

parcSep13

INC PARC Meeting Report, September 17, 2013

The INC PARC (Parks and Recreation Committee) met September 17 at 2020 S. Monroe St.. Present were co-chairs Maggie Price and Katie Fisher, Steve Fisher, Diana Helper, Tom Morris, Marlene Johnson, Nancy Francis, Hank Bootz, Dave Felice, Michele Fuerst, Ronnie Crawford and Cindy Johnstone, and Angela Casias from DPR (Denver Parks and Recreation) Dept.

Angela reported that PRAB (Parks and Recreation Advisory Board) passed the revised POFA (Private Outdoor Fee-based Activity) proposal with friendly amendments, and it will be on the city website. It will go to Council committee Oct. 22. There will be an event at City Park Sept. 21 near the proposed new play area, including presentation by the architect of the final design, and a free movie following that. PARC asked about parking for this event, suggested signage and directors. There will be a public meeting in November about parking issues at City Park. Angela stated there is not as yet funding for the playground project, which is about five years off. Urban Forest canopy assessment presentations are on line, as will be information on the S. Platte projects to be done over the next three years.

Discussion about the Trust for Public Land survey regarding what communities value: Angela said the city and DPR will look at the results. PARC said citizens need to know whom to contact at DPR regarding park projects, and how to know when events are to be held in neighborhood parks. In busy parks it would be good to have regular non-event days when citizens can plan to go to a peaceful park. Many people feel the parks are over-scheduled. Angela said she will put together a list of DPR staff one can contact about specific parks, and an improved event calendar will be on line in Jan.

Discussion about fees for park businesses and events, and amount that goes to "charity" for those events: Allowing permit-holders to use any part of a park, not a specific area, is a mistake. Each park is different and one-size rules are not adequate. A true Festival Park is still needed to make Denver a world-class city- perhaps in developing North area? Regret that City Council no longer has a voice in park plans. INC PARC needs to be a more public advocate for parks, their value and benefits to citizens, to the city's image, show statistics regarding park space per population, future needs, how people can help, why this is important to the health and well-being of city and citizens.

Next PARC meeting, October 15.

--Diana Helper, PARC member