

**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

Public Hearing on Springhill Park and Memorial Park Master Plan Amendments

Wednesday, January 10, 2024 – 5:00 p.m.

WebEx Meeting

MINUTES

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Sydney Futrell, Chair; Rick Eriksen, Vice-Chair; Marty Tessmer, Bryan Taylor, Bobbie McClure, Robert Armstrong, Mike Ely, Sarah Moll, Rosie Comet

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Joe Sack, Manager of Recreation Services; Brooke Bell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space; Nicole Ankeney, Manager of PROS Planning, Design and Construction; Rick Crandall, President of the Colorado Freedom Memorial Foundation; Kristoffer Kenton, AIA, Principal Director of Architecture, Galloway and Company, Inc.; Suzie Jaquith, Administrative Supervisor

OTHERS ABSENT: None

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** By Parks & Recreation Board Chair Futrell at 5:03 p.m.
- II. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** The Agenda for the January 10, 2024, meeting was approved after a motion was made by Member Ely and seconded by Member Comet.
- III. **ADOPTION OF PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES –**
The December 6, 2023, meeting Minutes were approved after a motion was made by Member Taylor and seconded by Member Tessmer
- IV. **PUBLIC HEARING: Springhill Park and Memorial Park Master Plan Amendments**
 - A. Nicole Ankeney, Manager of Parks Planning, Design and Construction, provided a slideshow presentation which included public hearing process, amendment process, site plans, and architectural renderings.
 - Springhill Park Master Plan Amendment. Springhill Park is a 23.8-acre community park adjacent to Springhill Golf Course and includes Beck Recreation Center and Indoor Pool, and trail access. In 2023, the southern parcel of Springhill Park was separated and named Memorial Park to distinguish the existing memorials from the rest of the park amenities. Memorial Park is a 5.5-acre special use park.
 - The Amendment is to only remove the southern parcel (Memorial Park) from the Springhill Park Master Plan. No other revisions to the plan are proposed.
 - Memorial Park Master Plan Amendment. The Proposed Master Plan includes removal of the pavilion and restrooms and adding a visitor center building and plaza, landscaping, and additional parking. The building proposed is approximately 6,700 square feet.
 - Design of Visitor Center Site Plan. The PROS Department is in partnership with the Colorado Freedom Memorial Foundation. The Visitor Center is intended to serve as a gathering place to honor, educate, and remember the

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price paid for freedom and pay tribute to the 6,218 Colorado veterans killed in action. The center will be used to host public programs presented by Buckley Space Force Base, Aurora Chamber Defense Council, historians, authors, and distinguished visitors. Site amenities include an entry plaza, landscaping, 89 parking spaces (8 ADA), and pedestrian connectivity.

- Visitor Center floor plan first level will consist of reception area, public seating area, 91 seat auditorium, restrooms, two offices for center staff, conference room, classroom, breakroom, storage, AV, fire riser rooms. The second level will consist of an indoor viewing gallery and an outdoor viewing gallery/deck.
- The Colorado Freedom Memorial Foundation anticipates groundbreaking on the Visitor Center during the second quarter of 2024.
- Rick Crandall, President of the Colorado Freedom Memorial Foundation, gave further insight into the project stating one of the reasons to create a visitor center is to provide an indoor space in which visitors can enjoy the memorial as well as participate in educational opportunities. Estimated funding of the project is between 8 and 10 million dollars with 2 million dollars raised so far. Rick reported there is significant interest from individuals and organizations to help reach the funding target.
- Staff Recommendation. Both park Master Plan Amendments comply with PROS approval criteria. Staff recommends Board approval of both Amendments. Upon approval, staff will continue to work with the Colorado Freedom Memorial Foundation.

B. Feedback and Questions from the Board

- Member Eriksen asked what the estimated date for the grand opening is. Kristoffer Kenton, of Galloway and Company, Inc., replied roughly a year from the beginning of construction.
- Member Moll asked what the inspiration for the design was. Kristoffer Kenton replied, characteristics were taken from the memorial to create a compatible design. The angularity and materials used in the memorial will be supported in the Visitor Center in the same fashion.
- Member Futrell asked what funding sources are being explored. Rick Crandall, President of the Colorado Freedom Memorial, replied sources vary from developers within the city of Aurora to aerospace companies. A proposal has been sent to United Launch Alliance and a proposal is soon to be sent to Lockheed Martin. Rick is confident funding will become available within the next 4 to 5 months.
- Member McClure commented that she grew up in Aurora and has many family members and friends that have served in the military. She expressed gratitude for the project. She asked if the underground spring near Beck Center comes close to the Visitor Center. Kristoffer replied, he did not believe so, but it will be verified during the design process.
- Member Tessmer asked why the planned off-leash dog park at Springhill Park is only 15,000 square feet when the American Kennel Club standard



recommended size is 1-acre or 44,000 square feet. Why not at least plan a half-acre or 22,000 square feet off-leash dog park to meet the minimal size suggested by the American Kennel Club? Nicole Ankeney proposed to analyze any size requirements when staff are closer to executing the additional amenities within Springhill Park. Currently, there is no funding to build the off-leash dog park. A dog park study is underway and if a determination has been made to increase the size of the off-leash dog park, a proposal to Amendment to the Master Plan would follow.

- Member Tessmer asked how many shelters are planned within Springhill Park. Nicole replied, there are four. One associated with the playground, one associated with the off-leash dog park and two additional shelters located in other areas of the park.
- Member Tessmer asked if there are any places to picnic in Memorial Park. Rick replied, in the welcome plaza there will be uncovered park benches.

C. Announcement of the Opening of the Public Hearing – Chairperson Futrell announced the opening of the public hearing.

D. Public Invited to be Heard

- No questions or comments from the public.

E. Follow-up Questions from the Board

- None.

F. Announce the Close of the Public Hearing – Chairperson Futrell announced the closing of the public hearing.

G. Board Motion and Vote to Approve the Springhill Master Plan Amendment

- Chairperson Futrell requested a motion be made by board members to vote on the approval of the Springhill Master Plan Amendment. Member Eriksen made the first motion to approve, and Member Comet seconded the motion. The motion was voted on by all board members and was approved unanimously.

H. Board Motion and Vote to Approve the Memorial Park Master Plan Amendment.

- Chairperson Futrell requested a motion be made by board members to vote on the approval of the Memorial Park Master Plan Amendment. Member Taylor made the first motion to approve, and Member Tessmer seconded the motion. The motion was voted on by all board members and was approved unanimously.

V. STAFF UPDATES – Brooke Bell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department

A. PROS Updates

- Brooke Bell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department reported staff are finishing out 2023 financials and planning for 2024.




VI. BOARD MEMBERS REMARKS

- Member Tessmer asked if the parks system has underserved areas. Brooke replied yes, the PROS Master Plan recently completed identifies where the service level gaps are. It will be used to inform future investment. Nicole added, the Master Plan did identify high need areas. Some areas need potential acquisition space, however other areas have existing parks and focus will be on improving access to amenities.
- Member Ely remarked how impressed he was at the quick response of contractors to repair the gas leak at Beck Recreation Center. Joe Sack replied he will pass along to the Public Works Department.
- Member Futrell expressed interest in staff presenting on current and upcoming park projects at a future board meeting. Brooke replied, it will more than likely be scheduled for the March meeting.
- Member Armstrong shared a link with the board to current PROS construction projects:
https://www.auroragov.org/things_to_do/parks_open_space_trails/park_listing/planning_design_construction/current_projects

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. February 7, 2024 – Virtual – WebEx

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – Member Taylor made a motion to adjourn, and Member McClure seconded. The motion passed at 6:25 p.m.


Sydney Futrell (Mar 11, 2024 11:42 MDT)

Sydney Futrell, Chair;
Parks & Recreation Board



Suzie Jaquith, Administrative Supervisor

ADOPTED _____

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PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Final Audit Report

2024-03-11

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