

Draft Minutes

Denver Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

January 11, 2017

Call to Order

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

Board Members Present: Noel Copeland, Fran Coleman, Dora Aragon, Frank Rowe, Wende Reoch, David Richter, Leslie Twarogowski, Andy Sense, Jay Rust, Thad Jacobs, Jack Paterson, Shane Wright, Marcus Pachner, Florence Navarro, Ben Wilking

Absent: Jason Robinson, Bev Cox

Approval of Meeting Minutes, November 2016

Correction made to change "39th St." to "39th Ave." Minutes approved with abstentions from Jay, Wende, Jack.

Public Hearing Comments

None.

Committee Reports

39th Ave. Open Canal Design Project/Leslie: There haven't been any new meetings since last update. Several board members have begun to hear concerns and opposition to the channel project at large, but not necessarily the project details. Happy acknowledged as much, and expressed that there's only so much that can be provided in a space as small as this, particularly with the shape of the conveyance area. Another design working group meeting is coming up to discuss mobility, connectivity, and amenities.

CP Golf Course/Andy, Frank: The project has arrived at a criteria list. Three design finalists are submitting plans for the RFP. The most contentious issue seems to be traffic concerns and connectivity/non-golfer connectivity. Golfers seem to be satisfied with the overall approach to saving trees. Andy will attend the next meeting on the 18th.

Water Recycling/Thad: November meeting included a review of tree sample data; intent is to establish a baseline.

GAMEPLAN/Florence: Effort is transitioning into the vision phase. All chairpersons involved in DenveRight programs are meeting next week to share common threads and interface efforts.

Peds&Trails/David: Last meeting was Nov 16th. Key outcome of that meeting that more data from groups under-sampled needs to be gathered. David asked for boardmembers to submit any ideas or groups they want to be contacted. Shane mentioned the Inspire initiative and Happy also referenced the Westwood initiative as examples of GOCO funding.

Outdoor Downtown Master Plan/David, Andy: Both met with Mark Bernstein last week as he prepared to present the draft to the Mayor's staff. Gordon presented the 10 key elements of the plan. Many board members had comments or questions about it including the focus area and connectivity of adjacent areas of the city.

Park Designations/Jay: Round 9 is complete. The proposed Round 10 additions are: Confluence Park East - .92 acres, SW Rec Center - 6.22 acres, Lindsley Park addition - 1.4 acres, Asbury & Tejon - 2.12 acres, Aqua Golf - 13.8 acres, Overland Park - 9.6 acres. Round 11 is underway with some exciting opportunities for inclusion.

Executive Directors Report Happy Haynes, Gordon Robertson

Happy commented on the GOCO grant of \$27M and the Inspire Project engaging youth which focuses on specific neighborhoods. It includes specific capital improvements, outreach activity, provides programming which includes mountain parks access and programs. Metrics have also been established. Two distinct areas Cole & Westwood are funded by the grant and NE Park Hill and Montbello are also targeted.

Happy introduced the concept of a music festival opportunity brought to the City by a local promoter with national partners. The conceptualized venue involves Overland Golf Course. David provided a few details as currently proposed; an initial 5 year commitment, a 3day music festival with initial estimates of 30,000 patrons, closure of the golf course for approximately 5 weeks. Both David and Happy stressed that this is a soft proposal at present since other metro-area cities are competing for this, and because neither the Mayor nor DPR want to get ahead of community involvement and approval. Several meetings with the RNO mostly affected have either occurred or are underway. Possible gains of the concept are Golf Enterprise funding and the general revenue to the city through supporting an event of this size, as well as promoting Denver as a large venue music festival. Obvious issues/concerns are impact on both the golf course and the loss of golf during the event, not to mention the need to address a variety of issues impacting the neighborhoods and infrastructure throughout the city. If this concept gains traction, a more complete presentation will be in order in either Feb or March; a target event start in early fall 2018 would be called for.

Happy presented an update on POFA designation at Commons Park. She used Civic Center Park as an example of how POFA has aided park activation, although the easements at Commons are different. The popup events tested there over the past year, developed through the Outdoor Downtown planning effort, have fostered interest in commercial programs which currently aren't approved. Dora asked possibility of "pop up" dog parks in other parks; Happy replied that the resource drain in operating them makes it less feasible elsewhere than in Commons/downtown. Wende asked if there was a process in place for evaluating whether to approve or disapprove of a POFA application.

Other Board Announcements

Leslie mentioned the possibility of a donor plaque from PRAB to the Madison Rec Center; Happy indicated there are no current plans for a donor wall.

Wende Reoch has been appointed to PRAB by Councilwoman Susman and she provided a brief introduction to the board. There are two open Mayoral representatives which appear to be nearing appointment.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36pm.