

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation Request

From: parksandrec <parksandrec@denverinc.org>
To: "Hancock, Michael" <milehighmayor@denvergov.org>, "Sinden, Janice" <ianice.sinden@denvergov.org>
Cc: "Ambrose, Larry" <lida@earthnet.net>, "Fisher, Katie" <kfisher@iliff.edu>, Cindy Johnston <cindy.johnstone@comcast.net>

Priority: Normal

Date 07-14-2015 11:01 AM

Dear Mayor Hancock,

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation's (INC) mission is to advocate for Denver citizens by bringing together, informing and empowering Denver neighborhood organizations to actively engage in addressing City issues. In 2011 the INC Delegates formally adopted the INC Parks and Recreation Committee's Urban Parks Platform to guide INC's advocacy for parks and for park resolutions. We ask that as you search and interview candidates for the very important position of Executive Director of Parks and Recreation that you incorporate our Urban Park Platform in developing questions your interview questions.

The Urban Park Platform is based four broad assumptions:

- There is a need to preserve open green space to which all citizens have free and equal access
- There is a need to implement a community-based process for the development of park policy
- There is a need to increase significantly the amount of urban land devoted to parkland
- There is a need to have sustained and dedicated revenue sources to ensure a future for Denver's city parks, recognizing we all stand under trees we did not plant

To highlight our current and long term focus we recognize with the increased density and pressures of density on our parks and the health of our population there needs to be an increase of public park space open and free to all citizens. The increase of

adequate public park space needs to be located near the planned increased density with an emphasis of on the areas of the TOD. The increase park space may require the developer to work with the City in dedicating adequate public park space. Our park platform addresses this concern.

We also believe maintenance and protection of our current parks are critical to support the quality and historic character of our City Park System. The City Beautiful Movement in the early part of the 1900's strongly influenced our community leaders and elected officials which created the city's public parks and parkways. Budgeting and funding to maintain the system and protecting the historic character includes keeping the purpose of urban parks a priority. Adequate and well maintained sports fields compliment the ability to maintain the character of our parks.

A community-based process in developing park policy has come under scrutiny in recent years. Our parks and parkways are precious to the citizens of Denver and how well they are managed can be measured visibly. A unified citizen voice is created when there is a concern in policy or other action that impact our park system.. A legitimate community-based process to develop park policy is a critical step in moving us to work together for great city parks.

We believe it would be helpful to have citizen representation on the Executive Director of Parks and Recreation selection committee. We honor the mayor's responsibility in filling the department's Executive Director and we feel that by including someone from INC on the committee the transparency of government so desired by its citizens will be closer to a reality.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Katie Fisher

Maggie Price

Co-Chairs INC PARC