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Neighborhoods work better when they work together.

Parks and Recreation Committee

October 23, 2018

To: Executive Director Allegra Haynes

Denverright Game Plan Co-Chairs: Florence Navarro, Darrell Watson

Re: Denverright Plan -Game Plan Draft

Dear Ms. Haynes, Ms. Navarro, and Mr Watson,

The INC Parks and Recreation Committee met October 16 to review and comment on the Game Plan Draft.

The committee's general thoughts were the Game Plan was an inclusive and comprehensive plan to move Denver's Parks and Recreation forward for the next 20 years.

Thank you for all the time, work and effort you and your staff and the many community members put in to the Game Plan Draft.

We looked at the delegate approved INC Parks and Recreation Urban Platform and its alignment with the Game Plan draft. The committee identified some issues and had some comments that we felt needed more emphasis or inclusion in the draft before it becomes final.

Feedback

- Define and include the riverbanks and riverbeds, gulches and waterways as Denver park land and develop a timeline to designate them as such

- Identify parkways, boulevards and develop a timeline to designate them as such
- Develop a transparent and publicly available Parks and Rec. budget which breaks down the budget to show annual costs of pocket parks, neighborhood parks etc. and includes monies raised by pocket parks, neighborhood parks etc. through permitted events including all permits ie. picnics, use by private businesses, concessions and any other monies associated with the parks
- Create a consistent transparent and inclusionary engagement policy which involves the public when exploring new projects, policies or changes to the current status quo.
- Create and regularly update a calendar that includes all park permits including picnic sites. (it is not sufficient to depend on special events to produce such a calendar.)
- Reach out and encourage neighborhoods to form neighborhood/park partnerships no matter how small or large. Allow neighborhood partnerships equal opportunity to participate
- Define nature to include living creatures. Development of habitat that supports, encourages and protects living creatures is critical to a healthy park and green open space. Evaluate and develop a plan to increase living creatures in parks and green open spaces. (other than geese 😊)
- Change the 3 year plan to a 5 year plan with details of which parks, rec centers, green spaces etc will be the priority.

Appendices

Include in the Plan Appendices a list of

- Parks, parkways and boulevards that are designated
- Park land identified but not designated

In the Glossary define

- Parks
- Greenbelts
- Open Space

Discussion Points

Our platform defines Denver Parks as open green spaces, with free access where people can experience nature. We discussed the definitions of parks vs open space and then looked to Blueprint Denver's definition. It is an example of when there is discussion of parks or open space there is a disconnect of what it means: example-hardscape vs. green space.

We are supportive of equity as it relates to access of parks and recreation center and support prioritization when implementing the plan. Yet, when there is an opportunity to purchase and protect open green space, such as in the northeast area where there is need for access to parks (Denver holds a conservation overlay on a portion of the green space) we feel the opportunity should not be squandered. Every piece of green space to help keep our communities and city healthy is precious. We would have like to see something in the plan that addresses these opportunities throughout our city.

We were pleased to see the inclusion of passive as well as active spaces in parks although we have a concern that the percentage of passive to active areas is inclined towards active spaces especially in our regional parks.

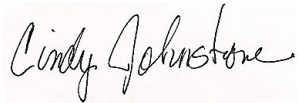
Success in transparency and involving the communities early is something INC Parks and Rec committee will continue to evaluate. In Engagement, Outreach and Communication recommendations and strategies we would like to see more emphasis on early engagement, flexibility to revisit decisions/policies by the department, and a collaboration with the public on setting evaluation and collecting data.

We would like to see Denver Parks and Rec and Blueprint Denver make decisions with the idea of a city within a park which our early leaders also envisioned. To often we hear from DPR that they are unable to influence zoning details to include green spaces and that it is up to CPD to influence the change. Conversely CPD says, "we can't demand any green spaces in our zoning as we won't be responsible for them after the

development is finished.” Something in all the plans needs to be stated that will take care of this dilemma.

We sincerely thank everyone who has participated in developing the Game Plan and look forward to working with DPR in the future.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy Johnstone". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cindy Johnstone

Maggie Price

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maggie Price". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Co Chairs, INC PARC

cc: Mayor Michael B. Hancock, Jill Jennings Golich, Caryn Champine, Denver City Council, Denver PRAB President, Blue Print Denver, George Mayl, Loretta Koehler, Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation Executive Board