

**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD***Wednesday, December 7, 2022 – 5:00 p.m.*

WebEx Meeting

MINUTES

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Sydney Futrell, Chairperson; Mike Ely, Rick Eriksen, Robert Armstrong, Marty Tessmer

MEMBERS ABSENT: Andre Hickman, Bryan Taylor, Bobbie McClure

OTHERS PRESENT: Brooke Bell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department; Joe Sack, Manager of Recreation Services; Nicole Ankeney, Manager of Parks, Planning, Design & Construction; Tom Tully, Manager of Business Services; Michelle Teller, Senior Parks Planner; Rian French, Parks Projects Manager; Lauren Morales, Management Assistant

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

II. INTRODUCTIONS: None.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: The Agenda for the December 7, 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 November 2, 2022, meeting Minutes were approved after a motion was made by Member Eriksen and seconded by Member Armstrong.

V. BOARD DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS/REMINDERS

A. Tom Tully, Manager of Business Services, gave a presentation on the 2023 Budget Outlook.

- A budget preparation timeline was shared. Budget preparation is a yearlong process. Currently, staff are working on closing out 2022 budget. This will continue into the first part of 2023. There are opportunities through the year to adjust the current year budget through amendment requests and at the Spring Budget Workshop that takes place in March-April. Mandated Cost adjustments (utilities, etc.) can be made, if needed, around May. Revenue and grant forecast and personal services are completed in June-July. Refinements to capital budget are made around August. The budget is organized into fund summaries and proposed to city council around September-October. The proposed budget is presented and voted on at the Fall Budget Workshop in October. The budget moves forward to be approved by city council and adopted in October-November. The 2023 Budget has been approved and adopted.
- Revenue expectation for 2023 is \$42.5 million and is broken down into the following funding sources:
 - General Fund: \$1.5 Mil
 - Recreation Fund: \$7.7 Mil
 - Golf Fund: \$10 Mil

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



- Open Space Fund: \$14 Mil
 - Conservation Trust Fund: \$5.2 Mil
 - Designated Revenues Fund: \$.8 Mil
 - Parks Development Fund: \$3.3 Mil
 - Service Levels will increase in 2023 with the add of FTE's (full-time employees)
 - Parks Rangers for daytime patrol in parks (5 FTE)
 - Restore Senior Planner position cut in 2020 (1 FTE)
 - Eliminate Morning Start Adult Day Program (-2 FTE)
 - Capital Amendment Highlights:
 - Parks and Open Space Construction: \$20 Mil
 - Open Space and Trail Construction: \$9 Mil
 - Water Conservation Efforts: \$3 Mil
 - Infrastructure Improvements: \$25 Mil
 - 2023 Fall Supplemental – Grants totaling \$2,373,670:
 - Adams County Grants:
 - a. Highline Canal Colfax to I-70 TIP Project: \$1.6 Mil
 - b. Sand Creek Trail Extension Project: \$261,170
 - Arapahoe County Grant:
 - a. Murphy Creek Trail Improvement: \$500,000
 - State Grant:
 - a. Lifeguard Retention \$12,500
 - Member Eriksen asked what the High Line Canal Colfax to I-70 TIP project entailed. Tom Tully responded it will be construction of a bridge that will connect with the Highline Canal over I-70. Brooke followed up, stating the project will connect the Highline Canal Trail from the southern part, south of I-70, to the northern part and will eventually allow access all the way to Painted Prairie to the end of the Highline Canal. Brooke added there was a late grant just received from Adams County of \$500,000 to be used for trail work around Stanley Marketplace which will allow the trail to connect to regional trails. The project is a joint effort between Aurora, Adams County, and Denver.
 - Member Tessmer asked what investments are being made to improve security in the parks. Brooke Bell responded 5 park rangers will be added in 2023 and 2 of those park rangers will focus on daytime patrols in the parks. Armed security for night patrol in parks has been in place since October. Solar powered security cameras are on order. Data collected shows crime happens mostly during the daytime and in lit areas so adding more lighting may not necessarily deter criminal activity. Staff is researching trail counters that could be used in parks to monitor activity after dark to help determine where security is needed most.
- B. Michelle Teller, Senior Parks Planner, gave an update on the Master Plan “Our Parks, Our Places”.
- Purpose of the Master Plan is to take a long range look at the PROS Department five to ten years into the future to set a vision that will help establish goals and strategies going forward.



- There are five (5) key objectives built from the Aurora Places Comprehensive Plan:
 - Community Connections
 - Equitable Access
 - Health and Safety
 - Operational Efficiencies
- Phase 1 of the project has been completed which included public engagement and gathering information to understand what the current system looks like and to identify current challenges. Some highlights were: Survey was completed by 951 residents and staff has connected with over 7,000 residents and stakeholders within the 1st 5 months of the project.
- Phase 2 includes a more robust public engagement, including a needs assessment and gap analysis to better understand where some of the geographic gaps are; what the public has identified as needs and gaps.
- City-wide interactive open houses were held at Central Recreation Center and Moorhead Recreation Center. Overall, there was a great turnout from the community with a wide variety of cultural background and ages attending. Two more open houses are scheduled for February 9th and February 10th. Location(s) to be announced later. To stay informed, visit www.engageaurora.org for finalized dates, times, and locations.
- Phase 2 progress thus far includes connecting to businesses, preschools, and attending events in different areas of the city to connect with as many neighborhoods as possible. Targeting youth through the new Esports lounge through surveys. Overall, there were around 13,000 contacts made, not including surveys.
- Survey #1 focused on how people use the PROS system today. Results from survey found 40% of the 951 who responded, indicated they use parks at least weekly. In addition, 33% of respondents indicated they use the system daily. In total, 73% of respondents indicated using all the different sites, whether it was parks, trails, golf courses, and recreation centers at least weekly. Survey responses also indicated older adults ages 65 to 74 were the 2nd largest group to use parks regularly. Respondents, ages 35 to 44, represented the largest age group with youths in the household.
- Survey #2 closed a couple weeks ago and is still being evaluated. Two of the questions from the survey were, how can PROS enhance cultural diversity in parks and open spaces and what different types of amenities residents would like to see. Response indicated residents prefer to have more gathering places and less programmed areas both indoor and outdoor. Survey results also indicate half of respondents were wanting more neighborhood focused special events as opposed to large city-wide events.
- Phase 3 will focus on developing recommendations based on public feedback and creating a tool to help future decision making. The project is slated to be completed in summer of 2023 with final documents presented to the public, boards and commissions and city council for approval.
- Questions can be sent to promasterplan@auroragov.org
- Member Tessmer asked is there a way to use connections made from public outreach to promote PROS. Michelle Teller responded a key component of the project is to expand the PROS department's network as much as possible to create partnerships.



- Member Tessmer commented more shaded shelters are need in parks and open space to allow people to seek relief from the summer heat. He suggested it be a priority for the PROS Department to consider in the Master Planning process.
- C. Nicole Ankeny, Manager of Parks, Planning, Design and Construction, gave an update on the Colorado Freedom Memorial.
- Rick Crandall, Executive Director of the Colorado Freedom Memorial, reported a formal agreement has been entered into with Galloway Incorporated for the architecture engineering and survey work of the Colorado Freedom Members Center. Galloway Incorporated will manage the design, pre-construction and construction of the facility. Site survey work will begin in January 2023.
 - Rick Crandall continues to be engaged with potential donors of the capital campaign and has good reason to believe, once congress approved the 2023 budget and Representative Crow's appropriation for the project is finalized, major donors will follow. Information on congressional funding will be available the week of December 19th.
 - Rick Crandall reported attendance at the 3-night luminaria display was the largest ever with an estimated 1,000 people visiting to enjoy the event and display. The event also drew large media coverage from all but one local television station. It was also featured as a showcase in the Westword publication and on their website.
- D. Sydney Futrell, Chairperson and Joe Sack, Manager of Recreation, gave an update on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Vice-Chair Election.
- Chairperson Futrell announced the opening for the Vice-Chair position which was vacated by resigning Member Zbikowski and asked for interest from members to fill the position during the interim until next election in May of 2023.
 - Rick Eriksen agreed to step in as Vice-Chair during the interim. Chairperson Futrell called for a motion from all members to vote to elect Rick Eriksen as interim Vice-Chair. Motion passed unanimously.
- E. Brooke Bell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department gave a PROS Update.
- Holiday Tree Lighting special event was held on December 6th at the Aurora Municipal Center and Great Lawn. The weather was great, and the event was very well attended. Families came out to meet Santa and enjoy the festivities which included holiday entertainment, cookies and roasted almonds, live reindeer, and the turning on of the holiday lights adorning the great lawn trees and building. This event concludes the event season for the year.
 - PROS is embarking on a financial sustainability study and a study for the Recreation and Open Space & Natural Resources divisions in preparation for the budget season in Spring 2023.

**VI. BOARD MEMBERS REMARKS****A. Comments from Board Members**

- Member Ely commented how much he appreciated opening of Beck Recreation Center on Saturdays after the first of the year. He understands other recreation centers will also be opening back up on Saturdays as well and is looking forward to a fuller schedule soon.
- Member Tessmer reported there was an editorial in the Aurora Sentinel that described Aurora parks as “astounding”.
- Member Eriksen thanked Brooke Bell and Joe Sack on another successful year considering many challenges.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. January 4, 2023 - Cancelled
- B. February 1, 2023 – WebEx

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – Member Armstrong made a motion to adjourn, and Member Tessmer seconded. The motion passed at 5:55 p.m.

Sydney Futrell

[Sydney Futrell \(Feb 13, 2023 12:38 MST\)](#)

Sydney Futrell, Chair;
Parks & Recreation Board

Suzie Jaquith

Suzie Jaquith, Administrative Supervisor

ADOPTED Feb 13, 2023







PRAB Minutes December 7 2022_final_js

Final Audit Report

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