

Subject **Disrespect Shown By David Richter, Chair of PRAB**
From <parksandrec@denverinc.org>
Sender <parksandrec@denverinc.org>
To Jolon Clark <jolon.clark@denvergov.org>, Happy Haynes
 <happy.haynes@denvergov.org>
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Date 2020-06-14 15:45



- prabjune2020.pdf (~91 KB)

June 14, 2020

To: CM Jolon Clark and Executive Director Happy Haynes

Hello,

Maggie Price and Cindy Johnstone, co chairs of INC Parks and Open Space committee, viewed the video of the June PRAB meeting. We can not condone the actions of the Chair when the topic taking a stand for equity was brought up.

The June meeting dissolved with the report by the Outreach Committee. Lisa Calderón gave her committee report where she provided a great deal of information and included some of her efforts to engage others outside her district interested in parks as well as inside the district 9 boundaries. Following Dr Calderón's report Tashmesia Mitchell began a report on equity. Ms. Mitchell was interrupted as she was speaking about using a consultant to create a PRAB equity statement that would be relevant with the unrest and public discussion of equity. The Chair interrupted the presentation and exerted his power to close the report saying there wasn't time to say anything more and to later figure out how to do sometime this summer. When it was brought up that now was the right time to set something up, the Chair admonished the co chairs of their poor use of time and insisted PRAB move on to hear the report from the Executive Director. A short conversation about being heard and respected followed and the co chairs left the meeting in protest.

The Chair had the ability to be flexible and table the report from the Executive Director until the July meeting thereby giving this very important issue more time for discussion and come to a decision as how to move the discussion forward. The chair could have asked the Executive Director to hold her report and instead send a written report to all PRAB members, which she said she could do before she started her presentation. PRAB board meetings should be able to take time for discussion regardless of what or who is scheduled on the agenda. Indeed PRAB should factor discussion in the agenda and limit the amount of time for DPR reports.

DPR's transparency, which includes PRAB, has been a major focus of INC Park and Open Space for many years. There has been some progress but not nearly enough and much more needs to be done before there is trust and buy in from communities.

The co chairs of INC Parks and Open Space ask that the PRAB meeting be public to address issues brought up by Dr. Calderóne and Ms. Mitchell about equity and disparities in Denver's parks and recreation for Blacks, Latino and other people of color. We believe it should be made available to the public via live streaming and it be posted on the PRAB web page.

Respectfully,

Cindy Johnstone and Maggie Price

Co Chairs INC Parks and Open Space



Parks and Recreation Committee

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Cindy Johnstone and Maggie Price
Co Chairs INC Parks and Open Space

cc: David Richter, Lisa Calderón, Tashmesia Mitchell, CW Candi CdeBaca