



PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, April 5, 2023 – 5:00 p.m.

Southeast Recreation Center and Fieldhouse

MINUTES

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (PRAB) MEMBERS PRESENT: Sydney Futrell, Chairperson; Rick Eriksen, Marty Tessmer, Bryan Taylor, Mike Ely

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bobbie McClure, Robert Armstrong

OTHERS PRESENT: Joe Sack, Manager of Recreation Services; Trent Woolley, PROS Landscape Architect; Curt Bish, PROS Planning Supervisor; 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 April 5, 2023, meeting approved after a motion made by Member Eriksen and seconded by Member Taylor.

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

IV. BOARD DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS/REMINDERS

- A. Trent Wooley, PROS Senior Landscape Architect, gave a presentation on the proposed Nature Exploration Area at Morrison Nature Center Project.
- This project is made possible by a grant from Adams County Open Space along with partnerships with Highline Canal Conservancy, Bluff Lake Nature Center, Sand Creek Regional Greenway, and Environmental Learning for Kids.
 - Project team consists of Parks Planning, Design and Construction staff, Open Space & Natural Resources Naturalists staff and engineering and landscape architect consultant, Goodbee and Associates.
 - The project is to utilize the surrounding landscape and vegetation at Morrison Nature Center to create an exploration play area that brings nature to children's daily outdoor play and learning environments.
 - The proposed play area is approximately .88 acres, located just east of the Morrison Nature Center.
 - The existing topography consists of rock, stones, twigs, and branches that will be incorporated into the exploration play area.
 - Why Nature Play? Extensive research has shown children benefit from spending time outdoors. Children are more creative in green areas and play more cooperatively. They tend to be healthier and happier when exposed to regular opportunities for free and unstructured outdoor play. Research has also shown that playing in nature can help children focus attention and can reduce ADHD symptoms.
 - This will be the first nature play area of its kind in city of Aurora.

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



- Public outreach was conducted by surveying approximately 150 visitors of the Trick or Treat Trail event held at Morrison Nature Center in October of 2022.
- A survey was also featured through Engage Aurora website with 144 responses received from the public.
- The first public meeting was held in March of 2023 with approximately 25 citizens in attendance.
- A site plan and conceptual drawings from the consultant were shared with board members. The proposed site includes many play areas for children to explore. Each play area focuses on animals native to Colorado such as beaver, western tiger salamander, deer, coyote, and certain insects. Areas will incorporate climbing, balancing, and imaginary play. Sight, smell, and touch sensory will be a key component of play areas.
- The nature play area will also provide an outdoor space for the educational programming offered through the Morrison Nature Center.
- Next steps include a second public meeting in late April, early May; construction documents, cost estimating, construction phasing, and bidding and purchasing.
- Construction to start at the end of 2023.
- Member Taylor asked if there is a water source. Trent responded, no, there are no water features.
- Member Tessmer asked if the beaver pond and salamander pond are real. Trent responded both are re-imagined play areas.
- Member Eriksen asked if the play area will be connected to existing trails. Trent responded yes.
- Member Tessmer asked if there are liability concerns with constructed climbing structures. Nicole Ankeney, PROS Planning, Design and Construction Manager, responded Risk Management will be consulted as part of the process. Trent added certified playground inspectors with the Parks Operations and Management Division will be performing routine inspections.
- Member Futrell asked if staff anticipates an increase in visitation to the Morrison Nature Center once play area is completed and if there are scheduled field trips to the center. Trent responded yes.

B. Curt Bish, PROS Planning Supervisor, presented on Naming of Green Galley Ranch East PA-13

- Green Valley Ranch East is in northeast Aurora. It is a 588-acre planned development comprised of more than 2600 residences. The master plan also calls for about 68 acres of park land and open space. Oakwood Homes is the developer.
- Developers' obligations to provide park land and open space are defined in approved Master Plans. Developers have the option to either construct, own and maintain neighborhood parks through their metropolitan districts or to turn over the responsibility for such parks to the city to construct and/or own and maintain. The master plan for Green Valley Ranch East specifies that a neighborhood park identified as Planning Area 13 (PA-13) will be constructed by the metropolitan district but will be owned and maintained by the city.



- Ownership of this 6.2-acre park has already been conveyed/dedicated to the city through the subdivision plat approval process. The design of the park has also been completed. Construction drawings have been prepared to conform to PROS design criteria and standards. The developer expects to undertake construction of the park in 2024.
 - Because the PA-13 neighborhood park will be city-owned, it must be officially named. Resolution No. R93-37 sets forth the naming policy and procedure to be followed. A park name may be submitted by a city board or commission, through the City Manager's Office to City Council for approval.
 - PROS has coordinated with the developer regarding potential park names. Agreement was reached to forward the name Wander Park for consideration by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. This name is suggested because the park will be informal and largely passive in nature with paths that meander through an undulating, water-wise landscape which will give visitors opportunities to casually wander through it.
 - Staff recommends Wander Park as the official name for Green Valley Ranch East Neighborhood Park PA-13. If approved by the Board, this name will be forwarded to the City Manager's Office for further action by City Council in accordance with the city's park naming policy.
 - Staff respectfully asked for the board's consideration and recommendation to forward "Wander Park" as the park name to the City Manager's Office for City Council's consideration.
 - Chair Futrell made a motion to move forward with the park name "Wander Park" and Member Eriksen seconded. Motioned passed unanimously.
- C. Joe Sack, Manager of Recreation Services, gave an update on board member openings and officer election.
- Recommendations from the board to reappoint Mike Ely, Rick Eriksen and Marty Tessmer to full terms and appoint applicants, Sarah Moll, and Rosie Comet to fill partial vacant terms are in the process of being forwarded for city council appointment.
 - Reminder that Chair and Vice-Chair Election will take place at May meeting.
- D. Joe Sack, Manager of Recreation Services, gave a PROS Update.
- All PROS divisions are currently hiring staff for the summer season. The biggest challenge has been to hire enough lifeguards to fully operate all pools. The focus this year will be to recruit more head lifeguards. Wages for lifeguards in those positions start at \$17.50 an hour. A lifeguard hiring campaign will be featured on all city social media platforms.
 - Park restrooms have been opened for the season.

V. BOARD MEMBERS REMARKS

- A. Comments from Board Members
- None.


VI. FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. May 3, 2023 – WebEx - Virtual

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

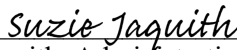


VII. ADJOURNMENT – Member Taylor made a motion to adjourn, and Member Eriksen seconded. The motion passed at 6:45 p.m.


Sydney Futrell (May 22, 2023 11:50 MDT)

May 22, 2023

Sydney Futrell, Chair;
Parks & Recreation Board


Suzie Jaquith, Administrative Supervisor

ADOPTED _____







PRAB Minutes APR 5 2023_approved

Final Audit Report

2023-05-22

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