



PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, March 2, 2022 – 5:00 p.m.

WebEx Meeting

MINUTES

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Shannon Crouthers, Chair; Bobbie McClure, Vice-Chair; Rick Eriksen, Marty Tessmer, Angela Zbikowski, Mike Ely

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sydney Futrell, Bryan Taylor, Andre Hickman

OTHERS PRESENT: Brooke Bell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department; John Wesolowski, Manager of Parks O&M and Forestry Division; Suzie Jaquith, Administrative Supervisor

I. CALL TO ORDER: By Parks & Recreation Board Chair Crouthers at 5:05 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS: None.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: The Agenda for the March 2, 2022 meeting was approved after a motion was made by Member Eriksen and seconded by Member Tessmer.

IV. ADOPTION OF PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES –
The February 2, 2022 meeting Minutes were approved after a motion was made by Member McClure to make an edit to include that the developer of Painted Prairie Park offered the board a tour in spring or summer. Approval of Minutes with said edit were seconded by Member Zbikowski.

V. BOARD DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS/REMINDERS

A. John Wesolowski, Parks O&M and Forestry Manager, gave a Forestry update.

- Grid Pruning of street trees started in 2010. Since then, 41 areas have been pruned. 5 areas are currently being pruned with 2 areas scheduled for future pruning. 28,776 street trees out of 32,762 have been pruned with 88% completion rate. The completion of all grid pruning is projected by end of 2022.
- Pruning Going Forward - The goal is to have every city tree inspected within a 2-year frequency. Use data from tree inventory to target highest need areas for maintenance. This will allow staff to forecast maintenance needs 5 years out and identify highest needs and areas.
- Citizens can still call to request an inspection on city trees outside the grid pruning areas.
- Member Eriksen asked if staff were performing safety prunes or full prunes. John answered, both. Maintenance is based on the need of the tree. Inspectors update the inventory as they inspect each tree.
- Member Eriksen asked how staff identify which are city trees and which are private trees. John answered, city trees are planted in right of ways, typically 5 to 7 feet from the sidewalk and staff may also can refer to the inventory.

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



- Member Eriksen asked if backyard trees are ever pruned by the city. John answered, Neighborhood Services' Code Enforcement Division, issues citations to homeowner or business owners with private trees that are causing a potential hazard.
- Member Crouthers asked what the response time is for staff to inspect and remove a dead tree. John answered priority is given to larger trees that pose a potential hazard with smaller trees taking less priority. John will follow up on the particular city tree she is inquiring about.
- Member McClure asked if it is new to contract with tree companies to assist with pruning of city trees. John answered, contractors have been used since 2014 to assist in completing the grid pruning process faster.
- Member McClure asked if younger trees need a different type of pruning than older trees. John answered yes. Structural pruning is used as preventative maintenance, so the tree has good structure for years to come. Trees should not be pruned every year. A good pruning cycle is anywhere from 3, 5 or 7 years, based on the needs of the tree and where the tree is in its lifecycle.
- Member McClure asked if a list of licensed tree companies could be sent to her. John to follow up.
- Member McClure remarked she had heard on the radio that doctors are prescribing orders to their patients to get out and experience nature. She requested staff present on how people and the environment benefit from trees and what effect they have on global warming. She also requested another presentation on which trees are best to plant. John will follow up. He commented a Norwegian Sunset Maples tend to do well.
- Member Tessmer asked what is done in the event of severe weather. John answered, inspectors are sent out to the areas identified as priorities to assess storm damage of trees. Storm damage from microbursts, early freezes, etc., does impact the grid pruning schedule. Crews will adjust pruning schedules to first address the trees needing the most maintenance.
- John explained when there is significant storm damage, drop-off sites are available for the public to drop off broken tree limbs. The branches are then chipped into mulch by forestry staff and given away at six "Freeloader Days" in the summer. The dates will be available on the city's website.
- Member McClure asked why she gets weeds in her mulch. John answered, weeds do not come from mulch. The proper installation of mulch should be at least 4 inches to prevent seeds from germinating.
- Director Bell asked John to explain the tree removal process. John answered, dead trees are removed in stages. Crews will remove as much of the tree as can be run through the chipper. The remaining part of the tree, called the "spar", which can be anywhere from 5 to 10 feet tall, is cut into pieces and left for a grapple truck to remove at a later date. The last step is stump removal which is scheduled for a later date.

B. Director Bell gave a PROS Update.

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



- Tracy Young, Manager of Parks, Planning, Design and Construction, is retiring after 28 years of service with the city. Tracy was a great contributor to many successful PROS projects. Most notably, she was a champion for Make A Wish Foundation recipient, Ashaun and the Jenkins-Ramsey family, whose wish was to have an inclusive playground in the community. A wish, which later became a reality with Tracy's efforts along with many contributors, at Red-Tailed Hawk Park. Tracy was also instrumental in bringing in over 30 million dollars in grants over the last 10 years. Tracy is moving on to a leadership role at the Highline Conservancy.
- Advisory board meetings will continue to be virtual until further notice. The city is working on technology that would support hybrid meetings both virtual and in-person. Currently, the city building is open to the public by appointment only.
- The replacement part for the green turtle play structure at Rocky Ridge Park has been installed.

C. Board Openings and Interviews

- Suzie Jaquith, Staff Liaison, announced there are two upcoming openings on the board and asked for dates members were available to interview candidates. The board unanimously agreed upon the date of March 15, 2022.

VI. BOARD MEMBERS REMARKS

A. Comments from Board Members

- Member McClure requested a presentation on the community gardens at Delaney Farm. Brooke responded the community garden is programmed by Denver Urban Gardens and she will follow up with them on their availability.
- Member Tessmer asked if the city has plans to develop more pocket parks. Brooke answered, yes. There is an upcoming master planning process where gaps in the parks system will be identified so parks will be equitable across the city for all to have access to.
- Member Zbikowski remarked she was enjoying a visit to City Center Park where she noticed many park patrons from children playing soccer and using the playground to people riding bikes and walking their dogs. She commented it was great to see the park being so well used.
- Member Crouthers asked if the dirt at Grandview Dog Park will be re-graded in spring and if the water spicket will be working. John Wesolowski answered it is maintained by Open Space and Natural Resources Division. He will follow up with staff to find out.
- Member McClure expressed her appreciation to staff for the upgrades at Hoffman Heights Park.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS

A. Wednesday, April 6, 2022 - Virtual meeting – Webex



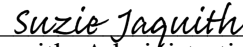
VIII. ADJOURNMENT – Member Zbikowski made a motion to adjourn and Member Tessmer seconded. The motion passed at 6:35 p.m.



Shannon Crouthers (Apr 7, 2022 08:43 MDT)

Apr 7, 2022

Shannon Crouthers, Chair;
Parks & Recreation Board



Suzie Jaquith, Administrative Supervisor

ADOPTED _____




PRAB Minutes March 2,2022_final_ sj_jas

Final Audit Report

2022-04-07

Created:	2022-04-07
By:	Suzie Gilroy Jaquith (sjaquith@auroragov.org)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAaecl-5NEH8h58mm93kpae_o0dNxOAHGQ

"PRAB Minutes March 2,2022_final_ sj_jas" History

-  Document created by Suzie Gilroy Jaquith (sjaquith@auroragov.org)
2022-04-07 - 2:00:03 PM GMT- IP address: 50.237.6.50
-  Document emailed to Shannon Crouthers (shancrouthers@gmail.com) for signature
2022-04-07 - 2:01:14 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Shannon Crouthers (shancrouthers@gmail.com)
2022-04-07 - 2:43:12 PM GMT- IP address: 104.28.48.72
-  Document e-signed by Shannon Crouthers (shancrouthers@gmail.com)
Signature Date: 2022-04-07 - 2:43:34 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 75.71.100.10
-  Agreement completed.
2022-04-07 - 2:43:34 PM GMT