

INC PARC Meeting Notes, August 20, 2013

The INC Park and Recreation Committee (PARC) met August 20 at 6 p.m. at the Heritage Club, 2020 S. Monroe. Present were co-chairs Maggie Price and Katie Fisher, Steve Fisher, Cindy Johnstone, Brad Cameron, Marlene Johnson, Ronnie Crawford, Diana Helper, Larry Ambrose, Nancy Stocker, Rene Lewis, David Hill; and George Pond, Kyle Burks, and Ana Bowie of the Denver Zoo.

The Zoo presentation was a description of the planned Gasification Process to be installed at the zoo, to convert waste into energy. When operational, it is expected to save \$150,000/year, provide 20% of the zoo's energy needs, and keep 90% of its waste out of the landfill. Now working with the city and health agencies, the finished project will meet stringent standards. This \$50 million dollar project is to be funded by bond issue and private donations. PARC asked about space consumed, noise and odor issues, affect on the zoo animals.

Brad reported on the DPR park designation project. He and four others from INC are on a team with DPR's Scott Gilmore, to move along with designations. INC can furnish local information regarding boundaries, etc. City Councilpersons suggest parks for designation in their districts. Bear Creek Park was added. Prairie Park is on the waiting list. Two rounds of designations are completed; round 3 begins in Nov. 1301 Larimer and 1320 Walnut, land DPR maintains, but was listed For Sale without its knowledge, is an example of city plans begun without public (or even Department) notification. Gates Crescent Park was discussed. There is agreement that public park space is a definite need and should be preserved and added.

Renee updated the Hentzell progress. Friends of Denver Parks plans to have a fund-raising party this fall, to defray continuing costs. Ronnie reported Overland Pond is now deepened, and Platte River work will go on between Grant Park and S. Florida. Denver Trout Unltd."Carp Slam" is Sept. 7. PARC asked about birds relocating when trees are removed.

Penelope Zellor wrote suggesting DPR charge to use dog parks just as they do for Rec Centers. Larry explained this was considered some years ago and not done; licensing dogs also has been suggested but the money from licenses would not go to DPR unless specially arranged.

Cindy discussed POFA (park fee schedules and rules) which underwent a sudden change without notification to the POFA committee, implying that the considerable work of the citizens has not been respected by the process. The resulting schedule is not a solution. PARC voted unanimously to support a letter to be written by Cindy, Larry and Maggie, to DPR, the Mayor, and others appropriate. The majority of "citizen input" has been from business interests. PARC urges RNOs and individuals to comment if they wish quieter public parks with less business use.

Katie reported that SEAP (Special Events And Permitting) seems to be for the benefit of road races and other events not exclusively in parks- which should be in a separate category. This will be on agenda at Nov, INC delegates' meeting. Cindy reminded that Trustee for Public Lands meeting is Sept. 10, and a Noise (abatement) Convention is Aug. 27. Larry said the newly redone Frances Melrose Garden is a great success. He reported that the city figured the St. Anthony development open space percent requirement based on its size after removing its included street and walkway area from the total. This is a first, to try to allow less open space.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. Next meeting Sept. 17. —Diana Helper, PARC member