



Parks and Recreation Committee

RE: Disregard for Denver Citizens

“Prior to formalizing an agreement by submitting an ordinance request to city council for approval,(to swap land) the process was halted to allow DPR to lead community engagement efforts.” May 9, 2018 letter to Fairfax Neighborhood Park Update sent by DPR”

Dear City Council,

INC Parks and Rec continues to advocate for public involvement in an open and transparent process especially when changes to park policy and to park land use is being decided. Once again we are asking you to insist on a fair, open and transparent process which includes the decision making process.

We are aware the Executive Director of Parks makes final park decisions yet, is it really based on what the community needs and wishes and what nurtures a vision and a responsible stewardship of Denver parks? Or, is it based on who has money and influence from those who have much to gain, a general disregard for the citizens needs over development desires or Mayor Hancock’s wishes?

The most recent example, there are many, is the planned Fairfax land swap between a developer and the City. We believe the land to be exchanged must have been planned as a park as it is the Executive Director of Parks who reportedly said to her advisory committee, PRAB, in May the swap is a “done deal”.

Ms. Haynes, the Mayor and Councilman Herndon were major leaders in creating conflict within the neighborhood. They created the conflict by holding meetings purportedly to gather community input yet decisions had already been made between the City and the developer. Holding these meetings was condescending and demeaning to participants when the City (Mayor), his appointees and the Councilman weren’t listening and had made up their mind on the outcome.

Your fellow Councilman has probably asked for your support on the land swap by voting for the rezoning. This is called a courtesy voting and is sometimes understandable since it is difficult in your busy schedule to know the minute ins and outs of another district. But on this zoning request most of you can’t say you don’t know anything about the park land swap because it has been in the papers and people have come to you to share their thoughts. We are aware that in Feb 2018 HM Capital Group (the builder of Park Hill Commons) contracted with CRL. We assume that CRL has done what it does best, lobby city government.

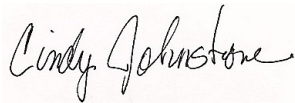
FACTS:

- There will have to be a zoning change in order to get an open space zoning on the side of the street being developed on Fairfax.

- Happy Haynes has implied that Council has already made that decision on the zoning since it is a reportedly a “done deal”. (We hope this is not true as your vote is to be independent)
- Ms. Haynes knew in November 2017 there was a plan for a land swap..
- Prior to formalizing an agreement by submitting an ordinance request to city council for approval,(to swap land) the process was halted to allow DPR to lead community engagement efforts. from a letter by DPR

If you don't know enough of the details to the Fairfax park land swap then please email or call us. We would be more than pleased to come to your office or talk with you about citizens who have been ignored and promises never intended to be kept and an open and transparent process that didn't occur.

Sincerely,



Cindy Johnstone

Maggie Price



Co Chairs, INC PARC

cc: Mayor Michael B. Hancock, Rafael Espinosa, Kevin Flynn, Paul D. Lo'pez, Kendra Black, Mary Beth Susman, Paul Kashmann, Jolon Clark, Christopher Herndon, Albus Brooks, Wayne New, Stacie Gilmore, Robin Kniech, Deborah “Debbie” Ortega, Allegra “Happy” Haynes, George Mayl, Tracey MacDermott, Blair Taylor

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