several recommendations regarding the users of the permit system were highlighted.

The Beer Garden at Skyline Park is moving forward and with an agreement in place, it's scheduled to open on June 9th.

Fred Weiss/Proposed Overland Music Festival. Fred addressed the status of the proposed festival. The city felt that the only way to further evaluate the proposal was to go ahead and draft a contract to more fully understand the promoter's responsibilities and commitments to addressing the many concerns identified during the past few months of community meetings. He presented a summary of these and the guidelines which will be used in developing a contract. Fran asked several questions; what about the community petition against it, unconvinced of traffic control, doesn't understand why Overland Golf Course was chosen. Jay asked for clarification of the phraseology used in the presentation regards safety and security. Ben expressed concern as to access to the Event from RTD/light rails points. David suggested that at least some of the city's revenues from the event would be used to address neighborhood infrastructure and traffic flow points. Fred reviewed the structure of a contract in terms of city revenue; there is a break-even point but the following numbers are approximate projected city revenues: 30,000 attendees, \$1.2M; 50,000 attendees, \$1.9M; 60,000 attendees, \$2.2M. Several board members asked about the nature of such an event and what the promotor (identified now as Superfly) would conduct. Happy indicated there is an understanding (at this point) from the promotor of "commitment guidelines" which would steer the event and the level of response from the promotor. Dora asked about the size of the event relative to others which the promotor has experience with; Fred and Happy provided several comparisons. Dora challenged about marijuana usage at a major event; Happy replied it isn't any different to other events sanctioned by the city in terms of enforcement. Fred expressed the contractual guideline to which the event would be "family friendly".

Mark Bernstein/Outdoor Downtown Master Plan. Mark introduced Sharon Alton, Vice President of Downtown Experience/Downtown Denver Partnership, who initiated the presentation and expressed support for the planning process. The Outdoor Downtown Master Plan has been finalized and Mark will present to city council on June 13th. Mark has managed to condense the report into a planopage; and he spoke to its key recommendations. It will quickly begin implementation following that. Top challenges were identified in a pyramid structure (Leadership, Regulatory, Stewardship/Advocacy, Resources). Fran asked about how realistic the goal to make park space within a 5 minute walk is regards to acquisition of

land (short answer is a minimum of \$8M is needed). Frank asked how many people live downtown (soon to be about 22,000). Jay asked whether A&V has been involved in the planning process (yes).

He also updated PRAB on summer activities underway for this summer including the Square on 21st opening June 15th, and a number of activation programs underway at both Civic Center and Commons Parks.

Fred Weiss/Athletic Permit Policy Update.

Fred began with an overview of athletic fields and courts throughout the system and presented a timeline for development of a policy update. Primarily he spoke to the well-known issues and concerns to be addressed, broadly categorized as: fee structures, priorities (usage, age group, residents), field preparations/subdivisions/hours and seasons, and tennis-specific concerns.

Leslie/Naming Policy. The current draft revision was circulated to the board and Leslie asked for comments; there was considerable debate as to both specific revisions and general clarity. Leslie finally brought the discussion to a motion to approve what was presented; the motion passed with 7 in favor, 2 against, and 5 abstentions.

Post-Exec breakfast meeting change:

Leslie/Naming Policy. The current draft revision was circulated to the board and Leslie asked for comments; there was considerable debate as to both specific revisions and general clarity. Leslie finally brought the discussion to a vote to accept the revisions to the draft, which were presented and discussed; 7 in favor, 2 against, 5 abstentions.

Brad Eckert/CCC Camp Update. At April PRAB meeting, a proposal to involve HistoriCorps at the CCC Camp was introduced. Brad's presentation outlined more specifically how the group can occupy building space at the camp and in return provide labor support for numerous restoration projects throughout the Mountain Park system. More information was provided as to the current state of the primary barracks at the Camp; a study last year showed that about \$5M was needed for Camp renovations alone. While the contract is still in review, the basic proposal is for HistoriCorps to provide approximately \$40k/year in labor for restorations in exchange for free rent (administrative and workshop). DPR is already moving forward to restore Bldg #1 in light of the non-profit's immediate need for space. Jay asked about future years in-kind value; Brad explained the \$40k/year will initially involve 2-3 weeks of project work per year and the specifics would be re-evaluated as the partnership evolves. David asked about overall process to activate the Camp as restorations take place; Brad explained that HistoriCorps would be activating the Camp in providing volunteers, students, and veterans the opportunity to develop and apply skills in preserving historic structures. Leslie indicated the GO Bond committee recommended about \$3.5M in Camp restorations; of course this is only proposed funding. Noel asked how many people currently use the Camp; Brad introduced Dennis Brown/Park Ranger Supervisor who indicated many different organizations and approximately 200 people are involved in activities around the Camp. David pointed

out that having an organization with nationwide experience at such preservation projects can attract a larger audience for future activation opportunities.

Other Board Announcements

National Get Outdoors Day will be celebrated at Sloans Lake on June 10th.

Fran suggested the next PRAB retreat/orientation be held at the CCC Camp.

Leslie adjourned the meeting at 8:20pm.