

**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD***Wednesday, November 4, 2020 – 5:00 p.m.*

WebEx Meeting

MINUTES

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Shannon Crouthers, Chair; Rick Eriksen, Marty Tessmer, Danielle Lammon, Nick Kinney, Angela Zbikowski, Mike Ely, Bobbie McClure

MEMBERS ABSENT: Steve Sundberg

OTHERS PRESENT: Brooke Bell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space; Joe Sack, Manager of Recreation; Brad Boswell, Manager of PROS Business Services, and Suzie Jaquith, Recording Secretary.

OTHERS ABSENT: None.

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** By Parks & Recreation Board Chair, Shannon Crouthers at 5:08 p.m.
- II. INTRODUCTIONS:** None
- III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** The Agenda for the November 4, 2020 meeting was approved after a motion was made by Member Lammon and seconded by Member Zbikowski.
- IV. ADOPTION OF PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES -** The Minutes for the October 7, 2020 meeting were approved after a motion was made by Member Eriksen and seconded by Member Ely.
- V. BOARD DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS/REMINDERS**
 - A. Greeting and PROS Update – Brooke Bell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department, reported with Covid cases on the rise, Adams and Arapahoe County have shifted to a higher level of Safer at Home health orders. This impacts the PROS department with smaller outdoor gatherings and fewer people allowed in recreation centers and other indoor facilities. The Boo’s Cruise Halloween family event at Aurora Sports Park was a huge success with just over 900 vehicles driving through during the 4.5 hours of the event. A Trick or Treat Trail event at Star K Ranch was organized by the Open Space and Natural Resources Division. This event allowed families to walk the trails and engage with Naturalists while social distancing. Golf Division continues to do extremely well and is expected to finish the year with a strong fund balance. The Veteran’s event planned for November 6th was cancelled due to the new health orders and the vulnerable population that typically attends.
 - B. Meet a PROS – Brad Boswell, Manager of Business Services, gave an update on 2021 Proposed Budget for the PROS Department. The presentation included a comparison of the 2020 Adopted Budget to the 2021 Proposed Budget. The 2020 Operating Budget of \$45.8 million has been reduced to \$45.5 million for 2021. The reduction of \$336,000 is made up of eliminating two vacant positions in the Parks, Planning, Design and Construction Division; eliminating the special event, Buskers,

NOTE: By simple majority vote, Board may re-establish Agenda order. Quorum is reached with five members.



Brews & Barbeque; and reducing professional services within Open Space and Natural Resources Division. The 2020 Capital Budget of \$14.3 million has been reduced to \$6.8 million for 2021. The reduction is made up of projects that have either been reduced or deferred to later years. The reduction is due to the unknown impact the pandemic will have in 2021.

VI. BOARD MEMBERS REMARKS

A. Comments from Board Members

- Members requested a list of projects scheduled for 2021 as well as a list of projects that will be delayed due to the economic impact of Covid.
- Member Kinney attended one of the PROS drive-in movie events and commented he would like to see this event continue post pandemic. He asked who he should contact regarding crosswalks that are not working near Flanders Park. Director Bell asked him to send specifics to her and she will follow up.
- Member McClure visited Moorhead park playground and Morrison Nature Center and commented how enjoyable it was. She voiced concerns about homelessness in Ward I of Aurora. Director Bell responded the department that handles homelessness is Housing and Community Services. The city is aware of the homeless issue and has incorporated CDC guidelines related to homeless encampments during the pandemic. A homeless encampment cannot be removed unless there is a safety risk to the community such as increased crime, or fire, or other health hazard.
- Member Ely reported the Fitzsimmons Rotary Club, which are park stewards for General's Park, donated a free Little Library that was placed next to the playground.
- Chair Crouthers announced she will be presenting the Annual Parks & Recreation Board Report at the next Parks, Foundations and Quality of Life Council Policy Committee meeting and invited all members to attend.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS

A. Wednesday, December 2, 2020 – Meeting Cancelled

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT** – Member Zbikowski made a motion to adjourn and Member Ely seconded. The motion passed at 6:12 p.m.

Shannon Crouthers, Chair;
Parks & Recreation Board

Suzie Jaquith

Suzie Jaquith, Recording Secretary

ADOPTED _____

Signature:

Email: