

**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD***Wednesday, September 6, 2023 – 5:00 p.m.**Virtual - WebEx***MINUTES**

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (PRAB) MEMBERS PRESENT: Sydney Futrell, Chairperson, Marty Tessmer, Bobbie McClure, Rosie Comet, Sarah Moll, Robert Armstrong

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rick Eriksen, Vice-Chairperson; Mike Ely, Bryan Taylor

OTHERS PRESENT: Brooke Bell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department; Joe Sack, Manager of Recreation Services; Michelle Teller, Senior Planner, PROS Planning, Design and Construction Division; Nicole Ankeney, Manager of PROS Planning, Design and Construction Division; Suzie Jaquith, Administrative Supervisor

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

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: The Agenda for the September 6, 2023, meeting was approved after a motion made by Member Armstrong and seconded by Member McClure.

III. ADOPTION OF PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES –
The August 2, 2023, meeting Minutes were approved after a motion was made by Member Tessmer and seconded by Member Armstrong.

IV. BOARD DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS/REMINDERS

- A. Michelle Teller, Senior Planner, PROS Planning, Design and Construction Division, gave an update on “Our Parks, Our Place” PROS Master Plan.
- The Purpose of the Master Plan is to set a long-range vision for 5 to 10 years into the future. The plan was built off five key objectives taken from the Aurora Places Comprehensive Plan:
 - Community Connections
 - Equitable Access
 - Health and Safety
 - Sustainable Growth
 - Operational Efficiencies
 - Phase 1 of the Master Plan Project was started in May of 2022 and included a comprehensive review of existing PROS data and relevant local and regional planning documents. An extensive community outreach was completed through surveys, pop-up and special events, and focus groups. Based on community feedback, the original five key objectives were expanded to include six guiding principles: Meet evolving needs of the community; Strengthen connectivity to PROS assets; Serve as stewards to our environment; Provide opportunities for lifelong education; Proactively invest in the present and future; Provide welcoming and safe spaces.
 - Phase 2 involved a gap analysis and needs assessment. With input from the community, an Equity Value Statement was created and serves as an overarching umbrella for all

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the guiding principles and in all strategies and recommendations. The statement reads: Equity is both the means to creating and sustaining healthy communities and an end that benefits us all. It requires the intentional examination of systemic policies and practices that, even if they have the appearance of fairness, may, in effect, serve to marginalize some and perpetuate disparities. An analysis was done to identify where the highest need neighborhoods are using the method of measuring access to parks, recreation, open space, and amenities by demographics and feedback received from the public. With help from a consultant, three core data sets were created: Density, Demographic Vulnerability and Parks Acreage Per Capita. Other criteria reviewed were Tree Equity, Map Based Community Feedback, Program Seasonality, and Ecological Connectivity.

- Through the first two phases of the project, over 16,000 touch points were made with the community.
- Phase 3 was recently completed and consisted of taking the results of the gap analysis and needs assessment and community input to develop strategies and recommendations. The step was to create an implementation and action plan that will articulate prioritization of projects based on an equity lens. Phase 3 also included a dog park study with the goal to develop design standards and recommendations for construction of dog parks within the PROS system.
- An engagement pamphlet was created for the public which gives a high-level overview of the goals of Our Parks, Our Place Master Plan. The pamphlet is available in both English and Spanish through the Engage Aurora website as well as at key city facilities located throughout Aurora.
- Phase 4 is currently underway and is the final phase of the project. Staff are working with the consultant to prepare final Master Plan documents, ensuring to capture all the valuable data and information from public engagement and analysis that have taken place over the duration of the project. The draft is anticipated to be posted on the city's website 10/2/23 through 10/16/23 for public review and comment. Boards and Commissions will receive reminders to review the draft. The approval process will begin in January – February of 2024.
- Chairperson Futrell asked what level of specificity the Master Plan will have. Michelle Teller responded that The Master Plan is kept at a higher level to serve as the guiding vision for the PROS Department. Recommendations will later be included in a strategic plan to start identifying specifics around projects, staff needs and funding.
- Member Comet asked of the 16,000 connections made with the community, was there a good cross reference of all citizens. Michelle Teller responded, yes, the consultant created a robust public engagement plan which staff were also able to review survey data and pinpoint certain areas that had no feedback. This allowed staff to better target those areas.
- Members asked were there any new ideas suggested during the public engagement process. Michelle responded, some of the suggestions included ice rinks and more outdoor winter recreation opportunities. Priorities identified were more open spaces and secondarily, updating the current spaces we have; and offering more small neighborhood special events as opposed to large community events.



- Member Tessmer asked to clarify the term “open space”. Michelle responded, out of the respondents to the survey, approximately 76% requested more open spaces in the true sense of greenways, trail corridors and passive spaces.
 - Member Moll asked if during the dog park study, a determination was made for a recommended minimum size of dog parks. Michelle responded that the final draft of the dog park study has not been completed as of yet but recalls during research that one acre was the minimum recommended, based on efficiency for maintenance.
 - Member McClure asked if there are any programs or parks that focus on teenagers. Michelle responded, through the public engagement process, Wheel Park and the recreation centers were found to be popular among teenagers. Brooke Bell, Director of PROS Department, added basketball is also very popular.
- B. Brooke Bell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department, gave a PROS Update.
- Fall into Fun will take place on the Great Lawn at the Aurora Municipal Center on October 14th. The family event is free and offers a pumpkin patch, crafts, and food trucks.
 - Veteran’s Salute will take place at the Hyatt Regency Aurora-Denver Conference Center on October 30th. The event includes a paid luncheon and a formal ceremony honoring veterans of all military branches.

V. BOARD MEMBERS REMARKS

A. Comments from Board Members

- Member McClure commented that, after confirming with Joe Sack, funds are available in the boards and commissions budget should majority of the board choose to order food for in-person meetings or special events. After member discussion, it was decided this budget item would not be put to use at this time but might be considered for use in the future.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. October 4, 2023 – Plains Conservation Center
- B. November 1, 2023 – Virtual, WebEx

VII. ADJOURNMENT – Member Tessmer made a motion to adjourn, and Member Comet seconded. The motion passed at 5:49 p.m.

Sydney Futrell
Sydney Futrell (Nov 20, 2023 13:37 MST) Nov 20, 2023
 Sydney Futrell, Chairperson;
 Parks & Recreation Board

Suzie Jaquith
 Suzie Jaquith, Administrative Supervisor

ADOPTED _____

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PRAB Minutes SEP 6, 2023_final_

Final Audit Report

2023-11-20

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