Meeting Minutes  
DENVER PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
April 12, 2023 – 5:30- 7:30 pm  
Virtual Meeting: Via Zoom Webinar

Board Members In attendance:  
Fran Coleman, Frank Rowe, Marlene De la Rosa, Amy Razzaque, Meredith Levy, Brooke Badon, Chandi Aldena, Jill Mullen, Jessica Zender, Jill Coffman, Jack Paterson, Trena Marshall, Florence Navarro, Deana Perlmutter, Kate Fritz

PRAB Meeting Norms  
Be respectful and presume positive intentions.  
Seek first to understand and then to be understood.  
Stay focused on topics at hand.  
Allow space for all to have a voice.  
Listen without judgement.  
Live our values of equity and inclusion.

CALL TO ORDER  
Meeting called to Order @ 5:37pm

Land Acknowledgement (Chandi) and Board Norms (Pam). Chandi encourages acting on statements.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS  
Approve January Minutes  
Comments: Meredith moves to approve as written, Fran seconds, Florence abstains. Motion passes

PUBLIC COMMENTS  
Dan Braun: Pickelball. He is former president of 7th Ave neighborhood, and member of Botanic Gardens neighborhood group. 3/31 petition was submitted regarding building 6 new pickleball courts at Congress park. Petition had 160 names, many visitors come to play at Congress Park. #1 place to play in the city. Tourists like it. Proposes keeping 6 courts.

Marc Nelson: Pickleball. Denver Pickleball non profit org. They did survey 251 responses, is on pickleball committee, proposes that city can use fencing for noise. Court is landmark (draws lots of people). 10k people like this. Sending results of survey. Proposes putting in acoustic fencing. Wants Congress park to have court. Thinks it is not fair that few neighbors overrule everyone else.

Charlie Girsch: Windsor Garden resident. Used to live in Congress Park. Pickleball fast growing sport and Denver is behind the curve on acceptance of the sport. He encourages more acceptance to match neighboring communities. There are solutions and Denver should look into this. We have a chance for a jewel.

PUBLIC HEARING:  
Trail Naming in O’Fallon Park  
Discrepancies in dox we received regarding the name. Confirming that “the Winston K. Walker Loop Trail” is accurate as this is a smaller loop portion of a larger trail.
Everett Brinson presentation

Public Comment:

**Hon Gary Jackson:** Long history in CO. Lincoln Hills, 2007 started with Beckwourth club as board member, Walker influenced him. True nature lover, true leader. Great impact on local businesses, brought people there. Supporting the proposal for naming, so fitting this outdoorsman be memorialized.

**Carolyn Richardson:** W. Walker is very deserving, outstanding man of compassion and intelligence. He introduced her to outdoors. His enthusiasm convinced her to visit and move to CO. Part of Beckwourth doers. Looks forward to hiking on a trail named for him and introducing others to CO.

**Bart Berger:** 2004 he started DMPF, Denver Mountain Parks have come a long way. Time for the DMP to reflect the entire community. Couldn’t think of anyone better to honor.

**Shane Wright:** Passion is connecting people to place. In general he is not a proponent of naming ceremonies, but today this is good. The world needs more Winston Walkers. Good idea.

**Fran Rew:** Lives in Dist 5. Approving this will be amplifying nature. Helping all of us to celebrate all of this. Her husband. Knew W. Walker. Very happy about this.

**L.A Powers:** Wants to honor Winston Walker. She is a member of the “Beckwourth Doers”. So happy to support this.

**Marsha Walker:** Winston said “this is where he felt he needed to be” every weekend he was in mtns. He felt it was necessary for people to know what was in their own backyard and experience it. Very happy to see this happen.

Board discussion: Everyone thinks this is a great idea.
Move: Kate and Marlene  
Pam: Second  
Passed To move to City Council

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**Turf Policy**—Presentation from Cincere Eades (See attached). Incentive to move to more water wise landscaping. DPR trying to introduce and implement climate resilient landscapes and develop implementation action plans. Working to retrofit grass to more tolerant variants. Goals to adapt to more drought resistant spaces.

New Policy Statement:

Meredith asks about artificial turf and PFAs contamination. Response: Policy only addresses natural turf.
Trena asks about maintenance and estimate on costs. DPR is working with ops. Unlikely to be very different, still will need maintenance, simply moving to different species of grasses. Scott adds that these areas don’t need to be mowed as often so there is not as much pollution and they self-generate. Because of smaller amount of turf and larger natural grasses, once established areas will likely have less maintenance. This will also help with geese management near lakes and improves diversity.

MOVE: Florence
SECOND: Lynn
PASSED

**PRAB COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Operations, Maintenance, Budget—**
Trena presents on budget recommendations. It was a very good process, the committee decided to group recommendations into categories and themes in alignment with Game Plan,
Motion to approve budget recommendations.

MOVE: Chandi
SECOND: Florence/Amy
PASSED:

**Planning, Design, Funding, Accessibility:**
NO REPORT

**Sustainability & Resiliency:**
Jack: Met 3/17 had the turf presentation and wildlife mgmt. and updates on geese. Next meeting on sustainability.

**Recreation:**
Marlene: Not much to report. Had a speaker Keith re different programming, have a template of community engagement plan, going over that. Seeing how to support rec centers. 20th s. is now open to public. Proposed to do walk-in registrations for in evenings rather than 12 pm. Because not fair to people @ work.

**Executive Committee:**
Chandi: Shout to Brooke for putting on Russel Sq. park opening. Great job. Note that retreat notes went out, please review and if any questions get back to Chandi.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (See attached)**
Piggyback on Russel Square opening. Great job
Thank you on turf policy on action taken tonight. Excited to move forward on it. Excited to move forward on Game plan priorities.

1. Sidewalk ordinance passed. Citywide group trying to figure out how to implement. There is a task force to look at this. Want to have a member of PRAB to join this.
2. Pickleball. She will incorporate into her report. Taskforce assembled. It is a tricky topic. There are solutions they are working toward that recognize it is a growing sport and needs work to expand opportunities and access while balancing impacts. DPR has been warned about violations on noise and have duty to address. Have had to change plans because they know more now than they did when planning.
3. I-70 Lid Park. Completed. Turned over to City last week. Beginning their responsibilities for maintenance and ops. Interesting place—go visit. The park is warrantied for plantings and landscape. 2 issues: A. how park will be activated and programmed. This year because of promises to community, park is not in portfolio of “open” permits to allow greater access for community. But rec is targeting to program league sports (soccer and football) and provide opportunities to use facilities (on community basis for now). Also working on agreement with DPS for access for field. Working to ensure that continues.

OTHER ITEMS

For now PRAB will continue with zoom meetings.

Florence: La Raza, still trying to designate as an historic and cultural landmark, working with CM Sandoval’s office, moving forward. Can provide input on 5/2 hearing on landmark.

Kudos to Tina Meyers-really inspires volunteers to continue to work. She does a very inspiring job.

Longtime employee from Aslan rec center. Jerry Martinez getting award from North HS alumni association.

Chandi: remind that we decided to consolidate community chat sessions to 15 mins. Start @5:10 go to 5:25.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Marlene, Second Florence. 7:42pm