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Parks and Recreation Committee

March 16, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Rezoning of the Six "Lost" Parcels: 1100 & 1001 Meade Street; 1000 & 1048 Newton Street; 1049 Stuart Street; and 1101 Perry Street

We are writing on behalf of the INC Park and Recreation Committee (PARC) in support of the rezoning of the above six parcels from OS-A (Park Open Space) to residential zoning. The INC Park and Recreation Committee agreed to support the rezoning on March 15, 2016, after having previously heard a presentation by City officials regarding this issue at our meeting held on January 19, 2016.

The above six parcels are either close to or immediately adjacent to Lakewood / Dry Gulch Park, which in late 2015 was "designated" a Denver Park by City Council pursuant to Section 2.4.5 of Denver's City Charter.

While the above six parcels are owned by the City and close to the park, they have never been previously considered as being part of the park by either the Parks and Recreation Department or the community. Moreover, given the fact that four of these parcels are separated from the park by a paved street, and that the other two are imbedded in an existing subdivision, it would be illogical to now include them in the park.

Unfortunately, the 2015 City-wide rezoning effort inadvertently zoned these six parcels as part of the park (OS-A). Hence the need for this rezoning.

It appears that, had it not been for the City's park "designation" process, which involved a careful review of the boundaries of Lakewood / Dry Gulch Park, these six forgotten properties would have remained lost in obscurity for an indefinite time.

Following rezoning, presumably the City will sell these six lost parcels to the highest bidders, thereby bringing in significant revenue to the City's coffers. If so, the "designation" process should be thanked for this windfall!

Alas, similar to Lakewood / Dry Gulch Park, considerable portions of Weir Gulch Park and Sanderson Gulch Park remain "undesignated." While time consuming and difficult, it is hoped that the example of the discovery of these six lost parcels will spur the City to complete the designation of those two parks. Perhaps other "lost" parcels owned by the City will be discovered?

Finally, it should also be noted that the process of designating Lakewood / Dry Gulch Park identified a City-owned parcel located on Lakewood Gulch just to the west of Tennyson Street, which puts it immediately adjacent to the park. Unfortunately, this parcel is NOT currently managed as part of the park nor zoned OS-A, but City Council should nevertheless include it in the park in a future "designation" proceeding.

Yours truly,

Cindy Johnstone

Maggie Price
Co Chairs, INC PARC