

INC PARC Notes from meeting April 16, 2013

INC Parks and Recreation Committee (PARC) met April 16. Present on this wintry night were co-chairs Katie Fisher and Maggie Price, Marlene Johnson, Diana Helper, Ray Ehrenstein, James T. Sample, Larry Ambrose, and from DPR Gordon Robertson.

First, a correction of information from the INC meeting April 13. Angela Casias is still with DPR. She also is *on the Board* of the Community Health Services. Confusion came about from a mis-statement in the daily paper.

Gordon distributed copies of the [City Park Project Update](#). The aim for the \$5 million regional playground is to activate people of all ages. Fundraising has begun. Naming rights are possible depending on percent given. More parking is planned, but “parking is an insoluble issue,” and no studies have been done on numbers of persons who may use this playground (and the total park). New sidewalk near the Zoo will help pedestrians. New entry from Montview will have a roundabout and drop-off feature, bus parking and access to patron parking. City Park Master Plan is being followed.

Gordon talked about Ruby Hill plans, phase 2. This aims to connect the upper and lower parts of the park by changing the present swimming pool to a “sprayground.” This will be a free attraction, using recycled water. DPR assures it will be safe. A mountain bike course funded by a “large donor” is in the plans for the far meadow (near Rail Yard). Levitt Pavilion will offer 50 free concerts/year plus a few charging for tickets, on the north meadow. The group “Friends of Levitt Pavilion” is in charge of events. PARC asked how this use fits with DPR’s events-timing rules, and how many are expected at such events. Gordon did not have this info offhand.

Discussion regarded limited parking at Ruby Hill and the need for easy access by bike and light rail, with a connection from the Evans station. Added train and bus schedules will be needed for large events at the park, safe bike corral, and work with Public Works’ new “Safe Routes to Parks” program to access Ruby Hill, City Park, Buchtel Trail, and other park areas. Use of crosswalks with patron-activated pushbutton crossing lights, solar powered, was encouraged, where needed.

DPR aims to use 20% less water this year. PARC mentioned use of public parks as playgrounds for some schools, and that this should be monitored to assure healthy grass is maintained. Golf courses will be “rougher.” A note from Ronnie Crawford asked about marked trees at Grant Frontier Park. Gordon will get info.

Katie talked about the Private Outdoor Fee-Based Activity (POFA) proposed Procedures, Rules and Regulations, and meetings this week. PARC concerns regard enforcement and standards for decisions. She presented two letters for PARC consideration: 1. A Statement to the Mayor (drafted by Kathleen Wells) urging that the POFA Policy “be re-formulated to state explicitly that it will be integrated with efforts of protect parkland and that the policy is intended to manage rather than increase activities in parks.” (This responds to the Mayor’s goal to conserve water in order to maintain/enhance Denver’s natural landscapes, see www.greenprintdenver.org/water). PARC voted to send this letter with a few small changes. 2. Draft by Brad Cameron of a letter to DPR Mgr. Dannemiller urging public meetings to review “undesigned” parks and encourage the designation of all such parks as promptly as possible. PARC is working on this letter to distribute for comment to the full committee.

Larry urged that the study of infrastructure costs is of great importance, and often lacking. These costs will lead to construction problems and future expense for today's younger citizens. Larry encourages INC ZAP committee to write a Platform for the city, just as PARC has done. The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m. Next PARC meeting is May 21 at the Heritage Club, 2020 S. Monroe St.

-Diana Helper, PARC member