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Subject: Re: INC PARC and its letter regarding Zoo gasification

Date: Mon, Dec 8, 2014 4:26 pm

To Whom It May Concern including Councilwomen Mary Beth Susman and Jeanne Robb:

The INC Parks and Recreation Committee (INC PARC) through its Co-chairs, does, from time to time, take the initiative to send letters of support or opposition to City officials consistent with positions which INC has officially approved by vote of its RNO delegates at its monthly organization meetings. This is done consistently, to let the appropriate decision makers and those officials directly effected know of the position or opinion INC advocates. Absent prior approved positions, INC committees submit such recommendations for support or opposition to the delegation.

In the instance of the Zoo Gasification Plant, a short presentation was made by a Park and Recreation Department representative at the INC PARC meeting on August 20, 2013. The focus of the presentation was on the merits of gasification process. Questions were raised by the committee the answers to which did not, at the time, raise the concerns of the Committee.

Two months later, Committee Co-chair Katie Fisher reported that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board had a favorable opinion of the project and asked, based upon the information presented in August, if the Committee wished to support it. A vote was taken to support the "gasification process". In order to send a letter of support to City officials, a vote to such effect, it would have been necessary obtain approval from the delegation. After further consideration, no motion of support or resolution was brought forward to the INC Delegation because the Committee Co-chairs believed it lacked information to ask for such approval. No letter of support was sent to City officials from the Committee or from INC.

Any perceived approval of this project was gleaned from the minutes of INC PARC meetings and that preliminary approval was only in respect to the concept of waste gasification, and in no way should have been used by City Council to imply that main body of INC either knew about the design, scale or orientation or approval of the gasification plant itself. The issue of the plant being an eyesore and a detriment to City Park is what is in contention here and INC PARC's sincere, hard and civic work in the interests of its RNO members and the City of Denver, should not be used to divert attention from this apparent fact.

For future reference INC committee meeting notes and monthly Delegate Meeting minutes are published monthly in its newsletter and stored in electronic format on the INC website, www.denverinc.org. They can be found under the tab News and are called Newsletter. The newsletters are indexed by Year and month and go back to 2006.

Katie Fisher and Maggie Price
INC PARC Co-Chairs

From the INC PARC Minutes

August 20, 2013

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.

October 15, 2013

Katie reported PRAB (Parks and Recreation Advisory Board) items including consideration of the Denver Zoo Gasification Process, which was presented to PARC in August. This is a positive move and Katie asked if PARC wished to support it with a formal vote. Maggie moved that INC PARC gives favorable support to the Gasification Process at the Denver Zoo, seconded by Ray, passed unanimously. This action will go to INC general meeting Nov. 9.

-----Original Message-----

From: Robb, Jeanne - City Council Dist. #10 <Jeanne.Robb@denvergov.org>

To: [REDACTED]

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kniechatlarge <kniechatlarge@denvergov.org>; Deborah Ortega - Councilwoman At Large <OrtegaAtLarge@Denvergov.org>; Shepherd, Susan K. - City Council District 1 <Susan.Shepherd@denvergov.org>; Larry Ambrose <lda@earthnet.net>; Katie Fisher <kfisher@iliff.edu>; [REDACTED]

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Dannemiller, Lauri J. - PR Administration Division <Lauri.Dannemiller@denvergov.org>; [REDACTED]

Sent: Fri, Dec 5, 2014 8:12 pm

Subject: Re: INC PARC and its letter regarding Zoo gasification

Hi, All,

Your comments are valid, and the zoo should do a better job of addressing its face to the park. Your arguments about appearance and construction under the 2007 bond are appropriate. Councilwoman Susman was not in office in 2007 and City Park was not a part of the district I represent (that's not an exoneration of my responsibility for public outreach but until this week I was unaware that the appropriate outreach for the Elephant Passage was inadequate. But then again, had I represented the district, I could better evaluate the outreach effort. At the time Cwn Carla Madison, Cwn Marcia Johnson and at-large rep Carol Boigon lived in neighborhoods close by.

We are now talking about something withi, not outside, an existing structure. It's frustrating. We need to figure out how to make the southern view of the zoo much more pleasing from the south. I am 100% behind that point! I don't think Councilman Brooks and Councilman Susman disagree There are many opportunities with the fence/wall.

But testimony at committee did indicate that INC really didn't have adequate consideration at their Parc committee meeting,, their minutes don't seem to indicate that. Further the minutes indicate that the issue would go to the full assembly in November, but nothing indicates whether it did or didn't and there are no available minutes of general meetings that I could find on the INC website. Council has to rely on public input and public postings, just as neighborhoods have to rely on the city website.

Can we all do a better job? Obviously, we can always do better. I pledge to work with you all and the zoo for an improved southern exposure.

As to the historic designation, I know there may be some concerns about the period of significance that would be determined. Park uses and structures change. I do support design review for parks, which I tried to provide thru my 2010 ordinance about park buildings.

Jeanne

Sent from my iPad