

The meeting began with viewing the film “Hampden Heist – The Abduction of a Denver Park” created by KC Keefer as a gift to Friends of Denver Parks. Featured speakers are Susan Baird (ret. DPR Sr. Planner) and historian Tom Noel—and the beautiful Hentzell Park Open Space. Discussion followed regarding wide distribution of this film. For info on this film please contact www.friendsofdenverparks@gmail.com. Renee also updated PARC on the progress of attorney John Case. His work is pro bono but donations for cost of filings etc. are requested.

“Stop City Loop” representatives discussed enlargement of City Park “Playground” from three to 14 acres, with need for plans to address safety, protection, proposed fences, parking and traffic. Neighbors say they will lose their longtime “neighborhood park” if it becomes a regional destination site. It is already well “activated.” Primary concern is the DPR process of presenting a “done-deal” plan rather than meeting with neighbors early in the process. Larry pointed out that this violates the INC mission as stated in its Platform on Denver Parks.

Tom presented a Proposed Resolution from Greater Park Hill Community, Inc. asking DPR to complete studies of parking, traffic, maintenance and funding before moving ahead with this project. Kathleen asked that he preface this Resolution with a brief statement of concern for the “top-down” process used in inaugurating this major park project. He will do so.

Larry urged that all RNOs be aware of the city’s plan to change open space requirements in General Development Plans from a percentage of gross area, to 10% of net area, resulting in much less open space (not a good thing). This is on the INC ZAP agenda for discussion Nov. 23.

Renee reported that in Englewood the city council voted to designate all its parks at once.

SEAP (Special Events And Planning) stakeholder reps from INC are Biddie Labrot, George Mayl, and Jane Parker-Ambrose, with Cindy Johnstone as an alternate. The first meeting was tonight, so we await a report. SEAP aims to improve coordination of Denver’s growing number of events. Kathleen reminded PARC that we had sent a list of all our park concerns to the Mayor and DPR some time ago. Maggie will locate this letter for INC stakeholders to reference.

Festival Park possibilities are being discussed by the Greenway Foundation, considering Ruby Hill Park and a “re-think” of the Denver Coliseum site. Diana reported they also are involved with the possible availability of Xcel Energy’s Zuni Plant site at 13th & Zuni and Arapahoe Plant on S. Platte River Dr. Xcel has asked PUC to allow these plants to be shut down. Greenway sees these areas as opportunities for open space/development. PARC will keep in touch. Discussion followed regarding need for major park funding by citizens devoted to open space for the benefit of all, and the misconception that “young people” do not care about green space. They are often the main proponents of clean air and natural spaces, and we should reach out to them on behalf of parks.

Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m. Next meeting will be January 21, 2014.

--Diana Helper, PARC member