

**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD***Wednesday, August 3, 2022 – 5:00 p.m.*

WebEx Meeting

**MINUTES**

**PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sydney Futrell, Chairperson; Angela Zbikowski, Vice-Chairperson; Mike Ely, Rick Eriksen, Robert Armstrong, Bryan Taylor, Bobbie McClure, Marty Tessmer

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Andre Hickman

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Brooke Bell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department; Joe Sack, Manager of Recreation Services; Curt Bish, Planning Supervisor; Rick Crandall, Executive Director, Colorado Freedom Memorial Foundation; Suzie Jaquith, Administrative Supervisor

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

**II. INTRODUCTIONS:** None.

**III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** The Agenda for the August 3, 2022, meeting was approved after a motion was made by Member Zbikowski and seconded by Member Taylor.

**IV. ADOPTION OF PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES –**  
The June 1, 2022, meeting Minutes were approved after a motion was made by Member Zbikowski and seconded by Member Eriksen.

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

- A. Rick Crandall, Executive Director, Colorado Freedom Memorial Foundation gave a presentation on proposed Colorado Freedom Memorial Visitor and Education Center.
- Colorado Freedom Memorial is a memorial to honor Colorado's fallen military heroes since Colorado became a state. There are 6,218 names on the memorial currently.
  - Colorado Freedom Memorial occupies approximately 5 acres within Springhill park located off 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Telluride Street. The memorial is operated by the Colorado Freedom Memorial Foundation.
  - The foundation is proposing construction of an indoor visitor and education center at the park and memorial location. To move forward with the proposal, an amendment of the Park Master Plan is required.
  - Visitor and Education Center Vision:
    - Gathering place to honor, educate and remember the price paid for freedom
    - Teach future generations about service and sacrifice
    - Continue to pay tribute to the 6,218 Colorado veterans killed in action
    - Host public programs presented by Buckley Space Force Base, Aurora Chamber Defense Council, historians, authors, and distinguished visitors
    - Starting point for memorial visitor and shelter from inclement weather.

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- Allow an opportunity for neighboring, Buckley Airforce Base personnel to share their mission to build a better connection with the community.
- A conceptual drawing and program were shared with the board:
  - Grounds would include entry plaza, landscaping and 60-70 parking spaces
  - First Floor of visitor center would include a welcome desk, public seating area, offices for staff and storage, 120-150 seat theater focused on Honoring, Education and Remembering.
  - Second Floor of visitor center would include classroom/conference room, reception area with outdoor patio, small kitchen and exhibit hall which would display a growing number of artifacts.
- Cost and Operations:
  - Estimated \$6 million to complete.
  - First Phase – Site planning, entitlements, construction documents, permit fees, pre-construction, \$1 to 1.5 million
  - Second Phase – Building construction and landscaping, \$3 to 3.5 million
  - Third Phase – Staffing, operation and maintenance endowment from capital campaign, \$1.5 million
  - No city funding requested
  - Request to Representative Crow for \$1.5 million has advanced to Senate for final vote. This would fund the First Phase of project.
- Major Milestones to Approval:
  - Park Master Plan Amendment
  - Concession Agreement Amendment
  - Arapahoe County Open Space Board Coordinator and Support
  - Planning and Zoning Commission Approval
  - Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Approval as part of a public hearing
  - City Council Approval by passing a resolution to amend the concession agreement.
  - Successful Fundraising
- Park Name
  - Possible consideration to designate and name the memorial property as its own separate park.
  - Follow the policy for naming city-owned parks
  - Recommendation to be forwarded to City Manager's Office
  - Passage of Council resolution required
- Request for Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Master Plan Approval is scheduled for December 2022.
- Questions/Comments from Board Members:
  - Member Tessmer asked if proposed visitor center will include restrooms, drinking fountains and a concession stand for refreshments. Rick Crandall responded it will include restrooms, drinking fountain and coffee station. There will be no selling of concessions items.
  - Member Tessmer asked if non-functional turf will be used. Rick Crandall responded no.



- Member McClure asked if visitor center parking will be shared with park users. Rick Crandall responded there will be additional parking dedicated for the visitor center.
  - Member McClure asked if the Colorado Freedom Memorial is the only memorial of its kind in Colorado. Rick Crandall responded yes, the memorial honors the fallen heroes starting from Spanish-American war through to date and is the only memorial of its kind that he is aware of.
  - Member McClure asked if there are plans to expand the visitor center as it gains recognition, locally, regionally and nationally. Rick Crandall responded it will be taken into consideration during the planning process.
  - Member McClure suggested security be taken into consideration when planning the visitor center. Rick Crandall responded security will be increased for the building.
  - Member Armstrong asked who is going to be entering into the concession agreement and what will be the length of the term. Rick Crandall responded the concessionaire is the Colorado Freedom Memorial Foundation and the initial agreement was signed with the city in 2012 for a length of 50 years. There is a review on the 25<sup>th</sup> year with option to extend for the remaining 25 years of the agreement. Brooke Bell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department, followed up stating, the intent of the agreement is not for the Colorado Freedom Memorial Foundation and city to make a profit.
  - Member Armstrong reported while conducting an internet search for the Colorado Freedom Memorial, he was given results of other parks in Colorado with similar names. Rick Crandall responded the proper name to search for is “Colorado Freedom Memorial”, not Colorado Freedom Park. Member Armstrong suggested making the name more distinct. Rick Crandall thanked Member Armstrong for the suggestion.
- B. Curt Bish, Planning Supervisor, gave a presentation on the PROS Department Master Plan, Our Parks, Our Places.
- The Our Parks, Our Places Master Plan is intended to be complimentary to the city’s comprehensive plan, titled Aurora Places.
  - The purpose of the Our Parks, Our Places Master Plan is to take a long range look at the needs of the community and the department to establish a road map for the future and to act as guide for decision making as the system grows and develops.
  - The project officially kicked off in May and will extend into Summer of 2023. The project is currently in Phase I - Public Engagement. The link to the project is available through EngageAurora.org on the city’s website. A survey is available for the public to provide input. Phase I will also include community engagement through pop-up events in parks and facilities and at special events and meetings with boards and commissions.
  - Phase II – Needs Assessment portion, will start in mid-September. This will identify any gaps in the park system, amenities and programs.
  - Phase III – Taking data gathered from the public and developing recommendations for how the department can better meet expectations of customers and citizens. A



decision-making tool will be developed and used as the department and system evolves while considering the changing needs and circumstances throughout the customer base.

- Phase IV – Final Conformation and Final Documentation extends into summer of 2023.
- Staff is asking for Parks and Recreation Board members to become involved by visiting EngageAurora.org, emailing [PROSMasterPlan@Auroragov.org](mailto:PROSMasterPlan@Auroragov.org) and visiting pop-up events.
- Member McClure suggested placing signs at parks and recreation centers to advertise. Curt Bish responded posters and banners have been placed at city facilities and at special events.
- Member Tessmer asked if it was appropriate to post the EngageAurora.org link on the NextDoor app. Curt Bish responded he will follow up with marketing staff to determine if that would be appropriate.

- C. Brooke Bell, PROS Director, gave a PROS Update.
- Aurora Pride event is August 6<sup>th</sup> at Aurora Reservoir.
  - Global Fest event is August 20<sup>th</sup> at the Aurora Municipal Center Great Lawn.

**VI. BOARD MEMBERS REMARKS**

- A. Comments from Board Members
- Member McClure suggested staff consider scheduling park grand openings later in the evenings so that more residents can attend after work.

**VII. FUTURE MEETINGS**

- A. Site Tour of Southeast Recreation Center & Fieldhouse, 25400 E. Alexander Drive, Aurora, CO 80016 on September 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 P.M. Location is on the corner of Harvest Rd. and Alexander Dr. Board members and staff will meet outside the front entry of the building. A motion was made to schedule the tour in lieu of an official meeting. Members approved unanimously. RSVP required.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT** – Member McClure made a motion to adjourn, and Member Zbikowski seconded. The motion passed at 6:19 p.m.

Sydney Futrell  
Sydney Futrell (Nov 4, 2022 17:29 MDT)  
 Sydney Futrell, Chair;  
 Parks & Recreation Board

Nov 4, 2022

Suzie Jaquith  
 Suzie Jaquith, Administrative Supervisor

ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_

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# PRAB Minutes August 3 2022\_final\_BSB 10262022

Final Audit Report

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