

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

**FROM:** Yvette Bowden, Director, Parks and Recreation Department

**SUBJECT:** Consent Agenda

**DATE:** March 28, 2016

**A. Approval of minutes from February 22, 2016**

**B. Parks and Recreation Development Update**

The following information is intended to provide the PRAB with relevant updates on specific projects as they reach major milestones. This section is not all inclusive of all current projects and only illustrates major project updates. For a complete list of all current projects and details, please visit [www.BoulderParkNews.org](http://www.BoulderParkNews.org).

**Planning and Design**

The following projects are currently in the planning and design process that involves research, alternatives analysis, public involvement and development of planning documents and design plans to guide decision making and future capital improvements.

- **Boulder Civic Area Park redevelopment** – Staff are working diligently to begin construction of the initial park improvements funded through the Community, Culture and Safety tax from 2014 and approved by City Council in November of 2015. Current schedules anticipate that the construction will commence within the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2016 and continue for 12 to 18 months depending on weather conditions and the efficiency of the construction. Much work is still underway in the long-term planning for improvements within other aspects of the Civic Area and all information can be viewed at [www.bouldercivica.com](http://www.bouldercivica.com)
- **2016-2017 Neighborhood Park Renovations:** Staff is currently beginning the design for renovations of several parks identified as priorities through the department’s asset management program based on life-cycle and known deficiencies. The parks were funded through the capital improvement process for 2016 and will continue into 2017 in order to continue the department’s goal of “Taking Care of What We Have”. Selected park projects include Arapahoe Ridge Park (Rock Park) in East Boulder, Tantra Park in South Boulder and Christensen and Howard Heuston Parks located in northeast Boulder. Additional work will include the schematic design of the planned Boulder Junction Pocket Park and the design for a new shelter near the playground at Holiday Park in north Boulder.

- **National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Wildlife Explorers Pilot program:** Wildlife Explorers is a nature discovery program implemented in afterschool and summer recreation programs. Developed by NRPA in cooperation with the National Wildlife Federation and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the program is fun for kids and easily presented by recreation leaders with little experience in nature programming. The City of Boulder was chosen as one of ten cities to pilot the program and provides valuable feedback to support plans for national distribution in fall 2016. Most of the 160 kids participating in the program this summer are from underserved communities including YSI and EXPAND participants.
- **Current Projects Underway:** Staff continues to work on the following projects and will update PRAB as major milestones are achieved:
  - Facilities Strategic Plan
  - Urban Forest Strategic Plan
  - Scott Carpenter Outdoor Pool Schematic Design Development
  - Boulder Reservoir Bathhouse and Administration Building Architectural Concept Design

### **Construction**

The following projects are scheduled for construction, under construction or recently completed. For additional details please visit [www.BoulderParkNews.org](http://www.BoulderParkNews.org).

- **Admiral Arleigh A. Burke Park:** Building on the past four years of community outreach efforts, the department is planning basic improvements to Burke Park. Construction improvements planned for this summer include:
  - New entry signage;
  - Repairs to the shelter and raised planting beds;
  - Replacement of a small section of walkway around the lake so that it meets ADA guidelines; and
  - Improvements to the landscape mounds to create native habitat plantings to attract bees and butterflies.

In conjunction with the park improvements, Horizons K-8 School was awarded a Neighborhood Grant from the city for a school/community garden supporting a city-wide focus on building community through local foods. Department staff joined the Horizons K-8 School community at the outreach event on March 16 to share the improvement plans and obtain feedback.

- **Flatirons Golf Course Event Center:** Demolition of the existing event center has begun. The project is expected to last through the end of May depending on weather conditions. The golf course will remain open for business during the construction period with no impact on golf play access or the ability to book tee times. The project will include the following work items:
  - Total demolition of the event center except the Just Hit it Grill;
  - Construction of a 400-square foot storage shed on the south side of the Just Hit It Grill;
  - A temporary restroom trailer with a deck and trellis;

- Improvements to utilities; and
- New pavement.
- **Projects Underway:** Staff or contractors continue to work on the following projects and will update PRAB as major milestones are achieved:
  - Knollwood Tennis Courts.

### **Urban Resources**

The following projects are currently managed by the Urban Resources Department focusing on habitat and wildlife issues in an urban environment.

- **Seasonal Wildlife Closures:** The 2016 seasonal wildlife closures have been implemented to protect various birds. Over the decades, many of these species have suffered significant habitat loss, causing some of them to suffer a steady decline in populations. No designated parks and recreation trails will be closed as part of these wildlife closures. For specific dates and locations please visit the web pages listed below:
  - [Osprey, northern harrier and American bittern](#)
  - [Burrowing owl](#)
- **Volunteer Recruitment and Training:** Volunteer recruitment has begun for birds of special concern monitors with annual training scheduled on April 9, 2016. Data collected by volunteers since 2004 is a valuable component of the in the annual Boulder Reservoir Birds of Special Concerns Monitoring Summary.

The department has also partnered with Boulder Mountain bike Alliance's Bike Patrol to add the north shore areas of the Reservoir to their monitoring and education program that has shown previous success at Valmont Bike Park. The volunteer bike patrol was trained by staff on March 12 to patrol the new areas for specific issues including:

- Assistance with wayfinding;
- Data collection; and
- Regulation education.
- **Projects Underway:** Staff continues to work on the following projects and will update PRAB as major milestones are achieved:
  - Prairie dog management;
  - Integrated pest management.

## **C. Operations Update**

### **Columbia Cemetery Update**

In recent weeks, following the retirement of Mary Reilly-McNellan, the department has engaged the public to discuss continued amenity upkeep and plans for coordinated volunteerism. Specifically, members of the Columbia Cemetery Conservation Corps (CCCC) were invited to a breakfast with staff members Yvette Bowden, Margo Josephs and Mary Malley to discuss varied volunteer roles and best means of communication. This meeting was followed by a coffee with

Historic Boulder's Board President, Executive Director and Cemetery Liaison to discuss continuation of coordinated projects such as the "Meet the Spirits" fundraiser. Plans are to continue coordinated volunteerism and explore more-robust department in-park historic amenities education and awareness efforts.

### **Programming Partner Update**

A request for proposals (RFP) for the department's recreational and instructional dance offerings will be issued in May. The current program pilot with Kinesis Dance ends in December 2016. In addition, staff will determine the service reach goals and financial sustainability of the partnership programming effort. Studio Arts Boulder, programming partner for pottery-related instruction at Boulder's Pottery Lab, has updated its [website](#) to include easy access to the organization's Board Meeting minutes, a list of the Board of Directors and several pages and notes related to organization fundraising. The organization has not named an Executive Director and is still working with its interim appointee.

### **Potential Gymnastics Parent Booster Club:**

In conjunction with service delivery work, the department is working with the parents of competitive gymnastics participants to better align the program with Master Plan goals. The shifting of funding allocations to a parent-run booster club would allow for a more intentional focus on community-based programming by repurposing subsidy funds. Staff and a parent working group will be presenting the concept to the parents of competitive gymnasts on April 4<sup>th</sup> from 6 - 8 p.m.

### **LiveWell Colorado's HEAL Cities and Towns Program**

In late 2015, at the request of Tim Plass, City Council gave a "nod of five" for city staff to develop a resolution declaring Boulder's participation in the Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) Cities and Towns Campaign of Colorado. [The HEAL Cities and Town Campaign](#) is a partnership between LiveWell Colorado, a Denver-based nonprofit organization committed to reducing obesity in Colorado by promoting healthy eating and active living, and the Colorado Municipal League. The program provides training, technical assistance and recognition to participating communities as they implement suggested policies to combat obesity.

Over the next few months, department staff will work with HEAL Campaign program coordinators to develop Boulder's resolution. The resolution will include aspirational goals related to the campaign's three focus areas of policy: active community focused on municipal land use, healthy food access and workplace wellness. The department welcomes this opportunity to elevate health in the community and looks forward to sharing Boulder's resolution with the PRAB in the second quarter.