

**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD***Wednesday, March 1, 2023 – 5:00 p.m.*

WebEx Meeting

**MINUTES**

**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (PRAB) MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sydney Futrell, Chairperson; Rick Eriksen, Robert Armstrong, Marty Tessmer, Bryan Taylor, Bobbie McClure

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Andre Hickman, Mike Ely

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Brooke Bell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department; Joe Sack, Manager of Recreation Services; Brian Green, Acting Manager of Open Space and Natural Resources Division; Suzie Jaquith, Administrative Supervisor

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** By Sydney Futrell, Chairperson, at 5:00 p.m.

**II. INTRODUCTIONS:** None.

**III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** The Agenda for the March 1, 2023, meeting approved after a motion made by Member Tessmer and seconded by Member Eriksen.

**IV. ADOPTION OF PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES –**  
The February 1, 2023, meeting Minutes were approved after a motion was made by Member Taylor and seconded by Member Armstrong.

**V. BOARD DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS/REMINDERS**

- A. Brian Green, Acting Manager of Open Space and Natural Resources Division, gave an update on the Comprehensive Park Safety and Security Plan.
- About a year ago, Aurora Police Department and PROS GIS Specialist provided an analysis of crime data for a 12-month period from April 2021 to March 2022. A graph was shown depicting locations with highest crime count.
  - Sixty-nine percent of crimes were reported during the day. Thirty percent occurred at night. Sixty-two percent of crimes occurred in parking lots with lights. Ten percent were in parking lots without lights. Twenty-eight percent occurred in parks without parking lots.
  - PROS staff planned a multi-prong approach to address crime in parks and open spaces. Solutions implemented in 2023 include: Contracted with private security service to patrol at night; ordered two (2) mobile camera trailers that will integrate with city's IT system; Provided private security services at recreation centers; and hired five (5) new full-time park rangers in 2023 for daytime patrol.
  - Overnight security patrol started patrolling parks in October of 2022. Two (2) security vehicles patrol 34 parks from 9:00 P.M. to 5:00 A.M., seven days a week. Security officers observe activity and are in direct communication with the Aurora Police Department to report criminal activity. Nightly reports are supplied to the PROS department.

*NOTE: By simple majority vote, Board may re-establish Agenda order. There is quorum with five members in attendance.*



- Private security service at Southeast, Central, Moorhead recreation centers was implemented in January 2023. Del Mar Pool will be added once opened in summer. Shift times focus on the busiest times.
- Daytime park ranger patrol will include five (5) park rangers and two (2) patrol vehicles. Park rangers will patrol seven days a week interacting with visitors, providing education, and enforcing rules and regulations.
- Two (2) mobile camera security camera trailers, equipped with 3 cameras, lights and speaker, have been ordered with delivery expected in April 2023. Trailers will be deployed to problem areas to record and report criminal activity to the Aurora Police Department. Pre-recorded messages and motion detectors are also included on trailers.
- Costs:
  - 2 Mobile Camera Trailers \$92,000
  - Private Security Patrol at Night \$183,000/year
  - Private Security at Recreation Centers \$160,000/year
  - 2023 Daytime Park Ranger Patrol
    - a. In 2023, two new vehicles \$455,000
    - b. Annually after 2023 \$325,000/year
- Member Armstrong asked if there is information from other comparable cities using camera trailers. Brian Green responded, there is anecdotal evidence that suggests a good success rate. Many companies use these trailers at construction sites as well as other private businesses.
- Member Taylor asked if staff will be monitoring camera/video footage. Brian Green responded, it will be staff and possibly a security monitoring company. The main purpose of installing camera trailers is to help deter criminal activity and also capture video footage to compare it to reports of criminal activity.
- Member Futrell asked if lights near basketball courts at Expo Park can be programmed to go off at 10:00 P.M. to deter unwanted activity. Brian Green responded he will make a request to the Parks Operations and Management Division.
- Member Tessmer asked if there was statistical data on the frequency of vandalism to camera trailers placed in parks. Brian Green responded, it is possible for trailers to be vandalized just like any amenity within a park or open space area. The manufacture constructs the trailers to minimize damage.
- Member Eriksen asked if private security perform night foot patrols through parks and open space. Brian Green responded, private security does not patrol by foot. Any criminal activity or suspected criminal activity, is reported to Aurora Police Department for police response.
- Member Armstrong asked if private security at the recreation centers provide daily reports to staff. Joe Sack, Manager of Recreation, responded, security works cooperatively with recreation staff on duty as incidents occur. Staff document incidents reports.
- Member Armstrong asked if gates can be utilized to deter night time criminal activity. Brooke Bell, Director of Parks, Recreation Department responded that the department's experience using gates has not been successful. Even with gates, people



find a way to enter parks by cutting locks/chains, driving through gates or barricades or driving around gates causing damage to landscape and open fields. It is also very costly to make repairs and hire staff to open and close gates daily. Staff are exploring different timestamping mechanisms available to measure vehicles entering and exiting parks. Brian Green added when looking at overall crime data, reported crime in parks accounts for less than 1% of total crime reported in the city. Brooke Bell noted, compared to other large municipalities, the crime data for Aurora parks is extraordinarily low.

- Member Futrell asked if private security officers are armed. Brian Green responded yes, but only for the security officer's protection, not for engagement. Aurora Police responds to criminal activities.
- Member McClure requested the security plan presentation and lookback on crime statistics, when available, be sent to board members. Member McClure asked if there is security in place at city signature and PROS events. Brooke Bell responded, large signature events are well planned months in advance in coordination with Aurora Fire and Rescue, Aurora Police Department and Office for Emergency Operations.

B. Joe Sack, Manager of Recreation Services, presented the Draft PRAB Meeting Calendar.

- A draft meeting calendar for 2023 was shared with the board. The consensus from the board at last meeting was to start meeting in person. In-person meetings would be scheduled starting April and run through October, alternating every month between in-person and virtual. November through March, meetings would be virtual.
- Meetings would remain at the current start time of 5:00 P.M. for both in-person and virtual meetings.
- Locations for in-person meetings will be finalized at least a month prior to each meeting date.
- The first in-person meeting will be held at Southeast Recreation Center on April 5, 2023.
- May 3, 2023 meeting will be virtual.

C. Joe Sack, Manager of Recreation Services, gave an update on board vacancies and interviews.

- There are three (3) upcoming openings on the board: Mike Ely, Rick Eriksen, and Marty Tessmer terms will expire April 30, 2023. These terms are 3-year terms and once filled, will expire April 30, 2026.
- There is one vacancy on the board. This term is a partial term and once filled, will expire April 30, 2025.
- Interviews were completed by the interview sub-committee.
- A motion was made by Member McClure to recommend city council reappoint Mike Ely, Rick Eriksen and Marty Tessmer to full terms and appoint applicant, Sarah Moll to the partial term. Chair Futrell seconded the motion. Chair Futrell called for a vote from all board members to approve the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



- D. Brooke Bell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department gave a PROS Update.
- The sale of the Denver Broncos in 2022 resulted in an award of \$3.8 million to the city of Aurora to be used for youth activity programs. These are monies to be used on on-time purchases only. The campaign name is “Dream Big for Aurora Youth.” The Housing and Community Services Department has posted information at [www.engageaurora.org](http://www.engageaurora.org). A survey to gather public feedback on how to spend the funds is available on the website through March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**VI. BOARD MEMBERS REMARKS**


- A. Comments from Board Members

- None.

**VII. FUTURE MEETINGS**

- A. April 5, 2023 – Southeast Recreation Center and Fieldhouse – In Person  
B. May 3, 2023 – WebEx - Virtual

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT** – Member Taylor made a motion to adjourn, and Chair Futrell seconded. The motion passed at 6:30 p.m.

  
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Sydney Futrell (Jun 5, 2023 19:02 MDT)

Sydney Futrell, Chair;  
Parks & Recreation Board

  
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Suzie Jaquith, Administrative Supervisor

ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_







# PRAB Minutes MAR 1. 2023\_final\_bsb

Final Audit Report

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