

Minutes

Denver Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Special Public Hearing – Measure 2A Funding Plan

May 30th, 2019

Call to Order

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

Board Members Present: Tashmesia Mitchell, Leslie Twarogowski, Noel Copeland, Fran Coleman , Marla Rodriguez, Florence Navarro, David Richter, Wende Reoch, Frank Rowe, Jaime Aguilar, Brande Micheau, Jen Dietrich

Absent: Tony Smith, Mark Brown, Jay Rust, Jack Paterson, Shane Wright, Trena Marsal

General Public Comment

Katie Fisher/INC : Katie encouraged the Board to attend INC parks meetings. Info can be found at denverinc.org.

Presentation (Scott Gilmore and Kathy LeVeck)

Scott and Kathy detailed the 2A Funding Plan presentation. This was largely the same as previously presented to PRAB by Gordon Robertson.

Public Hearing

Darrell Watson (former PRAB member) – He spoke to the public engagement process and foundation laid by the guiding principles.

Bart Berger (Denver Mtn Park Foundation)– He thanked DPR staff for their participation. He challenged the lack of representation for the mountain park system.

Tom Simmons (Historic Berkeley R) – He advocates for 2A funding for Berkeley Park bathhouse as a signature project.

Bill Killam (Historic Berkeley R) – Bill questioned the prioritization of Berkeley Park as it relates to equity and children.

John Davenport (Denver Trout Fund Unlimited) – He was encouraged by the plans he has seen and is primarily advocating for the health of the South Platte.

Diane Thiel (self) – She provided a complete list of concerns and needs for a more comprehensive definition of equity; in summary, clean water in all spaces, restrooms, park spaces for people to sleep during the day, sun shelters during daylight, and safety protection for the homeless.

Kari Bell (self) – She is concerned about Denver’s poisonous herbicides and the types of pesticides used and persons’ exposure to such chemicals.

Stephen Epler – Thanked DPR for a variety of concerns listed in the plans. He is concerned for recycled water use.

Kate Fritz (Denver Mtn Park Foundation) – Thanked DPR for the service and support in the mountain park system but is concerned there is no dedicated city council representation for the mountain parks.

Public Comment was closed at 6:40pm.

Board Discussion

General discussion related to speaker comments: The mountain parks do have representation, not only from mayoral and at large –appointed members, but all advisory board members represent the mountain parks. A discussion ensued regarding fluctuating 2A funds by year and contingency plans for what that process would look like. There will be public input for such changes. Scott commented in response to a query, that master plans are one of the primary mechanisms for selecting projects for 2A funding, and that the Berkeley Park master plan, which currently includes the renovation of the historic bathhouse as discussed, should probably be updated. Additionally, Scott stated that DPR would like to discontinue its use of the bathhouse for storage to make it available for community use.

Florence made thoughtful comments about her involvement on PRAB and thanks to the 2A mandate for funding parks.

Jay commented on our acquisition on city park golf course as well as other places.

Leslie commented on water xxx master xxx as it also relates to pesticides. Scott noted there are 2020 resiliency plans in place. Jay suggested future consideration of a reverse osmosis process.

Frank supported the 2A funding plan and suggested that some re-evaluation be prudent after the first year.

Tashmesia stated that all speaker questions were addressed except homelessness; Scott addressed from policy point of view as well as restroom master plan.

Fran motioned to accept the 2A funding plan which Florence seconded. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned.