



## **PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

*Wednesday, June 7, 2023 – 5:00 p.m.*

*Morrison Nature Center*

### **MINUTES**

**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (PRAB) MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rick Eriksen, Vice-Chairperson; Marty Tessmer, Bobbie McClure, Bryan Taylor, Rosie Comet, Sarah Moll

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sydney Futrell, Chairperson; Mike Ely, Robert Armstrong

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Joe Sack, Manager of Recreation Services; Brian Green, Acting Manager of Open Space and Natural Resources Division; Joy Thompson, Natural Resources Supervisor of Open Space and Natural Resources Division, Suzie Jaquith, Administrative Supervisor

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** By Rick Eriksen, Vice-Chairperson, at 5:05 p.m.

**II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** The Agenda for the June 7, 2023, meeting was approved after a motion made by Member Taylor and seconded by Member Tessmer.

**III. ADOPTION OF PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES –**  
The May 3, 2023, meeting Minutes were approved after a motion was made by Member McClure and seconded by Member Taylor.

#### **IV. BOARD DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS/REMINDERS**

- A. Joy Thompson, Natural Resources Supervisor of Open Space and Natural Resources Division gave a presentation on Living with Wildlife.
- Aurora is a unique and wonderful place to live, where wildlife practically lives in our backyards. Wildlife does not always go by human rules. The Open Space and Natural Resources Naturalist Team provides education to the community to promote safety for both citizens and wildlife.
  - Through research it was found that, when it comes to staying safe near wildlife, it requires an understanding of wildlife biology, as well as an understanding of how humans can shape wildlife behavior.
  - Removal of predators, combined with suburban and urban landscape enhancements has made life easier for many species. For instance, coyotes can travel long distances along man-built roadways. Coyotes are omnivores and opportunistic feeders. Coyotes are predators. They are opportunistic and shift their diet to take advantage of the most available prey. They perceive pets as either prey or competition and humans as a top predator unless they have been habituated.
  - Most wild creatures possess a natural fear of humans. It is rare, but under certain circumstances wild animals do attack humans. The rare instances when humans have been attacked by a wildlife creature has usually involved a human acting in a way that is threatening to the animal. The safest practice is to leave wildlife alone.

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



- To haze a coyote, use a practice called S.M.A.R.T. which stand for: Stop, Make yourself big, Announce (yell or scream), Repeat the steps again, and Tell (if child, tell an adult or if an adult, teach someone else how to haze a coyote if encountered).
- Feeding birds and squirrels can attract other wildlife species including unwanted predators to the area.
- Canadian geese and ducks should not be fed. Aurora has a large population of resident geese that stay year-round. Different methods, such as coyote decoy cut-outs, have been used to deter geese from parks and on golf courses. It has proven to be successful for only a short period of time as geese eventually become used to them and are no longer frightened.
- The Naturalists worked with Colorado Department of Wildlife and several other organizations within the Denver metro area to develop consistent vocabulary to describe the different types of wildlife interactions. They are as follows:
  - Observation: The act of noticing or taking note of tracks, scat, or vocalizations.
  - Sighting: A visual observation of wildlife. Vast majority of human-wildlife interactions are sightings.
  - Encounter: An unexpected direct meeting between a human and a wildlife that is without incident.
  - Incident: A conflict between a Human and wildlife where the animal exhibited behavior creating an unsafe situation for the Human. Includes growling, baring teeth or lunging at a Human,
  - Attack: a conflict that involves physical contact between a Human and a wild animal. A Human is bodily injured by a wild animal.
  - Pet-injury: A domestic pet is bodily injured by an animal.
  - Pet-loss: A domestic pet is killed by an animal.
  - Unprovoked: Person did not enter an animal's personal space, try to touch, injure, or use an attractant.
  - Provoked: When a person or off leash pet enters an animal's personal space or purposefully tries to touch or injure, or lures with food or other attractant.
- More information on living with wildlife can be found on the city's website at [www.auroragov.org/nature](http://www.auroragov.org/nature).

B. PROS Updates: None.

## V. BOARD MEMBERS REMARKS

### A. Comments from Board Members

- Vice-Chairperson Eriksen advised new board members to report any issues or observations made concerning parks, open space or recreation facilities and programs to Joe Sack, Manager of Recreation or Brooke Bell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department.



**VI. FUTURE MEETINGS**

A. July 5, 2023 – WebEx - Virtual

**VII. ADJOURNMENT** – Member Taylor made a motion to adjourn, and Member Comet seconded.

The motion passed at 6:40 p.m.

R. A. Eriksen

R. A. Eriksen (Sep 1, 2023 07:16 MDT)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rick Eriksen, Vice-Chair;  
Parks & Recreation Board

Suzie Jaquith

\_\_\_\_\_  
Suzie Jaquith, Administrative Supervisor

ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_

# PRAB Minutes JUNE 7, 2023\_approved by BB

Final Audit Report

2023-09-01

Created:	2023-08-31
By:	Suzie Gilroy Jaquith (sjaquith@auroragov.org)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAhYi71vX7hcm-77Ehp_F1R1M8XaQPOrXO

## "PRAB Minutes JUNE 7, 2023\_approved by BB" History

-  Document created by Suzie Gilroy Jaquith (sjaquith@auroragov.org)  
2023-08-31 - 7:28:23 PM GMT- IP address: 63.149.121.82
-  Document emailed to reriksen@newcastle83.com for signature  
2023-08-31 - 7:28:43 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by reriksen@newcastle83.com  
2023-09-01 - 1:15:27 PM GMT- IP address: 50.194.153.70
-  Signer reriksen@newcastle83.com entered name at signing as R. A. Eriksen  
2023-09-01 - 1:16:15 PM GMT- IP address: 50.194.153.70
-  Document e-signed by R. A. Eriksen (reriksen@newcastle83.com)  
Signature Date: 2023-09-01 - 1:16:17 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 50.194.153.70
-  Agreement completed.  
2023-09-01 - 1:16:17 PM GMT