

NOTES FROM INC PARC meeting September 16, 2014

The INC PARC (Parks And Recreation Committee) met September 16, 2014 at the Heritage Club, 2020 S. Monroe St. Present were co-chairs Katie Fisher and Maggie Price, Louis Plachowski, Brad Cameron, Arlis Ruter, Ronnie Crawford, Nancy Francis, Hank Bootz, Andy Sense, and Diana Helper. No one from DPR was able to attend.

Katie reported that the two Resolutions, presented by PARC to the INC delegates on September 13, had passed. INC President Larry Ambrose will sign and send the Resolutions to Mayor Hancock and City Council membership. Katie will present them to PRAB (Parks and Recreation Advisory Board) members at its October meeting. She gave a brief description of PRAB for those unfamiliar with it.

The Resolutions' requests for changes in noise ordinance measurement, and the process for permitting events in parks, were explained. It was agreed that a well-appointed Festival Park for large events is greatly needed, as is a plan or policy for competent event management. It was pointed out that parks are not alike and that each needs individual consideration. Citizens need to be notified of proposed large events in the parks that there be a balance of extensive activity and quiet times. The City Charter stipulates that income from park events goes into the City's General Fund rather than to individual parks where events are held.

Brad stated that the DPR Designation project is under Councilwoman Susan Shepard and her committee. Phase 4 is underway. Brad spoke about parks at Stapleton (with a map), and at Lowry, that were planned years ago. Both communities have active park committees. Nancy had visited the Hentzell Park school site, and showed pictures taken there. Brad commented that construction of the Fox Street Building (part of the Hentzell Park land swap) is far from complete.

Louis spoke of the Lily Pond at City Park, which has been dry for some time. A plaque explains where the water is to come from (and return to). He learned that it is complicated to fix, after construction of the Museum annex disrupted the system. DPR is working on it.

The City Budget was mentioned. Andy asked if PARC is involved in urging that DPR receive more funding. There was discussion about that need, and PARC's involvement in prompting cost benefit analyses, pros and cons of private funding, parkway needs, etc.

Diana reported on the recent work clearing brush and deep vegetation from the edge of Prairie Park, to open up a secluded space where homeless folks were camping. One DPR staff, three DU staff, and a dozen hardy neighbors worked diligently to make a good start. DPR staff will start working on the rest of this project this week. PARC offered ideas to raise a needed \$3,000 to pay the balance on the Prairie Park historic/informative sign. Diana welcomes all ideas (and \$).

Ronnie said the S. Platte project from Florida to Evans will start soon, and gave a brief overview of this long term Greenway project. It includes two pedestrian bridges from S. Santa Fe, to reach the Ruby Hill Park area. The Equinox Sept. 22 will be celebrated at Grant Frontier Park.

Arlis reported Warrens-University residents are concerned about the two large buildings planned for the Colorado Center site, and seeming lack of open space for the added residential population. W-U has no parks, and faces even more density building south of E. Evans. Maggie and Katie spoke to the need for requiring more truly usable open space in large developments.

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m. On the agenda for the next meeting, 6 p.m. October 21, is Scott Gilmore regarding park trees. Katie requested a report from a “Loop” playground meeting, now planned for Paco Sanchez Park. -- *Diana Helper, PARC member*