

## Boulder Reservoir and Driftwind Restauraunt

## **SUMMARY:**

This item provides a summary of Boulder Parks and Recreation (BPR) efforts to address neighbor concerns about the new hospitality partnership and Driftwind Restaurant at the Boulder Reservoir. While all activities align with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)-approved vision established in the 2017 Boulder Reservoir Visitor Center Concept Plan and all relevant city code and ordinances, BPR addressed feedback and questions about perceived negative impacts from the new partnership during Fall 2020 and Spring 2021. BPR engaged with these efforts in attempts to build trust with neighbors and ensure communication with the neighbors and stakeholders at the Boulder Reservoir.

Community concerns have been studied and responded to with adjustments to eliminate or minimize impacts; however, some continued to express worry that activities at the Reservoir will negatively impact the rural character of the area, nearby wildlife, or safety. BPR is committed to fulfilling commitments made and addressing any issues that may arise so that these worries are eased.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The City of Boulder Reservoir ("the reservoir") is one of the most popular and heavily visited park facilities in the city and region. It is also one of only six northern Front Range facilities supporting water-based and powerboating recreation opportunities and though smaller than other area facilities, the reservoir offers a significant range of services to the community and maintains one of the highest visitation rates of approximately 300,000 per year. The Reservoir has always operated a concessions area near the beach provided by an outside contractor. Prior to the demolition of the previous Bathhouse and Administration Building and patio as described previously, the concessions area was on the ground level and provided a snack bar concessions experience with grab and go food and drinks.

In 2012, the Boulder Reservoir Master Plan (BRMP) indicated that the most critical facility serving reservoir visitors was needing repairs and renovation, and in 2016, staff began planning for its replacement based on the cost of rehabilitation exceeding that of a new facility. The final concept plan, approved by the PRAB in January of 2017, was developed based on feedback from a cross-section of Boulder community members, reservoir user groups and the PRAB. The details of that process and concept plan may be found in the PRAB Memo January 2017 (starting on page 27).

Through the public process and development of the concept for the new building, BPR talked to the community. Based on that input and policy direction from the Boulder Reservoir Master Plan and Boulder Parks and Recreation Master Plan, these goals were established and approved by the PRAB:

- Extending shoulder season use opportunities of the Boulder Reservoir Regional Park;
- Establishing partnerships with various groups to expand programming and offset construction and operating costs;
- Expanding concessions offerings with possibilities of obtaining a liquor license for the site and for exploring a partnership with a larger scale concessionaire;
- Creating a "welcoming" and "family oriented" design character, promoting a healthy and athletic lifestyle, and focusing on sustainability of the facility; and
- Creating multi-use spaces serving a variety of events across all generations of user groups.

## Timeline Overview:

- **2016-2017: Visitor Services Center Concept Plan** developed with comprehensive community engagement and approved by PRAB.
- 2017-2018: Public Private Partnership Exploration and Development includes listening session with industry subject matter experts for input on opportunities to enhance the visitor experience and a formal Request for Information/Request for Qualifications issued to gather interest/concepts from potential partners. The RFI/RFQ process did not result in a successful partnership, and BPR began soliciting partners through individual negotiations.
- 2018: PRAB approval of lease, negotiation did not proceed.
- 2019-2020: Negotiations and Lease Development with Dine & Dash, LLC. with PRAB approval in January 2020 and City Council approval in February 2020.

Beginning in September 2020, BPR has provided a substantial amount of direct, targeted engagement with some of the Reservoir's neighbors. Staff have worked carefully to ensure the partnership is set up to serve the community while maintaining good relationships to our neighbors and stakeholders. This outreach has included significant correspondence with the surrounding neighbors at the Reservoir. See Attachment A for the emails that have been sent all neighbors who have signed up for direct communication with us, and shared with neighbors living in Valhalla and Waterstone via two neighbors who offered to serve as communication liaisons. In addition to these general emails, staff have responded to individual emails, hosted onsite meet and greets, responded to concerns expressed at public meetings, and hosted virtual meetings to understand the concerns and develop solutions. In February 2021, staff committed to developing a Good Neighbor Agreement to build strong two-way communication with Reservoir neighbors by documenting BPR's communication commitments and providing a clear process to share feedback on Reservoir operations.

In some of the areas of neighbor concerns, BPR has made adjustments and appreciates the input that made operations better. In some areas, adjustments are not possible as they would have an unbalanced and/or negative impact on the overall facility and services

provided. A summary of comments and BPR's response is found in Table 1. This background information is provided to outline some neighbors' concerns and the city's responses and shifts to respond to them.

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Summary of Comments	BPR Response
Sound: Sound will impact experience for nearby neighbors.	Sounds levels will be continuously monitored and recorded to ensure they comply with sound ordinances, and that after 9:00p.m. there is minimal sound intrusion beyond the property line.
Sound: Sound will impact nearby wildlife.	BPR's staff naturalist regularly conduct bird counts and monitor species at the Reservoir. These teammates and sound experts are being consulted as sound protocols are developed.
Lighting: Lighting will change the current dark sky experience in this area.	All lighting will comply with Boulder's Lighting Ordinance, which requires that all exterior lighting face downward and be enclosed to limit light pollution.
Good Neighbor Agreement: The document is not a bilateral agreement and does not reflect neighbor's desires for additional operational limitations	The city must balance many interests in managing the reservoir, and a bilateral agreement with nearby neighbors is not possible. The name has been updated to reflect that it is documenting the city's commitments to be a good neighbor.
Traffic: Increased traffic will overwhelm 51 <sup>st</sup> St. concerns about increased traffic on 51 <sup>st</sup> and	Staff have consulted with Boulder County Sheriff, City of Boulder Transportation, Boulder County Transportation and City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks.  51st Street is classified as a collector street in Boulder County's Transportation system and has the capacity to handle up to 10,000 vehicles/day. Last traffic study had volumes at less than 25% of this number during the busiest times and far less most of the time. And so, from a need standpoint, adding another signalized access from State Highway 119 would be an unnecessary and costly duplication of service while creating impacts on 119.
Traffic: The potential for increased conflict among motor vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists.	To continue to improve safety and multi-modal access to the Boulder Reservoir, City of Boulder and Boulder County will focus investments on enhanced multi-modal facilities on 51 <sup>st</sup> Street. While it does have wider shoulders, separated and/or protected lanes for pedestrians/cyclists would be better at balancing 51st St as both a collector road and a neighborhood street for those who live adjacent and promote multi-modal access to the Boulder Reservoir. Another option is an off-road collector trail outlined in OSMP's North Trail Study Area plan (see Figure 1). These facilities are currently unfunded. Both

	the city and county will continue to evaluate these projects with other needs as capital funding is allocated each year.
<i>Traffic:</i> The speed of traffic on	While Boulder County does not have plans to reduce the
51 <sup>st</sup> should be reduced for	speed limit (45mph) right now based on the street's
safety reasons.	designation and crash data, they have committed to
	performing a speed study this summer and will analyze
	the results. The outcomes will be considered with crash
	data and Vision Zero goals in mind.
Events: Events negatively	To balance this positive benefit with the neighbor's
impact the neighborhood	concerns and requests, since 2013 the city has
	incorporated various event control procedures including
	creation of a Special Event Review Team and policy to
	ensure event promoters comply with rules and regulations.
Alcohol: The restaurant will	Originally, Driftwind intended to include a liquor license
encourage irresponsible	to serve alcohol as an accompaniment to the food and as
consumption.	outlined in the 2017 Concept Plan. A liquor license is
	designed specifically to control alcohol consumption,
	putting the burden of such control on the holder of the
	license. The Dine and Dash group withdrew their liquor
	license application in February 2021 as a gesture of good
	faith to the neighbors. For 2021, operations will focus on
	supporting great experiences within the guidance of
	currently allowed activities at the Boulder Reservoir –
	which includes an exception from the city's ban on open
	containers

Table 1: Summary of Neighbor Comments

## **Good Neighbor Commitments:**

In addition to responding to neighbor concerns, and based upon neighbor request, BPR committed to developing a Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA). The GNA was developed following the timeline outlined in Table 2. The draft GNA (see Attachment B) spells out BPR's communication commitments and outlines the process for neighbors to provide feedback or express concerns.

March 3 – 17	Neighbors provided feedback on the first draft of the GNA.
March 18 – April 2	Boulder Parks and Recreation (BPR) reviewed feedback from
	neighbors and develops revised draft.
April 5	BPR shared second draft with neighbors.
April 12	Meeting with neighbors to review the second draft.
April 26	BPR consulted with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
May 13	Final Good Neighbor Commitment published.

Table 2; Reservoir Good Neighbor Commitments Development Timeline

Additionally, per clause 3.B of the lease and as requested by the neighbors, the commitments made in conversation and as posted online have been documented in the 2021 Driftwind Operations Overview (see Attachment C). BPR staff reviewed the Operations Overview with city attorneys to ensure two goals are accomplished: that there is a policy document that ensures compliance and to again confirm that the management plan complies with all city zoning and ordinances.

## Neighbor Input on GNC

BPR solicited input on the first draft via an online form and received 56 responses. Of these, 26 followed a consistent template of requests and input and others provided individualized feedback (see Attachment D for the feedback). Generally, the input fell into three key areas:

- 1) A request that operational commitments be documented so that they were not just "words on a webpage" or verbal commitments. This has been done with the Operations Overview.
- 2) Requests for adjustments to operations as outlined to date. Some of the requests have been completed: We are committed to complying with all city code and sound/lighting ordinances. Event-related requests (such as posting events online the 2021 Events Calendar) are largely addressed. Some requests are not feasible (such as the access to Highway 119 previously mentioned).
- 3) Continued demonstration that the city is not trusted to say what it will do based upon events of the past.

Some neighbors also shared that the document did not feel like an agreement and is instead a unilateral "memorandum" issued by the city. Staff understands this perspective and acknowledge that some neighbors do not agree with the operations nor does the document express this agreement. Instead, as the city must balance input and needs from a wide variety of stakeholders of the Boulder Reservoir, the GNA includes the commitments the City of Boulder is making to build trust, relationships, and to be a good neighbor. This draft includes strengthened language to acknowledge that these are BPR's commitments, and that all user groups and partners will be expected to comply with them.

The second draft of the GNA also modified the response time from 72 hours to "a reasonable time" to acknowledge that some issues may require a faster response while other non-urgent concerns might take more time to reasonably resolve. Finally, the final draft is called a Good Neighbor Commitment to acknowledge that it is not a bilateral agreement.

Despite the significant outreach with neighbors and substantial changes to operations for 2021, staff recognize some neighbors are still concerned. This is disappointing, as BPR has spent a lot of effort to develop and implement reasonable responses and solutions and has no intentions of being a nuisance or not complying with the allowable uses and agreements.

Staff are now focused on providing great experiences this summer. The intent is to do a good job, comply with all applicable rules, policies and ordinances, fulfill the

commitments we have made and avoid the need for any complaint process. Staff hope that these efforts, along with satisfactory resolution of any issues that might arise, will contribute to improved trust and relationships moving forward.

## **2021 OPERATIONS**

<u>The final GNC</u> was published May 13, 2021. Staff shifted focus on operation details to ensure a successful peak season, which launched Memorial Day Weekend.

This fall, as outlined in the BRMP, staff will again apply the BRMP outlined adaptive management approach to evaluate trends, issues, and successes to develop the 2022 operations. This process includes input from stakeholders such as user groups, event promoters, and partners. Neighbors will be consulted for feedback in the fall and annually moving forward through 2022.

Any major operation changes will be informed by input from the PRAB, as well as the stakeholders mentioned above.

#### **Attachments:**

Attachment A Boulder Reservoir Neighborhood Communication

Attachment B Final Good Neighbor Agreement

Attachment C Operations Overview

Attachment D Summary of GNA Feedback

Attachment E Frequently Asked Questions from BPR Website Spring 2021

#### April 5th, 2021 Email

Dear Reservoir neighbors,

Please see the attached second draft of the Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA) the city is making at Boulder Reservoir. We look forward to discussing it at the upcoming meeting on Monday, April 12. Please note that this meeting is now scheduled 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. to accommodate the rescheduled Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) meeting. More details and a link to join are included below.

Attached to this email are several documents:

- <u>Second Draft: Good Neighbor Agreement:</u> We've attached both a clean copy of the second draft and a copy with the changes tracked. You also view these online: <u>clean copy</u> and <u>version with tracked changes</u>. Below, we have summarized the changes made in response to your feedback and that of our advisors (e.g. attorney, elected/appointed officials).
- 2021 Driftwind Operations Overview: We've also attached the 2021 Driftwind Operations Overview, which documents our operating agreements for 2021. Per clause 3.B of the lease, this document must be complied with by both parties. While the GNA addresses the city's commitments at the reservoir, this 2021 Driftwind Operations Overview reflects requests that the operating commitments be more than "just words on a webpage." This can be viewed online here.

We look forward to sharing more information (e.g. 2021 event information) and discussing the GNA at our April 12 discussion. We will discuss the ideas and requests we have received and note which are included, being considered, or not feasible.

Our next steps are to hear your feedback on the second draft of the GNA on April 12. This input will be considered for a final draft we share with the PRAB for their input at the April 26 meeting. The PRAB's advice will inform the final document, which we will publish on May 13.

Neighbor Meeting on Monday, April 12 at 5:00 p.m.: The March PRAB meeting was postponed due to the tragic shooting at King Soopers. PRAB will now meet on April 12 at 6 p.m. Due to this rescheduling, the neighbor meeting to discuss the second draft of the Good Neighbor Agreement on April 12 will be from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Thank you for your flexibility – we recognize our entire community was impacted by this crisis. In addition to noting the reschedule, we acknowledge that each of us are processing and coping in a different way and along a different timeline. This is a normal reaction to traumatic events. If you are unable to participate in this engagement session at this time, we understand; if you like, you may send your feedback by responding to this email by end of day Sunday, April 11.

We hope you will join us for this conversation: You can click this link to <u>Join the Virtual Meeting Now</u> or dial in by phone: (346)-248-7799 and enter meeting ID: 952 0335 2660. The city's Neighborhood Liaison, Brenda Ritenour, is going to once again support us with her facilitation and expertise.

We recognize that there are still some concerns about our operations at the Boulder Reservoir. The Boulder Parks and Recreation Department (BPR) is committed to fulfilling our intentions and agreements, and looks forward to improved neighbor relationships based upon the commitments made in the documents.

If you had this email forwarded to you and would like to receive communications directly from BPR, please email us at Reservoir@bouldercolorado.gov.

As we wrap up this engagement, we are eager to focus on operating the Reservoir this summer and fulfilling our commitment to be good neighbors. We look forward to discussing how this season went as part of the annual After Action Review this fall.

As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Thank you,

Ali Rhodes

## **Summary of changes to the GNA:**

- There are non-material updates to grammar, format, and order based upon input.
- We acknowledge that this is not a bilateral agreement; this document includes the
  commitments the City of Boulder is making in an effort to build trust, relationships, and to be a
  good neighbor. We strengthened language to acknowledge that these are BPR's commitments,
  and all user groups and partners will be expected to comply with them.
- The quarterly meeting frequency has changed to biannual to better fit the business rhythm of the Boulder Reservoir. We also added clarification that biannual meeting will continue through 2022. We will reevaluate the frequency of these neighbor meetings at the Fall 2022 meeting.
- The 72 hour response to complaints has been changed to "a reasonable amount of time" in response to feedback that 72 hours may be too long in some cases and to allow staff flexibility to respond as needed.
- The reference to project plans being evaluated by the Planning Department has been removed as this is already part of a planning process for any relevant projects and was redundant.

## Here is the GNA Development Timeline:

•	March 3 – 17	Neighbors provide feedback on the first draft of the GNA.
•	March 18 – April 2	Boulder Parks and Recreation (BPR) will address feedback from neighbors and make revisions to the next draft.
•	Monday, April 5	BPR emails GNA second draft and April 12 meeting link.
•	Monday, April 12 5:00 p.m 6:00 p.m.	BPR will host a meeting with neighbors to review the second draft.
•	Monday, April 26 6:00p.m.	BPR will consult with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) at their April business meeting.
•	Thursday, May 13	The final GNA will be published and go into effect.

## March 11th, 2021 Email

Dear Neighbors,

This is a reminder and request to submit feedback on the first draft of the Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA) by Wednesday, March 17 through this survey. Your feedback will inform the next draft that we discuss with neighbors and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) in April.

Also, as a reminder, we have outlined our 2021 Operational Plans in the <u>online FAQ</u>. These are being translated into a document that confirms these commitments and will become a policy document that will guide our operations through this fall and with which all of our partners (including Driftwind Restaurant) must comply.

As noted on the timeline below, we will be using your feedback to revise the GNA and provide a second draft for discussion scheduled for April 12. We hope you will join us for this virtual meeting on Monday, April 12 5:30-6:30pm. We will email the link and dial-in number for this meeting a week before the date. Various city teammates will be in attendance to support, and the city's Neighborhood Liaison, Brenda Ritenour, is going to once again support us with her facilitation and expertise.

#### Here is the GNA Timeline:

Thursday, May 13:

March 3 – 17:	Neighbors provide feedback on the draft GNA through <u>this survey</u> .
March 18 – 31:	Boulder Parks and Recreation (BPR) will address feedback from neighbors and make revisions to the next draft.
Monday, April 5:	BPR emails GNA second draft and April 12 meeting link.
Monday, April 12:	BPR will host a meeting with neighbors to review the second draft.
Monday, April 26:	BPR will consult with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) at their April business meeting.
	March 18 – 31:  Monday, April 5:  Monday, April 12:

The final GNA will be published and go into effect.

As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Thank you,

Ali Rhodes

#### March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 Email

Dear Boulder Reservoir Neighbors,

Thank you to all those who attended the virtual meetings earlier in February. Discussing your concerns helped us update our FAQ and develop the first draft of the Good Neighbor Agreement. We hope you will review this updated information and provide your input going forward.

### **Driftwind Restaurant**

As mentioned in our email on February 12, our partners decided to withdraw their liquor license application. More information on that decision was shared with our Advisory Board at their meeting this week, and we're repeating some of it here: We have been working incredibly hard to address your concerns about this partnership. It became increasingly clear as the hearing approached that the Beverage Licensing Authority (BLA) would have had to choose between a neighborhood that wanted to maintain its quiet enjoyment and an operator that wanted to responsibly serve the community—and that those two things were being viewed as mutually exclusive. In the words of our partner:

We'll hope that this is seen by the neighborhood as the gesture of good faith that it's intended to be. We're conceding to their concerns over a license being granted because, by our estimation, if we went in "for a fight" there were two possible outcomes: lose by winning, or lose by losing. We're not interested in any fight really, but particularly one with those odds.

Josh Dinar

Our partnership is a long-term one, as is our relationship with our neighbors. We are moving ahead and all excited to focus on great experiences this summer, with the goal of enhancing a place that is already special. We continue to be hopeful that all our hard work and communication will help to address concerns while also allowing us to operate the Boulder Reservoir for the benefit of the broader community. The online FAQ has been updated to reflect changes because of the license application withdrawal, including an overview of current operating plans. We hope you will also see these modifications as a gesture of good faith, along with all the requirements and process we are creating to avoid and address issues.

## Being Good Neighbors

A draft of the Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA) is attached to this email and can also be viewed <u>online</u>. This GNA spells out our communication commitments and a process to address input from the neighbors moving forward for reservoir operations. Please let us know your feedback by March 15 through <u>this survey</u>. The timeline for finalizing this GNA is:

- March 3 17: Neighbors provide feedback on the draft GNA through this survey.
- March 18 31: Boulder Parks and Recreation (BPR) will address feedback from neighbors and make revisions to the next draft.
- April 12: BPR will host a meeting with neighbors to review the second draft.
- April 26: BPR will consult with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) at their April business meeting.
- May 14: The final GNA will be published and go into effect.

Upon finalization of the GNA, we look forward to more regular communications with our neighbors and a successful, safe summer. As a reminder, we plan on doing a sound check in May when conditions more closely mirror those of summer. Neighbors will also be notified of that event.

In addition to the Good Neighbor Agreement, here are links to several documents that were requested during our meetings with you all on February 10.

- While the Visitor Service Center at the Reservoir did not require a traffic study, a
  traffic study was done as part of the construction of the nearby Boulder Wildland
  Fire Facility. Learn more by reading this <u>2013 traffic study for the Wildland Fire</u>
  <u>Facility</u>.
- 2017 Visitor Concept Plan Community Engagement Documents: Extensive planning documents are available online related to the <u>South Shore Capital Strategy</u> and the <u>Boulder Reservoir Visitors Center Concept Plan</u> development.

Thank you,

Ali Rhodes

### February 12th, 2021 Meeting Follow Up

Dear Boulder Reservoir Neighbors,

This email follows up on the sessions we hosted on Wednesday and provides an update on the partnership.

## Wednesday Sessions

Thank you so much to those who were able to join us on Wednesday. We know there is a lot going on in the world and our lives and found it valuable to talk (albeit virtually) face to face and to hear your concerns firsthand. For those who could not make it, the sessions were recorded and are available via these links:

Session 1 (9a.m.)Session 2 (5:30p.m.)

We are working on updating the FAQ with some of the questions we were not able to get to during Session 2, those will be updated by the end of next week. The session recordings will be posted there as well.

## **Driftwind Restaurant**

Our partners have decided to withdraw their liquor license application. Together, we will focus this first year on building great experiences and the positive relationships that will allow us to fulfill the community vision created with this project. Please stay tuned for updates as more information is available.

## Being Good Neighbors

We are working on a draft Good Neighbor Agreement that will spell out our communication commitments and a process to address input from the neighbors moving forward. Per the great suggestion as Wednesday's afternoon session, we will circulate that for comment and then host a virtual meeting to hear your suggestions on the agreement. Also, in the works and planned for warmer days is the sound check we discussed in the afternoon session – where we will announce the testing of various sound levels associate with the new partnership and test their impacts at various points.

#### Communications Moving Forward

Because we want to ensure our communications are inclusive, we appreciation Sharon and Bernee for offering to ensure our communications are shared with Valhalla and Waterstone neighbors via your internal communication channels. We will continue to send these emails to the list of community members that have requested to receive reservoir restaurant updates, but appreciate you forwarding this to others who may not be on that list. If someone would like to sign up for this list to ensure they get our communications directly, please email Boulder Reservoir Manager, Stacy Cole.

We recognize there is still more information and relationship building to come and hope that this update is helpful in the meantime.

Thank you, Ali Rhodes

## February 8th, 2021 Next Door Posting

Boulder Reservoir Neighbors- the City of Boulder has been having virtual dialogue with many neighbors about our new hospitality partnership at the Visitors Services Center. You can find more information about the restaurant, including details about sound, events, traffic and safety, in <a href="this online FAQ">this online FAQ</a>.

If you have questions or concerns, please join us at one of two upcoming sessions.

We will gather virtually on Wednesday, February 10 from 9-10 a.m. and again that same day from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Please register here to receive a link to the meetings.

## February 8th, 2021 Neighbor Session Reminder Email

Dear Boulder Reservoir Neighbors,

We wanted to write to remind you about Wednesday's sessions and hope you can join us – the details are in our January note below. The intent of these sessions is to build strong two-way communication between the neighborhood and the city. The sessions will give us a chance to address "in-person" the questions and concerns we have been addressing via email and through the online FAQ. We know that this is a new type of partnership and are eager to provide accurate information and clear up any misunderstandings that may persist about the operating agreements and the mechanisms we are building to ensure compliance.

We are also posting this invitation to the verified Reservoir neighbors on Next Door to ensure we are being inclusive.

We truly do hope you can join us. Again, we thank you for continuing to engage about the Boulder Reservoir as a neighbor and partner. We are committed to building trust and continuing forward together.

Sincerely,

Ali Rhodes

### January 29th, 2021 Email Update and Session Invitation

Dear Boulder Reservoir Neighbors,

In December and with our last email, we let you know that we would send our next update in February. We're reaching out now because we have been listening hard to the concerns some of you have shared about our partnership at the Boulder Reservoir and recognize that we need to talk sooner in order to be good neighbors. With this note, we address a few key areas and invite you to join us for a virtual conversation on February 10 as we also recognize email is not a productive problem solving medium.

We understand and honor that you have real concerns about how our operations will impact your lives and about safety. We are here to acknowledge those concerns, to share solutions already in place and to outline next steps.

### **Trust and Being Good Neighbors**

Several conversations have indicated that there are some of you who don't trust us to do what we say we'll do based on challenges in the past with special events. We also recognize that concerns about past event performance are impacting concerns about our partnership at the Boulder Reservoir. To move forward, we propose a few methods for improving our relationship, and thus trust.

Through our conversations and emails, we hear a lot of concerns based upon events with past Special Events at the Boulder Reservoir. Following significant concerns from neighbors after Special Events in 2013, the city implemented specific requirements for events at the Boulder Reservoir. Those requirements are spelled out in the city's <u>Special Events Guide</u>. This process applies to any event open to the public and for more than 50 people. We also implemented a performance deposit to guarantee the event performs within these specifications.

We have documentation and memory of less than five complaints in each of the last four years (not including 2020 where events were significantly limited by the pandemic) and have not had to withhold a deposit. This data has led us to believe we have addressed those specific concerns and we are open to hearing where we may still be falling short.

Moving forward, we will implement a Good Neighbor protocol that outlines a complaint process you can utilize to ensure your concerns are both shared and addressed. You can expect us to finalize and share this protocol by the end of February and that it will include avenues for sharing concerns, processes for addressing them, and a proposed regular frequency for neighborhood communications.

In addition, the commitments we are making about operations have been posted on our webpage, visible and available to all, along with an <u>FAQ section</u>. Our intention here is to demonstrate that these are not just things we are saying to quiet complaints-they are the standards we are setting for this first summer of operations. <u>The FAQ</u> includes answers to many of the questions you have asked and the facts we've provided about our intentions.

#### **Moving Forward Together**

We invite you to join us at one of two sessions we're hosting to communicate our plans and talk through concerns. We hope these sessions will provide groundwork for continued dialogue. We recognize life is busy, and are providing two options in the hopes that one will work for those who want to hear more

(and if you want to talk to someone and neither option works, let us know-we can set up a 1:1 if needed).

We will gather virtually on Wednesday, February 10 from 9-10 a.m. and again that same day from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Meeting information can be found below.

In the Fall of 2021, we will include an evaluation of the new operations in our annual After-Action Review of the post-season, and input will inform adjustments to operations. In the meantime, complaints can and will certainly be addressed through the Good Neighbor process.

Meeting information (for both times on Wednesday, February 10):

https://tinyurl.com/y3764484

Meeting ID: 938 9090 4382

Passcode: 865699

One tap mobile: +16699006833,,93890904382#

Dial by phone: +1 669 900 6833

To keep our meetings secure, we ask that you do not share the direct meeting link on social media platforms or other public forums. Do feel free to forward this email to specific neighbors who you think may be interested in the conversation. If you would like to share more publicly, please use this registration link instead:

https://bouldercolorado.formstack.com/forms/boulder\_reservoir\_neighborhood\_meeting

If you are unable to attend these meetings and would like to set up another time to talk, please reach out to me or Stephanie Munro (<a href="mailto:munros@bouldercolorado.gov">munros@bouldercolorado.gov</a>). Thank you for continuing to engage about the Boulder Reservoir as a neighbor and partner. We are committed to building trust and continuing forward together.

Sincerlery,

Ali Rhodes

## December 8th, 2020 Email

Dear Neighbors,

This note provides our next update on the status of our partnership at the Boulder Reservoir. As we've said before, we strive to be good neighbors and are hopeful that our regular communications will help demonstrate our commitment.

First and foremost, we again want to recognize that so many of our friends, neighbors, and employees are personally being impacted by the pandemic; we sincerely hope that you and your families are safe. The shift to the Red Status in the State's COVID Recovery Dial has delayed implementation of the partnership as both Dine and Dash and Parks and Recreation focus on more urgent and immediate needs. We are in constant communication, and still, both look forward to next summer when we anticipate a Grand Opening. The Beverage Licensing Authority (BLA) Hearing is now scheduled for February 17, 2021 and we will issue our next update to the neighbors by the end of February 2020. While we believe that our finalized lease captures the commitment of each partner to ensure that the Boulder Reservoir is operated with a balanced approach that is sensitive to impacts on surrounding neighbors, we have been working with our partner to clarify areas where some of you have expressed concern. This information will be included with the packet submitted to the BLA in advance of the hearing, and below are some of the details you might find helpful:

Further, while a management plan is not required for this use, we have worked with Dine and Dash group to create an operational overview to further clarify some of the areas of concern and areas where there is continued misinformation despite our best efforts to clarify (e.g., this will not be a concert venue). I am inserting a summary of those characteristics here, as they answer some of the council members' questions:

#### **Hours of Operation**

- Generally, the hours of operation are 9am-10pm Monday-Thursday.
- Friday-Sunday there may be fluctuations based upon the season or private events.
- The incoming gates will close at 9:00p.m. Monday-Sunday (in line with reservoir operations and except for taxi and/or rideshare).

#### **Entertainment and Events**

- Live music, outdoor games, and other activations appropriate to the setting will promote responsible consumption and enhance the experience at the newly renovated area.
- Entertainment and events are a value-add for visitors of the Reservoir, and any event that includes the following activities will require additional permission from the city:
  - o Requires adjustments to operation hours, or
  - Requires additional amplified sound (equipment or hours beyond what are previously agreed to by partners.

#### Sound

- Types of Sound
  - Ambient music during dining hours, fed via built-in speakers indoors and out.

- Sound level will be set with the intention of enhancing the environment but not inhibiting conversation.
- To address impact on neighbors, outdoor speakers will be turned off at 9:00p.m. Monday-Thursday and 10:00p.m. Friday-Sunday.
- Live music outdoors for enjoyment on the patio and beach.
- On occasion, a DJ or other entertainment may be hired when hosting special or private events.
- $\circ\quad$  Except with specific permission as required by code by the City of Boulder, outdoor sound will align with the City of Boulder ordinances.
- Sound Mitigation Strategies
  - Sound levels will regularly be tested at the property borders to ensure compliance with ordinance.
  - Sound from the facility will be designed to face north and east, away from the reservoir entrance, and buffered by the building.

Until then, if you have any questions or would like to discuss, please do reach out. You can also fill out <u>this form</u> if you would like to be contacted with more information.

Thank you,
Boulder Parks and Recreation Reservoir Management team

## October 19th, 2020 Email

Dear Valued Neighbors,

Thank you for your patience in awaiting this response to the questions we have been hearing about our partnership at the Boulder Reservoir. First and foremost, we know that many of our friends, neighbors and employees are personally being impacted by the pandemic and fires in Boulder County and we sincerely hope that you and your families are safe.

While we intended to follow up with you last week, our thorough response was limited by challenges related to the pandemic and further this weekend due to the fires in Boulder County. The city and the Park and Recreation Department are supporting fire response and the Incident Command center at the Reservoir. Thank you for your patience, as we know we are all eager to move forward positively.

If you were able to join us last week, thank you! We appreciated the opportunity to show off the new facilities and introduce you to our partners with the Dine and Dash group: Chef Daniel and Josh and Kate Dinar. We value and appreciate your feedback and are committed to addressing your concerns so that this new partnership can fulfill the community goals on which it was designed.

Below we outline further why we believe that providing food and beverage services at the Reservoir will enhance the experience and why we are so excited about our partnership with Dine and Dash. While we answered many questions during our conversations this past week, the intent of this email is to document the concerns we heard, our approach to addressing them and to share next steps in the partnership process. During the sessions and our conversations with some of you, we have heard four main concerns:

- An interest in understanding why the city is entering into in a hospitality partnership at the reservoir,
- Concerns about excessive noise,
- Concerns about increased traffic on 51st Street, and
- Concerns about an increase in unsafe alcohol consumption and potential related impacts such as unsafe driving or other irresponsible behavior.

We will address these concerns specifically below, and want to call out that we are attaching to this note the lease agreement with the Dine and Dash group, who will operate the restaurant at the Reservoir with the name *Dockside*. In particular, we call your attention to the Operating Guiding Principles in Attachment B. These guiding principles capture the spirit of the agreement and commitment of each partner to ensure that the Boulder Reservoir is operated in a manner that is accessible, safe and welcoming to the general public. In addition, note that the partners commit to a balanced approach that is sensitive to impacts on surrounding residential neighborhoods. With that in mind, we offer responses to the four main concerns.

## Why is the city interested in having these services available?

In 2012 Boulder Reservoir Master Plan indicated that the most critical facility serving reservoir visitors was past its useful life, and in 2016, staff began planning for its replacement. The final concept plan, approved by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) in January of 2017, was developed based on feedback from a cross-section of Boulder community members, reservoir user groups and the PRAB. The details of that process and concept plan may be found in PRAB Memo Jan 2017 (starting on page 27), and here we provide a brief summary. The concept plan development included an interest in

achieving these goals, developed based upon policy direction from the Boulder Reservoir Master Plan and Boulder Parks and Recreation Master Plan and on community input:

- Extending shoulder season use opportunities of the Boulder Reservoir Regional Park;
- Establishing partnerships with various groups to expand programming and offset construction and operating costs;
- Expanding concessions offerings with possibilities of obtaining a liquor license
  for the site and for exploring a partnership with a larger scale concessionaire;
  Creating a "welcoming" and "family oriented" design character, promoting a
  healthy and athletic lifestyle, and focusing on sustainability of the facility; and
- Creating multi-use spaces serving a variety of events across all generations of user groups.

Upon PRAB's approval of the concept plan, and as the final building was designed, staff began planning for the operations of the new facility. The background on the partnership is outlined in this <u>January</u> 2020 PRAB Memo and Lease Agreement (background found starting on page 115 and lease pages 143-156). In summary, and with the PRAB's input, staff determined that a hospitality partner in the form of a public-private partnership would deliver on those goals, documented in the lease which has been approved by the PRAB and City Council:

- Enhances the service and business model of historical seasonal concession operations at the Boulder Reservoir as desired by the community and reflected in the approved Boulder Reservoir Visitors Center concept plan;
- Ensures public access and allow for supplemental use of the facility beneficial to the operator and the city;
- Codifies the operator's intent to invest up to \$400,000 in impermanent infrastructure (kitchen appliances and furnishings) offsetting such investments by the City;
- Codifies the operator's intent to support expansion of the Boulder Reservoir patio in order to accommodate supplemental use of the site;
- Anticipates the operator's pursuit of a licensure for the sale, service and consumption
  of alcoholic beverages at the site; and
- Aligns with Master Plan direction concerning the financial sustainability of the department's facilities and programs (Master Plan Theme 3D leverage partnerships to increase funding and optimize service provision) as well as the Boulder Reservoir Business Plan.

Having said all of that, solidifying Dine and Dash group as the hospitality partner adds another bonus: a local partner invested in serving the community as demonstrated in their philanthropy and interest in partnering at this site.

## Concerns about the potential for restaurant business to result in noise that impacts neighbors' solitude in the evenings:

The lease ensures that activities comply with noise ordinances and align with the rural nature of the setting. Per the lease, Dockside can provide indoor amplified music, however, outdoor amplified sound is subject to Boulder's noise ordinance and also shall consider the proximity of the premises to other properties and the rural nature of the setting. We also refer again to the guiding principles of the partnership, which affirm that the Boulder Reservoir should be managed and preserved in a manner consistent with the community's sustainability goals and with sensitivity to impacts on surrounding residential neighborhoods.

In addition, we want to reiterate our desire to be good neighbors and spend our time providing great experiences rather than dealing with concerns or complaints from loud music.

#### Concerns about the traffic.

We understand that neighbors are concerned that the restaurant will result in increased traffic along 51st St, creating conflict with recreationists such as runner and cyclists. To connect with overarching city sustainability goals, and as outlined in the Boulder Reservoir Master Plan, staff have been working to address traffic on 51st since 2012. For example, entry improvements have reduced the stacking of vehicles on 51st with special events. Staff commit to continuing these improvement efforts, and to working with GO Boulder and appropriate agencies to develop a Traffic Demand Management (TDM) strategy that promotes and supports alternative transportation mode use and carpooling to the Reservoir, and establishes incentives for pricing strategies to encourage carpooling and multiple occupancy vehicle visits. One example of this in progress is the per car \$10.00 Twilight Fee being proposed – this fee will be available in the summer season post-6p.m. to incent carpooling.

### **Concerns about Safety**

We understand the perception that hospitality will *increase* unsafe alcohol consumption at the Reservoir, however, a liquor license is designed specifically to *control* alcohol consumption, putting the burden of such control on the holder of the license. If the restaurant were to open without a liquor license, and without changes to current city code, reservoir beach visitors will continue to be able to bring their own alcohol on premise and consume it without oversight or third-party responsibility. A license can only help with the monitoring and control of the consumption that has not been in place in the previous years.

We also understand there are concerns that there will be an increase in unsafe driving due to the provision of alcohol at the reservoir. Driving under the influence of alcohol is illegal. Both Dockside and Parks and Rec are committed to supporting safe consumption, including working with the Sheriff's Office to increase patrolling on 51st, incentivizing ride share/taxi, and promoting designated drivers.

## **Next steps**

Finally, there have been questions about the timing of the liquor license process and application. After zoning and use approval, as well as the approval of the tenant lease and proposed use by the City Council and Attorney, the liquor license application was submitted to the Boulder Liquor Authority (BLA). The next step is a public hearing (liquor board determining if this will be on the December or January schedule), in which the liquor authority will hear comment and evidence both in favor of and in opposition to the issuing of a liquor license. The authority takes into consideration neighborhood concerns as well as many other factors in making the decision to issue the license or to deny the application. If the application is accepted, the application goes to the State for final approval and issuance. The license needs to be renewed every year. If the license is denied, the tenant is still able to operate per the lease but will not be allowed to serve alcohol. In this case, park visitors will continue to be allowed to bring their own alcohol, and the tenant will not have the authority or responsibility to manage consumption.

We hope the information we have provided demonstrates our commitment to working with the Dockside team to develop a place that you will enjoy. We value your support and feedback and ask for help in providing positive solutions. Will you please complete by Tuesday, October 27 to help us gauge the effectiveness of the information we've provided? Your input will inform next steps and the restaurant program.

Lease January 2020 PRAB Memo and Lease Agreement (Lease can be found on pages 143-156).

Tha nk you,

## September 28th, 2020 Email

Dear Boulder Reservoir Neighbors;

The City of Boulder Parks and Recreation is excited to share a unique opportunity with our Boulder Reservoir patrons.

Please join us for a special preview of Dockside, the new restaurant at Boulder Reservoir. Dockside owners, Josh and Kate Dinar, alongside Chef Daniel Asher, are excited to meet you and introduce their new restaurant at the Boulder Reservoir. The team at Dockside knows you have a vested interest in preserving what makes the reservoir special and welcomes this chance to share their plans with you.

Together, we invite you to engage with us, tour the new Visitor Services Center facility, and share your thoughts around this unique private/public partnership. Community outreach is important to us, and we value your feedback.

Sign up to attend one of two physically-distanced meet-and-greet events at the Boulder Reservoir Visitor Service Center.

**Session 1**: Wednesday, Oct. 7, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. **Session 2**: Sunday, Oct. 11, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

## Sign up link

We follow all local and state guidelines based on the guidance we receive from public health officials to ensure everyone's safety at these meet-and-greets. Face coverings are required, attendance size will be limited, and physical-distancing guidelines will be followed. We continue to monitor this fluid situation alongside our public health partners; if additional guidelines are implemented or altered, we will adjust these events accordingly and provide you an update.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you Dockside!



Good Neighbor Agreement: Boulder Reservoir

5565 51<sup>st</sup> Street Boulder, CO 80302

Draft: April 5 2021

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- 1. Introduction and Purpose
- 2. Guiding Principles
- 3. Community Engagement & Communication
  - 3.1 Complaint Process.
  - 3.2 Opportunities for Community Engagement.

## 1. Introduction and Purpose

The Boulder Reservoir, located at 5565 51<sup>st</sup> Street, is one of the most popular and heavily visited park facilities in the city and region. It is also one of only six northern Front Range facilities supporting water-based and powerboating recreation opportunities and though smaller than other area facilities, the reservoir offers a significant range of services to the community and maintains one of the highest visitation rates of approximately 300,000 per year.

While creating positive experiences, the City of Boulder also recognizes that some of these operations may have created issues for nearby neighbors. This Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA) acknowledges and specifies the ongoing commitments of the city in serving the goals of delivering quality recreation experiences as well as the well-being of the neighborhood.

As used in this document, these terms have the following meanings: community in this document refers to all residents of Boulder as well as other stakeholders in the city and county of Boulder ("Community"). Stakeholders include other visitors, user groups, business partners and governmental partners. Neighbor in the document refers to all those who live in the Valhalla and Waterstone neighborhoods and other nearby Boulder Reservoir neighbors ("Neighbors").,

The Good Neighbor Agreement for the Boulder Reservoir was drafted by City of Boulder Parks and Recreation (BPR) in February 2021. It will be reviewed by neighbors in March and April 2021 and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) in April 2021 and finalized and published for implementation in May 2021.

The city is committed to conscientious and thorough implementation of this Agreement. The city will share this Agreement with all of its user groups and partners to enhance consistent implementation. Moving forward, any proposed amendments will be notified to the community for input prior to final approval by the PRAB.

The purpose of the Good Neighbor Agreement is to:

- Engage the Community in decisions about the operations of the Boulder Reservoir.
- Establish formal and informal methods for continued communication with the Neighbors, bolstering positive partnerships between BPR and neighbors and facilitating problem resolution.

## 2. Guiding Principles

A Public Place

Boulder Reservoir is a shared community resource and a public place. Its first and foremost purpose is a valuable drinking water supply for the City of Boulder. The recreational activities at the Reservoir are provided in a manner that is compatible with the protection and management of the water supply and have grown to be deeply

appreciated by community members. It is essential that it remain a place that is accessible, safe and welcoming to the general public.

## Boulder Parks and Recreation Mission

The mission of Boulder Parks and Recreation is to promote the health and well-being of the entire Boulder community by collaboratively providing high-quality parks, facilities and programs. Fidelity to this mission is paramount to sustaining the spirit of the Boulder Reservoir and fulfilling the goals of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

## A Balanced Approach

Boulder Reservoir encompasses multiple operational and contractual uses and missions. The needs and interests of many must be balanced in a manner that protects the site and spirit of Boulder Reservoir and in keeping with principles 1 and 2. Management decisions about surrounding uses should be made with sensitivity to potential impacts on Boulder Reservoir. At the same time, Boulder Reservoir should be managed and preserved in a manner consistent with the community's sustainability goals and with sensitivity to impacts on surrounding residential neighborhoods.

## Neighborhood Enjoyment

The Boulder Reservoir sits among rural residential areas, and neighbors desire to maintain the health, safety, attractiveness, and livability of the area and to proactively address good neighbor practices.

## 3. Community Engagement & Communication

Communication between the city, its Partners, the Community and the Neighbors is critically important to develop and maintain positive relationships. Methods to ensure good communication, feedback, and monitoring of this Good Neighbor Agreement will include the following:

- Biannual neighborhood meetings, and proactive outreach by BPR to the community. During the Fall meeting of 2022 we will re-evaluate neighborhood meeting frequency;
- Information posted on BPR website connecting Stakeholders to all pertinent information including contact information for BPR, Boulder Facility Supervisor and partners;
- Implementing a process for submitting feedback;
- Including Neighbors in the feedback gathered from Stakeholders as part of an
  annual After Action Review of reservoir operations each fall. Neighbors will be
  consulted on policy and operational alternatives and notified of decisions.
   Concerns will be listened to and acknowledged and we will share feedback on
  how public input influenced final decisions.

## **3.1 Complaint Process**

In the event of any illegal activity, Neighbors should immediately notify law enforcement via 911.

## **Community Grievance:**

In the event of a problem, Neighbors are asked to notify BPR through the city's online customer service portal, Inquire Boulder. A BPR Reservoir employee will use best efforts and acknowledge complaints within a reasonable time frame. We anticipate being able to address most issues. If the Reservoir employee cannot or does not satisfactorily resolve the problem, the complaint will be elevated through supervisory levels, on up to and including the Parks and Recreation Director.

If the problem remains unresolved, the complainants may bring their concerns to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board via email or at public comment at the next regular business meeting. If this does not resolve the issue, both parties may consent to work with a mediator (from the City of Boulder Community Mediation Service) to help the complainant and city to resolve the dispute. In the unlikely case that a complainant is not satisfied with the process, City Council meetings provide an open comment period for residents at the start of each meeting to hear from the public about important issues facing Boulder and its citizens.

## 3.2 Opportunities for Community Engagement

BPR will host regular, bi-annual Neighbor meetings that will be open to the entire Community. These meetings will provide an opportunity for Community members to raise concerns, ask questions, learn about, and provide feedback on operations at the Reservoir.

In 2021, a late September meeting will focus on debriefing the peak season and to inform 2022 operations. BPR will next host a Spring 2022 meeting for a pre-season consultation.

In the future, the schedule may be amended based on need. During the Fall meeting of 2022 we will re-evaluate neighborhood meeting frequency.

## 2021 Boulder Reservoir Driftwind Operations Overview

Boulder Parks and Recreation (BPR) manages all areas of the Boulder Reservoir with a balance of preservation and recreation as outlined in the vision from the Boulder Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This operation overview outlines 2021 operation agreements between BPR and Driftwind Restaurant. Per clause 3.B of the lease, this document must be complied with by both parties.

These agreements apply to 2021. Data and feedback will be collected throughout the season and considered in the After-Action Review (AAR) conducted each fall. The AAR is how the city applies an adaptive management approach to resource protection and enhancement as outlined in the Boulder Reservoir Master Plan. An adaptive management approach involves the ongoing monitoring of resource conditions, assessment of the effectiveness of management actions, revisions of management actions based on new information from research and learning from experience.

## **HOURS OF OPERATIONS**

Driftwind's regular hours of operation for 2021 are 9:00 a.m.- 9:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday and 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Friday - Sunday. There may be fluctuations based upon the season or private events. Incoming gates will close by 9:00 p.m. every day (except for taxi and/or rideshare).

#### **EVENTS**

**Private Events** - Private events facilitated by Driftwind are allowed through the Lease, with requirements to ensure they are a value-add for the community and minimize impacts on the site or neighbors. These events are governed by City of Boulder regulations, Boulder Parks and Recreation policies, the Lease and this Operations Overview. Private events must end by midnight per the Lease. Private events that are allowed with no additional permission from the city include:

- Do not require any noise variance for additional amplified sound;
- Do not require support from City staff (e.g. any activity past 9:00p.m.); or
- Do not exceed 200 attendees.

**Special Events** - Special events are governed by all requirements of the City of Boulder <u>Special Events Guide</u>. Reservoir specific requirements are outlined in Appendix A.

All Medium and Large Special Events (those with over 200 participants) are posted on the City of Boulder website by May 15. This list is updated regularly to reflect any changes. This listing includes impacts to the site based on the type and use requests of the host organization through the Special Event application process.

### **SOUND**

All sound will adhere to the City of Boulder noise ordinances. In addition, and more restrictive than the city ordinance, outdoor speakers will be turned off at 9:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 10:00 p.m. Friday-Sunday.

Staff will monitor and record sound levels throughout the year at various times, at multiple locations throughout the site and during a variety of uses. Data collected will include:

- Location of measurements
- Decibel Level
- Time and Date of Measurements
- Activity/Use (special event, private event, general restaurant operations)

This data will be considered as part of the AAR.

## LIGHTING

All lighting at the facility will continue to be compliant with the City of Boulder's lighting ordinance.

## **SAFETY**

All Driftwind staff will be trained in Boulder Reservoir Emergency Action Plans. A city of Boulder employee will be onsite anytime members of the public are at the Reservoir.

**Alcohol** – Alcohol is allowed at the Boulder Reservoir under the Boulder Revised Code, which excludes the South Shore from the city's ban on open containers of alcohol in public. In addition, Special Events may include alcohol with approval through the city's Special Events process.

No alcohol is allowed in swim area at any time. This is enforced by Parks and Recreation staff on the swim beach during the hours that the swim beach is open.

Driving under the influence of alcohol is illegal. Both Driftwind and Parks and Recreation are committed to supporting safe consumption, including working with the Sheriff's Office, incentivizing ride share/taxi, and promoting designated drivers.

## Attachment D: Summary of GNA Feedback on First Draft

## PRAB April 26, 2021, Items for Discussion/Information A

BPR solicited input on the first draft via an online form. The following questions were asked:

- 1. Do you believe that the draft Good Neighbor Agreement addresses the right issues?
- 2. Please share more about your answer to #1.
- 3. Do you believe the draft Good Neighbor Agreement strikes the right balance between the needs of neighbors of the reservoir and other community members?
- 4. Please share more about your answer to #3.
- 5. What changes do you want to see made to the draft Good Neighbor Agreement? Why?

BPR received 56 responses. Only 3 respondents thought that the draft GNA addressed the right issues and struck the right balance between the needs of neighbors and other community members. When asked to elaborate, 26 of the responses received repeated a list of requests (List 1). A collection of comments from the other 30 respondents is included below (List 2).

## **List 1: Repeated response**

- "This Document is for addressing communication and complaints as directed by the City not the neighborhood. It does not proactively address any specific issues of the neighborhood that have already become subjects of heated communication and avid complaints. Good Neighbor means that an attempt is made to satisfy both parties. So far, the City has not made any concessions on any of our issues. To have a Good Neighbor Agreement, first the parties have to come to the table to agree. That has not happened so a Good Neighbor Agreement cannot be signed unless agreements are made about:
  - o specific operational activities are stated in writing and not presented as good intentions and need to be agreed upon between neighbors
  - o historical hours of the Reservoir are maintained; out gate closes at 9 and all gates closed through off season
  - o share calendar of events
  - o agreed upon events whether they be special, private or public. -in number, character, size, frequency and with traffic and environmental considerations.
  - o no amplified sound after 7 and if heard by the neighborhood anytime it will be turned down
  - o no added light pollution
  - o return to RFP agreements of Café concept
  - o discuss sub-leasing agreements and rules
  - o conflict between what is said and what is done including the use of alcohol
  - o neighborhood and community showing strong opposition to the use of alcohol at Driftwind in any fashion especially after dark and all year.
  - o History of the Reservoir not enforcing rules and misusing property within and out

- o Reservoir events moved to east side
- o Make entrance from 119
- o Multi=use path from Reservoir to Jay
- o Reduce speed limits on 51st., 25mph residential zone"
- "The "community" is not represented at the table except through the City and therefore should not be a part of the Good Neighbor Agreement. Or if it could be represented by real people than it should be a balanced representation. The City has not shown proof that anyone in the community has asked for a restaurant and alcohol and changes of hours and days open. There has been no public forum debating these issues by anyone. Instead there have been repeated attempts to steamroller plans through."

## **List 2: Other Individual Comments**

- "Yes, this document is helpful. But a 72 hour wait on a complaint that needs immediate attention is not okay! In 2019 there were so many events it was horrible getting in and out of our neighborhood! One time it took me 30 minutes just to turn from 51st onto Jay Rd and get out of the neighborhood because the line of cars leaving the res was so long and you should preemptively have traffic control from 51st on to Jay anytime you have an event!"
- "I'm really concerned that there is just way too much wiggle room in all the "concessions," to the point that they aren't concessions at all. In particular, I do not want people at the reservoir past its normal closing time, particularly if they are drinking and consuming "small plates" or food truck fare. I might feel differently if this were truly a nice, high-end restaurant, which it sounds like was the original plan. I definitely do not want loud parties going on after dark. It sounds like what you want is a bar that serves alcohol and beer nuts with loud music that does not match with the purposes of the reservoir or with the character of our neighborhood."
- "I think the Good Neighbor Agreement as written is setting up a complaint process if things go wrong but it does not lay out the standards to which the city is committing itself. I think the neighborhood is concerned about two issues: music/amplified sound and traffic. My issue is music/amplified sound for which I think the city's commitment is "no music/amplified sound to be audible at the park boundary after 9:00pm and that it is never a nuisance." I would like the Good Neighbor Agreement to lay out the city's commitments before talking about complaints."
- "After reading the Mission and Vision Statements of the Boulder Parks and Recreation in addition to the Boulder Reservoir Master Plan, it is apparent that the Good Neighborhood Agreement does not meet many of the subdivision's needs. The expansion of recreational activities from wedding venues to alcohol related events, is not even in concert with YOUR OWN goals for lake use. Wildlife protection is mentioned, but the reality is, loud music and parking lights with even MORE visitors flooding the reservoir does not align with the protection for the number of raptors, deer, coyote, and other animals that live in the area, not to mention the sanity of the neighborhood."
- "The Good Neighbor Agreement is vague and does not address any concrete issues. It does not address any issues on paper that we are already in dispute about. It only allows for what will be on-going, expansive, intense overuse of the Boulder Reservoir. It begs

- the question why the Reservoir is the only avenue for the Parks Department to raise their revenue?"
- "It does not proactively address any specific issues of the neighborhood that have already become subjects of heated communication and avid complaints."
- "I don't trust that the neighborhood will be considered like they say. This is from all the years of being overrun by special events."
- "It's hard to "move ahead" when the history between the needs of the immediate community and the City of Boulder and Boulder Parks and Recreation are not in alignment. We agreed to and support the Fire Burn Station, we are now fighting the noise from the shooting range which wants to expand, and now we will have steady spring, summer, and fall weekend events from the likes of Iron Man to a 365 day event center. The proposed "Good Neighbor Agreement" is hard to swallow."
- "The neighborhood is already impacted too much by special events. Traffic, noise, safety. To add all this will certainly impact the neighborhood way too much."
- "The issues that seems to be most bothersome are traffic, number of events and hours of events. Adding more events at the Reservoir seems to be counterproductive. And as a long time boater (30+ years) it seems more events cuts into boating time."
- "As long as the details of the community engagement and communications are workout fairly and agreed upon by all."
- "The final negotiated lease went beyond acceptable RFP parameters to commercialize the entire Reservoir to make money (for the vendor) at the expense of the nearby neighborhoods and the local ecosystems. It turns the Reservoir into a nighttime destination / bar / concert venue. The GNA does nothing to address this."
- "My needs as a neighbor are not given enough credence. Instead, it feels like the City is looking for loop holes to get around neighborhood concerns."
- "There is too little substance in the agreement about how these needs will be balanced."
- "There are no teeth in the agreement that the neighbors can use when the reservoir or its vendors don't follow the guidelines they have set out. There doesn't seem to be a balance at all."
- "The ongoing issues of use and expansion around the Boulder Reservoir that impact the neighborhood have not been addressed to our satisfaction. Balancing the needs of the reservoir neighborhoods with that of the public community MUST take into account how much more impact Boulder's Parks and Recreation Department has on the Reservoir neighborhoods. Unilateral decisions, without neighborhood input and consent, and a puny complaint web site don't inspire confidence in good faith efforts, ultimately by the City, and Parks and Recreation. An example of unilateral action? signing a lease with Driftwood (or whatever their name is this week) before communication with the neighborhoods about just what Parks and Rec is planning to insert here. It further appears that the function has been a moving target, trying to navigate hurdles in order to achieve the expansive goals of the lease. Replacing an aging food and drink stand with a function that morphs (cafe > restaurant/bar> subleasing to food trucks and BYOB events) does not inspire confidence that the neighborhoods really can trust that the City/BP&R understand nor really listens to their impact on the neighborhoods."
- "As I said before traffic & safety is a huge issue. The neighborhood does not need this. There are plenty of other facilities in boulder to cater to this use. Let's face the fact, WE DON'T NEED THIS. It all about your agenda & DOLLARS"

- "This document is not in the best interest of the neighbors at all."
- "It's true the Boulder Reservoir is a public facility. But like the Disneyland expansion of the proposed Boulder Rifle Club which the County and City fully supported, North Boulder residents had to fight so hard just to maintain the on-going peace of our neighborhoods. The proposed expansion of the Boulder Reservoir is not in keeping with the size and scope of this facility either. I've lived here 27 years and we already deal with the traffic of huge events every weekend from May through October. I do not see much balance of anything going on here based on your document between the needs of the reservoir and the community. After going through an egregious experience regarding the Boulder Rifle Club's expansion, you will be hard pressed for neighbors to want to trust your intentions unless you put them down on paper in a written document. Put together a proposed calendar that will show exactly what this area can expect from all events proposed at the Boulder Reservoir 365 days a year."

# RESERVOIR RESTAURANT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

We are very excited about our hospitality partnership with the Dine and Dash Group and are working carefully with them to ensure the relationship serves our community well at their newest restaurant, Driftwind . The FAQS intends to answer questions we have heard, make public our commitments to be good neighbors, and to support conversations with community members and neighbors.

Driftwind is a restaurant, concession and event space located in the Boulder Reservoir visitor's center. This beautiful new space exists to serve the Boulder community as well as being an enhancement to the park. Coming Memorial Day Weekend 2021, Driftwind will provide an elevated taste of daily concessions to park visitors, a series of weekend dinner special events to raise awareness and funds for local non-profits, and a gathering space to rent for private events of any occasion. We look forward to welcoming you to Driftwind soon! Contact <code>info@dineanddashgroup.com</code> for more information.

For an overview of Driftwind operations, please see the 2021 Driftwind Operations Overview, which documents our operating agreements for 2021. Per clause 3.B of the lease, this document must be complied with by both parties. The answers below include more details. Click on a category below to read questions about that topic. We appreciate hearing from the community and are updating this FAQ as we recieve more questions and more information. These updates are noted next to the questions with the date (for example: "Content updated 2-5-21").

On Wednesday, February 10, we hosted 2 meetings with neighbors of the Reservoir. Recordings of those meetings can be found here:

- <u>Session 1</u> (9a.m.)
- Session 2 (5:30p.m.)

On Monday, April 12, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. BPR hosted another meeting with neighbors to review the second draft of the Good Neighbor Commitment. A recording of those meetings can be viewed here.

## HISTORY AND PROJECT OVERVIEW

## . What is the new Visitor's Services Center?

The City of Boulder Reservoir ("the reservoir") is one of the most popular and heavily visited park facilities in the city and region. It is also one of only six northern Front Range facilities supporting water-based and powerboating recreation opportunities and though smaller than other area facilities, the reservoir offers a significant range of services to the community and maintains one

of the highest visitation rates of approximately 300,000 per year. The Reservoir has always operated a concessions area near the beach provided by an outside contractor. Prior to the demolition of the previous Bathhouse and Administration Building and patio as described previously, the concessions area was on the ground level and provided a snack bar concessions experience with grab and go food and drinks.

In 2012, the Boulder Reservoir Master Plan indicated that the most critical facility serving reservoir visitors was needing repairs and renovation, and in 2016, staff began planning for its replacement based on the cost of rehabilitation exceeding that of a new facility. The final concept plan, approved by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) in January of 2017, was developed based on feedback from a cross-section of Boulder community members, reservoir user groups and the PRAB. The details of that process and concept plan may be found in the PRAB Memo January 2017 (starting on page 27).

## 2. Why did the City of Boulder Parks and Recreation Department seek out a hospitality partner at the new facility?

Through the development of the concept for the new building, BPR talked to the community. Based on that input and policy direction from the Boulder Reservoir Master Plan and Boulder Parks and Recreation Master Plan, these goals were established and approved by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB):

- Extending shoulder season use opportunities of the Boulder Reservoir Regional Park;
- Establishing partnerships with various groups to expand programming and offset construction and operating costs;
- Expanding concessions offerings with possibilities of obtaining a liquor license for the site and for exploring a partnership with a larger scale concessionaire;
- Creating a "welcoming" and "family oriented" design character, promoting a healthy and athletic lifestyle, and focusing on sustainability of the facility; and
- Creating multi-use spaces serving a variety of events across all generations of user groups.

The building and partnership, similar in some ways to how the Flatirons Events Center operated at the Flatirons Golf Course and by Spice of Life, was designed to support these goals.

## 3. What community engagement was included in this process and the decision?

The Boulder Reservoir Master Plan, as a major policy document to guide long-term operations and investments at a unique amenity serving the city and region, included significant engagement across the community. Participants included Reservoir visitors, recreation and wildlife organizations, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB), the Water Resources Advisory Board (WRAB), and City

Council. Community input was received through focus groups, a user survey, open houses, workshops, e-mail and public hearings.

The <u>Visitors Services Center</u> Concept Plan was developed with input received at public Open Houses, via public review and comment online, and input from the PRAB and Boulder's Youth Opportunities Advisory Board. The final concept was approved by the PRAB in January 2017, after input on the final design was received through a final public comment period posted online and notified to over 8,000 emails. The partnership and lease were developed based upon the guidance from the two above projects and finalized with input from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) and approved by the PRAB and City Council.

4. Why is Boulder Parks and Recreation creating a Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA)? What is the purpose of the Good Neighbor Agreement? - Content updated 4-5-21

Our intention with the Good Neighbor Agreement is to build strong two-way communication with our Reservoir neighbors by documenting our communication commitments and a process for neighbors to share input on Reservoir operations. We hope that this will help prevent issues and address any should they arrive. The first draft of this GNA can be viewed <u>online</u> and the second draft is now available <u>here</u>. To see the difference between the two drafts, please see this version with the changes tracked.

**5.** When will this Good Neighbor Agreement be completed? - Content updated 3-12-21

The timeline for finalizing this Good Neighbor Agreement is as follows:

•

March 3 – 17: Neighbors provide feedback on the draft GNA through this survey.

 March 18 – 31: Boulder Parks and Recreation (BPR) will address feedback from neighbors and make revisions to the next draft.

Monday, April BPR emails GNA second draft and April 12 meeting link.
 5:

Monday, April BPR will host a meeting with neighbors to review the second draft.

Monday, April BPR will consult with the Parks and Recreation Advisory
 Board (PRAB) at their April business meeting.

Thursday, May The final GNA will be published and go into effect.
 13:

#### RESTAURANT OPERATIONS

## 1. Who will be operating the restaurant at the Boulder Reservoir Visitor Service Center? - Content updated 2-25-21

The Dine and Dash group, which will operate under the trade name Driftwind, is to operate a restaurant as an accessory use to the Boulder Reservoir. Driftwind will provide a year-round, but seasonally shifting, food amenity and event space for the reservoir. The cuisine will be a food-forward concept, with an emphasis on local and sustainable providers, and a place that is accessible to families and adults, and in the upper mid-price point. Here is an introduction straight from the operators: I'd like to let you know a little about who we are and what our eventual plans are to help activate the space in cooperation with the City of Boulder and Parks & Rec. First, you should know that we, like you, love the Boulder Reservoir. This place is very much our home. My wife and I met in Boulder in 1997 and have been residents here ever since. We started our businesses here and are raising our family here. We own T/ACO restaurant and River and Woods Restaurant and the soon-to-be Ash'Kara Restaurant on West Pearl (whose opening was also delayed by COVID). We own other concepts in Golden and Denver. I also publish DiningOut, a magazine which is about restaurant culture. We have dedicated our adult lives to the restaurant industry because bringing people together to share a moment in time is fulfilling for us in profound ways. We believe that the best restaurants are reflections of the places where they are, that they enhance that place, providing an expression of it for all those who visit. Restaurants for us are a vehicle to community; food and drink just happen to be the medium by which we celebrate it.

## 2. What are the hours of operation? - Content updated 3-3-21

For 2021: Driftwind will operate both "in-season" (Memorial Day to Labor Day) and "Low-season" (Labor Day to Memorial Day),

In-Season Regular Hours: 9am-9pm Monday through Thursday and 9am-10pm Friday-Sunday.

Low Season Regular hours:5pm-9pm.

(note that the lease outlines operations as late as midnight; these are maximum allowable limits. Regular hours of operation are noted above).

## 3. Tell me more about the restaurant! - Content updated 3-3-21

Peak-Season (Memorial Day to Labor Day)

## Daytime:

From Memorial Day-Labor Day, while the Reservoir is formally open to the public, Driftwind will offer morning coffee service, source food trucks from 11 am-5 pm, and augment these offerings with simple but elevated

(i.e. -consciously sourced, ethically produced, healthier) concession food for those visiting the park.

## Evening:

From 5pm during the season, 3-4 nights/week, the space will shift into a price-fixed beachside dinner experience featuring multi-course dinners from acclaimed chef Daniel Asher and other local culinary talents.

Low-Season (Labor Day to Memorial Day)

For 2021-2022, the premises will likely be closed during the day in the Low-season except for special and private events.

## 4. How late will the restaurant be open? - Content updated 3-3-21

Generally, the hours of operation are 9 a.m.- 9 p.m. Monday - Thursday and until 10 p.m. Friday - Sunday. There may be fluctuations, Friday - Sunday based upon the season or private events however, the incoming gates will close at 9:00 p.m. every day (except for taxi and/or rideshare).

## 5. How many people can the restaurant serve? - Content updated 3-3-21

The restaurant will serve about 100 guests at a time on the high end for dining, with 150-175 possible for events and within current public health guidelines to protect against the spread of the coronavirus.

## 6. What is in the lease and how long is the agreement between the COB and the restaurant partner? - Content updated 2-5-21

The <u>lease</u> between Boulder Parks and Recreation (BPR) and Landloch, LLC clarifies the shared goals of this partnership and outlines the responsibilities of each to implement this partnership for the benefit of Boulder. The lease includes the commitment of each party to ensure that the operations of the leasehold align with and promote community values. To promote the success of the partnership, each party also agrees to abide by Operating Guiding Principles. The lease, including the guiding principles, has been approved by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and City Council. The lease also requires the development of key operational policy documents and Section 3.B of the lease requires both parties to comply with these policies. The city retains final approval authority for these documents. Section 9.B of the agreement gives the city to terminate the lease if the partner fails to satisfactorily perform their scope of services.

The term of the lease is five years. It was first <u>amended</u> in October 2020 and a <u>second amendment</u> made in February 2021 to reflect the delay in initiation due to the pandemic.

## **EVENTS**

## 1. Why does the City of Boulder offer Special Events at the Boulder Reservoir?

The city is proud to host a variety of Special Events that contribute to the social, economic and environmental health and well-being of our community. The Reservoir is a unique amenity in our community, providing the community's only venue for open-water swimming. The water, along with the adjacent trails and roads, make it an ideal and safe venue for running and triathlon events in this community of athletes.

## 2. What do you do to limit the impact of Special Events on reservoir neighbors?

Based upon input from neighbors in 2013, and as part of a citywide effort to improve event coordination, the city's <u>Special Events Guide</u> outlines requirements for all event promoters in the city and includes specific elements necessary for hosting events at the reservoir related to:

- Amplified Sound;
- Deposit Requirements to ensure events perform within the specifications;
- Parking and Transportation;
- Safety and Security; and
- Access.

Special event organizers pay a deposit that can be held for lack of performance against these requirements.

## 3. What entertainment will be provided with the new building and restaurant?

Live music, outdoor games, and other activations appropriate to the setting will promote responsible consumption and enhance the experience at the newly renovated area.

## **4. What other events will the restaurant partner offer? -** *Content updated 3-3-21*

Special Events: Public events for more than 50 people, regardless of who produces them, are considered Special Events and must be approved by the city's Reservoir Manager, as part of the regular review of operations between the two entities, and as outlined in the City's Special Events Guide.

For the 2021 summer, Driftwind plans to partner with local non-profits to offer a "Dinner on the Beach" fundraising series to be held on weekend evenings throughout the season. Events will be ticketed, proceeds will benefit non-profit partners, and all guidelines, policies and ordinances will be adhered to.

Private events are closed to the public, and current examples are the ~120 picnic rentals/year at nine picnic sites along the South Shore. These events have an average attendance of 80 people, although some serve as many as 500.

Private events facilitated by Driftwind are allowed through the lease, with strict requirements to ensure they are a value-add for the community and do not have negative impacts on the site or neighbors. These events are still governed by city regulations, parks and recreation policies, the lease and operating documents mentioned in the description of the lease above. Private events that are allowed with no additional permission from the city include:

- Do not require any adjustments to operation hours
- Do not require any additional amplified sound
- Do not require support from City staff
- Do not exceed 200 attendees

## 5. How often will the partner host private events?

Driftwind will have an event coordinator who will handle incoming inquiries for private events such as weddings and rehearsal dinners. The number of private events is based on the demand for the space, and a specific number is not known. Private events should not have a significantly different impact on the space than regular service with regard to traffic, noise or other factors.

## 6. How late will events be held?

At the latest, private events will end by midnight. All noise ordinances regarding outdoor amplification will be strictly adhered to. Sound checks at the property line will ensure the absolute minimum of intrusion beyond the gates.

## 7. How many people can attend the private events hosted by the partner? - Content updated 3-3-21

In 2021, attendees will be limited by COVID-related requirements on gatherings. Space capacities are informed by size, type of gathering, and current public health guidance. These experiences will inform guidance for future years.

## 8. Will you offer any additional communication to the neighborhood near the Reservoir regarding events that are held at the restaurant?

Special events will continue to be communicated to neighbors as outlined in the Special Events Guide.

#### SOUND

## 1. Can you explain the types of sound that the restaurant will have?

During dinner hours there will be ambient music or acoustic live music, fed via built-in speakers indoors and out. The sound level will be set with the intention of enhancing the atmosphere but not limiting conversation. We have tested the sound levels of this ambient music, and it is not audible from the property line, and outdoor speakers will be turned off at 9:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 10:00 p.m.

Friday-Sunday. On occasion, there will be live music outdoors for enjoyment on the patio and beach.

- This might include, a DJ or other entertainment may be hired when hosting special or private events.
- Sound levels will not exceed allowable limits by City of Boulder.

## 2. What will you do to ensure the sound doesn't impact neighbors?

Sound levels will regularly be tested at the property borders to ensure compliance with the ordinance. In addition, sound from the facility will be designed to face north and east, away from the reservoir entrance, and buffered by the building. We have conducted sound tests and found that noise is barely audible at the park gates when played at very large volumes, but not those that are anticipated to be used during normal operations.

## 3. How will you make sure the sound doesn't impact the local wildlife?

We carefully plan and manage all areas of the reservoir with a balance of preservation and recreation as outlined in the vision from our master plan. As part of regular operations, staff continue to monitor conditions with our local ecology in mind. A staff ecologist working with consultants will consistently be monitoring the sound, lighting and any other aspects that might interfere with wildlife. As mentioned, the sound will likely not even be audible within the wildlife areas and any lighting will likely not have impacts on breeding and nesting. The lighting at the facility will continue to be compliant with the city's lighting ordinance that follows the "dark sky" approach.

#### **SAFETY**

## 1. How will this impact traffic on 51st St? - Content updated 2-5-21

We understand that some are concerned that the restaurant will result in increased traffic on 51 st Street. A traffic study was not required for this project because the size of the building did not increase substantially nor do we anticipate a significant growth in attendance. A traffic study was conducted in 2013 for construction of the Fire Training Center, also located at the Reservoir. The findings of that study indicated that on a typical weekday throughout the year, 51 street carried less than 1,500 vehicle trips per day and operates at a high level of service with low vehicular traffic volumes and primarily free flow operations.

We know that some have expressed concerns about existing speed violations or accidents on the road. Boulder County, the operator of 51 st (a public road), reviewed data and road conditions to explore these perceived issues. The review of crash data does not support the conclusion that there is a documented safety issue on this street and they do not perceive a current safety hazard.

Based upon concerns about reduced sight distance at the Kelso Road intersection on 51 st St, Boulder County will be adding a reduced speed advisory sign to the

existing intersection warning sign on this hill to warn motorists traveling south and in advance of Kelso Rd.

In addition, Boulder County Public Works will conduct a speed study this summer to investigate the perceptions of excessive speeding and to determine if the current speed limits are appropriate.

To connect with overarching city sustainability goals, and as outlined in the Boulder Reservoir Master Plan, staff have been working to address traffic associated with special events since 2012. For example, entry improvements have reduced the stacking of vehicles on 51 st. Staff commit to continuing these improvement efforts, and to working with the appropriate agencies to develop a Traffic Demand Management (TDM) strategy that promotes and supports alternative transportation mode use and carpooling to the Reservoir and establishes incentives for pricing strategies to encourage carpooling and multiple occupancy vehicle visits. One example of this in progress is the per car \$10.00 Twilight Fee initiated this year - this fee will be available in the summer season post-6p.m. to incentivize carpooling.

## **2.** Why is the city interested in a partner having a liquor-license? - Content updated 3-3-21

A liquor license is designed specifically to control alcohol consumption, putting the burden of such control on the holder of the license. A license was seen as supporting the monitoring and control of the consumption that has not been in place in the previous years and that was the city and partner's intent with the application- to support responsible consumption as an accompaniment to a meal and Reservoir experience.

The Dine and Dash group withdrew their liquor license application in February 2021. For 2021, operations will focus on supporting great experiences within the guidance of currently allowed activities at the Boulder Reservoir.

## 3. Is alcohol allowed in the water while swimming? - Content updated 3-24-21

No alcohol is allowed in swim area at any time. This will be enforced by Parks and Recreation staff on the swim beach during the hours that the swim beach is open. After hours, nobody is allowed in the water at all.

4. Will the BYO alcohol policy at the reservoir will remain in place since Driftwind has withdrawn their application for a liquor license? - Content updated 3-3-21

Open containers, also known as bring-your-own alcohol, are still allowed at the reservoir, as this area is excluded from the city's ban on open containers of alcohol in public.

5. How will you ensure a safe experience amidst the presence of alcohol? - Content updated 3-3-21

We take all safety and certainly water safety seriously. Alcohol has been allowed at the Reservoir since 1981. We have a highly trained team of water safety professionals who are constantly hoping for the best, but prepared to respond to the worst. This team will help inform the management practices of our partnership.

Private events, such as weddings, will have security as needed based on the size and type of event.

In addition to the many people who visit the reservoir to recreate, the facility is already the site for an average of 120 "private" events each year at 9 large group picnic sites along the south shore (such as reservations for reunions, family celebrations, weddings). These events have an average attendance of 80 people and some in the hundreds and some into the evening hours. There are also the other community events that take place such as the Dash and Dine and Stroke and Stride among others. In addition, alcohol is already allowed at the reservoir under an ordinance allowing for it at this facility and included in many of these events. Events and presence of alcohol are not new factors at the reservoir and are ones we are already accustomed to managing.

In addition, we are committed to continuous improvement and regularly scan for leading practices among the many, many waterfront facilities at lakes and beaches across the country.

Driving under the influence of alcohol is illegal. Both Driftwind and Parks and Rec are committed to supporting safe consumption, including working with the Sheriff's Office, incentivizing ride share/taxi, and promoting designated drivers.