

INC PARC NOTES OCTOBER 17 2016 MEETING

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INC PARC met October 17 at 2020 S. Monroe Street (Brookdale). Present were co-chairs Maggie Price and Cindy Johnstone, Katie Fisher, Marlene Johnson, James T. Sample, Ronnie Crawford, Sonia John, Derek Cocovinis, Diana Helper, Kathleen and Jay Rust. Guest speakers were Thomas Herrod and David Erickson of the Denver Dept. of Environmental Quality, Environmental Health (DEQ).

Their slide presentation covered Effects of climate change – planning now and for the future of extreme heat predictions. It dealt with mitigation and adaption, the special concern of Denver’s “urban heat island effect”. Contributing to the urban heat island effect for Denver is being surrounded by higher land and tall buildings, more extreme weather, less snowpack and early melting, and high CO2 emissions affecting climate change. Reducing Denver’s CO2 level is something that can be address and Mayor Hancock asked Environmental Health to developed a plan to reach 80% reduction of CO2 by 2050 in Denver.

Another factor to help mitigate urban heat is a citywide green infrastructure with a wisely planned tree canopy. Denver’s tree canopy currently shades 19.7% of the city. An improved irrigation infrastructure also is needed. Climate change is a moral issue, a health issue, a quality of life and city survival issue. Healthy citizens with cooler, cleaner air, plentiful open green space, clear water, calming environment, have better lives and less crime.

Members who serve on city committees feel that climate change is not given the importance it is due especially in zoning and development approval. PARC supports the work of DEH and urges the city to put its climate change-related plans to the forefront.

[Slide Presentation Is Here](#)

Please see the following article that is related to topic:

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/weather/2014/08/21/urban-heat-islands-study/14389371/>

General Reports: Katie said PRAB still does not provide advance agendas or info to the public. The Public Event Policy will soon be voted on. Including public engagement is a critical component in this and all park policies. A conversation with City Council members regarding approval of building structures in Parks and the City Charter continues. Kathleen said the Neighborhood Planning Initiative, to develop Small Area Plans for more RNOs, is in early stages.

Jay stressed the need for DPR to continue the designation process. Phase 7 is underway. More parkland at Red Rocks may be added eventually. Diana said the three driveways constructed in historic Buchtel ROW were required by ADA. UP requests info on how they will be of use. Ronnie reported on S. Platte improved water flow and efforts to maintain healthy under-water conditions.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55. Next meeting: Nov. 15, 6:00 p.m. – Diana Helper



Dave Erickson and Tom Herrod from Denver Dept. of Environmental Quality, Environmental Health (DEQ)

Thanks Diana Helper and Ronnie Crawford for taking notes and pictures

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