

Draft Minutes

Denver Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

May 9, 2018

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:33pm by President Leslie Twarogowski.

Board Members Present: Noel Copeland, Frank Rowe, David Richter, Leslie Twarogowski, Jack Paterson, Brande Micheau, Thad Jacobs, Florence Navarro, Marla Rodriguez, Tashmesia Mitchell, Laura Cary, Fran Coleman, Ben Wilking, Felipe Vieyra

Absent: Marcus Pachner, Wende Reoch, Shane Wright, Jay Rust

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the April meeting were distributed. Laura made a motion to accept the minutes as drafted and it was seconded by Florence; the motion passed with David abstaining.

Committee Reports

Finance/Noel: A meeting is scheduled for May 21st. Board members are encouraged to forward any comments in support of the white paper and the scope of the budget. Equity is the continuing priority. Noel cited an example of the concept for creating a downtown maintenance district which would then compete with the adjoining districts for funding.

Outdoor Downtown/David: David met with Mark Bernstein after the March PRAB presentation by Jason Whitlock regarding the 16th Street Mall Redesign and the resulting discussion about plans to remove and replace a number of trees. Mark offered some perspective on the tree canopy growth issues considered in the development of the Outdoor Downtown Master Plan.

GAMEPLAN/Florence: June 14th is the next meeting.

General Public Comment

Ean Tafoya: Voiced concerns about air quality within several recreation centers (Stapleton, Swansea, Globeville) impacted by I70 corridor. Wants to see an audit of air quality within them. Several board members suggested other sites possibly affected.

Kristen Speth: Spoke in support of DPR's proposed changes to alcohol policy. She is involved with the Sunnyside Music Festival and believes the changes would be beneficial to the cohesiveness of an event. There are some concerns for serving alcohol near playgrounds, however.

Katie Fisher/INC: Thanks to Fred Weiss and Laura Morales for attending INC meetings and explaining details of the proposed alcohol consumption policy.

Executive Directors Report (Happy Haynes, with Fred Weiss, Laura Morales, Kris Wilson)

(while Happy prepared, Leslie asked Fred if DPR has a clothing policy in parks (example cited was body paint only); Fred responded that DPR does not have a code, but State Law does.)

Happy reported progress of the City Park Master Plan, now in final stage draft; a PRAB briefing may be presented in a month. Upgrades to the CCC camp are underway in support with Historicorps' occupation of the barracks; she alluded to code issues (environmental, consistent with building age) which were first priority and an approximately \$100K donation from the Denver Mountain Park Foundation to keep everything on track. Historicorps has begun several programs already within DMP. A public celebration is planned for May 17th at the Chief Hosa Lodge. DPR has just released its plan for the overall development of a Fairfax St. Park after numerous meetings and sources of community input (a release was distributed). The intent is for a design and build phase in the next couple of years. Laura Cary expressed disappointment at how DPR handled the entire process; felt that meeting's agenda were not met; that the process and information distributed has torn the community apart. Happy replied that as much time as possible was given to acquire and process feedback as possible in a series of four community meetings. Happy reiterated that there will still be community engagement going forward as the RFP process for park design evolves.

Additional topics discussed later in the meeting:

Happy reported a much more successful "420 Event" in 2018; the organizer demonstrated much better management practices, improved security, only minor issues with several vendors. Happy reported on the Ambassador Party at St. Charles Place Park will be held on June 2nd. She commended the students who have participated in the planning process to envision park updates. Lastly, Happy discussed the effort to update the design guidelines of the Dog Parks Master Plan (last updated 2010). A survey will be developed over the next several months.

Presentations

Downtown Children's Playground Renaming: Carol Ann Rothman and Jeff Shoemaker

Carol Ann described the history of her and her late husband Paul's interest in developing a downtown playground. Jeff commended the effort they put forth in seeing the project through, and noted Mark Bernstein's involvement within DPR. Renaming of the playground is consistent with the major gifts provision of DPR's Renaming Policy. A motion was made by David and seconded by Fran to recommend the renaming of the playground within Creekside Park to "The Paul and Carol Ann Rothman Children's Playground" was presented and unanimously approved. A celebration is planned for June 5th.

Alcohol Policy Update

Fred started by stating the original draft document has not been changed as DPR continues to work through the issues. Over 4,000 responses were received through the online survey DPR conducted and

they are still reviewing all of that input. Based on the overall complexity of the issue, the timeline for presenting a final draft to PRAB has been pushed back a month; now scheduled for July. They plan to present findings to both INC and LUTI committee in June. In the meantime, they are still doing outreach to RNO's on the subject. Also a FAQ list is being assembled to address common questions and provide insight on what is and is not being proposed. Further, the state legislative session is ending at midnight and as of this meeting, it is not clear what may pass regarding alcohol consumption and/or distribution. Frank offered that Councilwoman Black also conducted a survey within her district. He believes the DPR policy change is good and will provide a consistent city-wide policy throughout the parks.

Athletic Policy Update

Fred reminded PRAB that numerous unofficial policy decisions have evolved and the current effort is intended to formalize rules and regulations. Many meetings have been conducted with stakeholders to develop an equitable and workable policy. A major remaining task is to develop a clear and concise definition of neighborhood events which can reserve park space. Fran asked if it would be appropriate to develop a more visible process for making the public aware of scheduled events, not just posting policy or events on websites. Brande reacted to the neighborhood definition considering her district not having (m)any RNO's, and thus it might be appropriate to have event holders coordinate through council offices. Happy affirmed that idea is one being considered. Thad inquired about this policy would mesh fields shared with DPS and cited Northfield as an example. Kris Wilson explained that field has a rather unique and separate agreement with DPR which gives DPS priority. Happy felt that there should be room for the two departments to work together in drafting equitable arrangements. Fred commended Kris for the amount of work she has put in to thoroughly develop this policy. Noel asked where he could view the list of designated athletic fields in the system. Fred proceeded to describe various other elements of the draft policy including but not limited to: definition of seasonal sports, historical priority, consequences/enforcement for policy violators, tennis specific considerations, and subdivision of fields for multiple games. Fred then indicated an update to fee structure rates will be presented to PRAB mid-summer.

PRAB By-Law Revision

Based on last month's input and consideration, a final revision was distributed to the board. Fran motioned to accept the revisions and Frank seconded. The board passed the motion with Noel abstaining.

Other Board Announcements

Florence attended the Johnson Rec Center discussions regarding a new facility operator and was surprised how contentious and emotional the community was. Happy acknowledged the number of issues and reminded the board the contract is expiring and that there was some turmoil and misinformation regarding that decision. She did indicate that the Headstart program would continue.

Jack reported that the formal renaming ceremony for Carpio-Sanguinette Park will be next week.

Thad indicated that he is stepping down from the board to focus his activity on several youth athletic programs. Mark Brown will be the new District 11 appointee.

Adjournment

Marla adjourned the meeting at 7:26.