

INC PARC Notes March 15 2016

March 17,
2016

INC PARC (Parks and Recreation) committee met March 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m., at Brookdale, 2020 S. Monroe St., Denver. Present were: co-chairs Maggie Price and Cindy Johnstone, Nancy Francis, Sonia John, Ronnie Crawford, Kathleen Wells, James T. Sample, Brad Cameron, Steve and Katie Fisher, J.J. Nieimann, Derek J. Cocovinis, Jim Considine, Marlene Johnson, and Diana Helper (PLEASE NOTE new email chapinhelper@gmail.com).

Katie reported that PRAB (Parks and Recreation Advisory Board) held over its vote on Park Hill to Platte (flood control) to its next meeting, agreeing with many presenters and INC ZAP statement that further study is needed. DPR Manager Happy Haines stated that the project is not slowing down. PARC's focus is on the City Park Golf Course site and will contact golfers and First Tee (student) participants for added information.

Brad received a request from DPR's Scott Gilmore that PARC support the city planning office's wish to rezone open areas adjacent to Lakewood / Dry Gulch Park. After discussion, Cindy and Maggie stated they will send a letter of support as co-chairs of PARC. Brad reports the Park Designation Committee is continuing, with 7 more parks to be designated studied in April. S.

Platte River Dr. will be vacated, so Overland Pond and Aqua Golf Parks cannot be designated at this time, but presumably will be in the near future. Three other undesignated sites along the S. Platte may be looked at. He said 10 20% of Denver's parks are deemed not eligible for designation by Parks & Rec, which needs to be scrutinized, and that portions of the Platte River and Cherry Creek rivers in parks are not deemed "parks" but "public works" thus Grant Frontier Park will not be fully designated until additional survey work has been done. PARC believes rivers should be included in parks. DPR's Policy on Park Designation will be reviewed by PARC before finalization. Brad said there is a new Parks Map.

Derek, of Winston Downs neighborhood, brought his concern regarding the poor condition of parks and parkways in this area (Monaco-Quebec/Alameda-Leetsdale). PARC joins in the importance of Parkway care, and in clearing up present confusion of responsibility for such sites, will bring attention to this case.

Kathleen stated the need for a broad view of parks and rec, and a PARC position to bring a balance between the two entities, including urban open space and mountain parks. The city must recognize and plan for increasing need for quiet spaces, new sports fields, as well as proper care of trees, safe water, realistic definitions for "regional" and "neighborhood" parks, strategies for adding park space, and a solid funding source for DPR. The redoing of the Game Plan needs these considerations, to which PARC will contribute. Also PARC agreed the primary change to be achieved is returning park land use decisions to City Council, per the Denver City Charter's dictate.

Nancy reported that Friends of Red Rocks wants a moratorium on park changes there, until landmark designation evaluation is completed. PARC supports this request, and Nancy will so advise at the next RR meeting.

Ronnie reported water from the S. Platte has been added to Pond Park. Mar. 19 at 3 p.m. is the Equinox party at Pasquinal's Landing.

Next PARC meeting is April 19. — *Diana Helper, PARC member.*

