

Diana, I N C's voice and our poet  
Do we love you? Oh yes, please know it!

Your spoofs of the City these many odd years,  
Brought clever lampoons to make us laugh at our fears.

Deep in our hearts, you'll live forever  
You are indeed, an I N C treasure!

Jane Lorimer's tribute to Diana

### Poems or Anthems written by Diana Helper

**(March 2005)**

If you waken to find the brilliant idea you wrote down during the night is "Moat Ordinance!"  
If you eye every vacant lot and House For Sale with a suspicious shiver,  
If you perk up your ears and follow the roar of the bulldozer,  
If you never saw a McMansion you didn't question the size of,  
If you slow down for Variance Request signs,  
If you make jokes like "The new Jumbo Jet is a Bulk Plane,"  
If your vocabulary is liberally sprinkled with NIS, PUD, GDP, CPD, TOD, QW2, INC, and ZAP,  
If you can't get through the day without using the "Z" word...  
Then you must (or should) be on the INC Zoning and Planning (ZAP) Committee.

**(October 2005)**

Once in a while, you know, these rhyming spells come upon me.... here's something for you to hum along  
whilst I am off in NYC. ---Diana

(tune Polly Wolly Doodle)

Oh, the Trail to the Train, make it safe, make it sane,  
It's the goal to which we're striving--  
Let us walk, let us bike to the places we like,  
Or we'll probably end up -- driving.

Chorus: Fare thee well, fare thee well, the pedestrians will say,  
Walking is a great idea, but we think you will agree a  
Sidewalk really needs to take you all the way.

Go for a walk, and you suddenly balk  
When it turns muddy, dirty, rough and gritty,  
It's not safe, it's not sane, so you go home again  
And you drive your car to the city.

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(tune- kids' folksong "The Goat Came Tripping")

As the train came humming to the station coming,  
I just thought I'd walk there---  
I started up the street, and I thought it would be neat, but our paths would never meet!

With the traffic mounting, As the train came humming to the station coming  
I just thought I'd walk there--  
I started up the street, and I thought it would be neat, but our paths would never meet!

And the crosswalk's daunting, with the traffic mounting, as the train came humming  
to the station coming...(etc)

And the sidewalk crumbled and I took a tumble, and the crosswalk's daunting, with the  
traffic mounting, as the train came humming to the station coming...(etc.)

And the air was fumeey, and the noise got to me, and the sidewalk crumbled and  
I took a tumble, and the crosswalk's daunting, with the traffic mounting, as the train  
came humming to the station coming....(etc.)

So I turned around and I just drove downtown  
because the air was fumeey, and the noise got to me,  
and the sidewalk crumbled and I took a tumble,  
and the crosswalk's daunting and the traffic mounting,  
as the train came humming to the station coming,  
and I thought I'd walk there--  
I started up the street, and I thought it would be neat, but our paths would never meet,  
no, our paths would nev-er meet!

### **January 2006**

ODE TO A PRETTY CITY - to the tune of "She'll Be Comin' Round the Mountain"

We'll be comin' round the city, when we come!  
And we want it to look pretty, when we come!  
If it doesn't, it's a pity-- we'll address the nitty-gritty,  
And our thoughts will be quite witty, when we come!

We'll be boning up on zoning when we come!  
Not just groaning and a-moaning when we come--  
On the subject we are honing, to be sharp while we're intoning  
And not end up simply droning, when we come!

We will chat on safety matters, when we come!  
And it won't be idle chatter when we come!  
Though our comments sometimes flatter, we CAN be mad as a hatter  
On all health and safety matters, bang the drum!  
Parks, Pedestrians, and Liquor Licensing,  
Growth and Traffic, Maps and Graphics, are our thing!  
Regulations, mitigations, and improved communications,  
Are included in this anthem that we sing.

Ev'ry neighborhood concern is sure to come,  
And the I.N.C. folks never say, "Ho-Hum!"  
Sometimes glum, but not so dumb, we  
Tackle issues grim and gummy --  
So the City will be pretty when we come!

### **January 2008**

**HICKENLOOPER HAS A TOWN** (tune: Old MacDonald...)

Hickenlooper has a town, D E N V E R  
And that town has a zoning code  
Much too long, by far!  
With a subsection here, a cross-reference there,  
Here confusion, there omissions,  
Now committees meet in sessions,  
On and on and on and on,  
EEE! AY! EEE! AY! OOOOOH!

In that town there is a park, Ruby Hill by name,  
And in that park there was a view  
'til Bigger Power-poles came.  
Adversarians Here, Utilitarians There,  
Here contrary, very wary,  
Everywhere a "Bury! Bury!"  
With a subsection here, a cross-reference there,  
Here confusion, there omissions, now committees meet in sessions,

This town has another park, the Civic Center tract,  
A master plan had been proclaimed, --  
Then others joined the act!  
With a Libeskind here, a Museum there,  
Here historians, there uproar-ians,  
Modernists and mid-Victorians!  
Adversarians here, Utilitarians there,  
Here contrary, very wary, everywhere a Bury! Bury!  
Subsection here, cross-reference there,  
Here confusion, there omissions, now committees meet in sessions,

This town has development, T.O.Ds and More!  
Propensity for density, building plans galore!  
With a demolition here, a building-crane there,  
Here a duplex, there a high-rise, everything is heading sky-wise!  
A Libeskind here, a Museum there,  
Here historians, there uproar-ians, Modernists and mid-Victorians,  
Adversarians here, Utilitarians there,  
Here contrary, very wary, everywhere a Bury! Bury!  
Subsection here, cross-reference there,  
Here confusion, there omissions, now committees meet in sessions,

Hickenlooper, Lucky He, has... the I.N.C. !  
It sings its chorus lustily: Please pay heed to me!  
With a Great Idea here, a Fine Suggestion there,  
Here a letter, there To-Do List,  
Everywhere a Neighborhood Activist!  
Toward a great community, with the I.N.C.!!!!

**June 2008**

WAITIN' FOR U.P.'S S.A.P.\*

*(tune: "Waitin' for the Robert E. Lee"  
by Gilbert & Muir, 1912)*

*(June 2000-June 2008)*

Watch it shufflin' along;  
Old Plan, what the heck's wrong?  
It's been 8 long years,  
    shifting gears,  
It seems like forever—  
    Our Plan just gets heavier!

Back in 2-0-0-0,  
Framework Plan, set to go,  
We wait, it's late,  
Hearts are growing weary,  
Waitin' for U.P.'s S.A.P.

*(July 2008)*

Now it's movin' along!  
(Time to update our song)  
It's been to Planning Board,  
    thank you Lord,  
They thought it was nifty—  
    Although rather hefty,

On to Blueprint it goes,  
Is the end getting close?  
Eight years— Three Cheers –  
We are gettin' ready,  
We'll party for U.P.'s S.A.P. !!!

*-Diana Helper -July 26, 2008*

*\*University Park's Small Area Plan.  
Even in early June there was a  
hitch, but as of July 16 the  
Planning Board approved it,  
so it is off to Blueprint Denver  
Committee, and we hope thence  
to City Council in August for a  
Yes Vote to confirm it.*

**January 2009**

INC HAS COME TO DINE (to the tune of Yankee Doodle)

INC has come to dine, along with Cap'n Karen,  
We're here to tell how very well the I.N.C. is farin'.  
Through bond-issues, voting, and our cry, "Notification!"  
We study hard and stay on guard, and never take vacation.

A zillion people came to town for Democratic drama,  
The town was hot, they cheered a lot, and voted for Obama.  
Neighborhoods were Oh-so-Good, and vis'tors were impressed, Sure!  
City spirit was in style and Denver passed the test, sir!

Experts came to town to help redo the City Zoning,  
But we regret it ain't done yet, and so we still are groaning.  
Never say the "D"-word ("Down"), do not hint or bray it!  
Right or wrong, to get along, "Right Zoning's" how to say it.

Civic Center plans go on, but we were not found napping,  
That building's gone! It should show *Lawn*, upon the current mapping!  
There's a very simple way to save this from disaster—  
Let it keep just cows or sheep, and use it for a pasture!

Neighbors deal with vacancies and many a foreclosure  
Small homes razed, big buildings raised—watch out, here comes a 'dozer!  
Parking, traffic, licensing, parks and recreation,  
INC will try to ease each troubling situation.

So, that's the scene, let's keep it green, by action—not just talking,  
For all of us, try train or bus, or car-pools, bikes, or walking!  
I.N.C. will keep it up, Delegates are dandy!  
They don't let the Mayor forget that we are close at hand-y!!

**May 2009**

ALittleZonigmusik (*Frau Helper, Mayday 2009*)

DEM BONES (*modulating upward each verse*)  
Them Zones, them zones, them High zones, them Low zones, Wet and Dry zones,  
Them Cone zones, Your and My zones, Hear the word of the Code!  
They corrected them zones, them House zones, them Elephant and them Mouse zones,  
Them Gladsome and them Grouse zones, Hear the word of the Code!  
They corrected them Church and School zones, they corrected them Park and Pool zones,  
They corrected them Steak and Gruel zones, Hear the word of the Code!  
They corrected them Bizness and Trail zones, they corrected them Bright and Pale zones,

And all of those Light rail zones, Here the word of the Code!  
Them zones, them zones gonna stay around, till prob'ly we are In the ground,  
So listen hard to how they sound – and Hear the word of the Code!

#### TAKE IT EASY

Make it easy, make it easy,  
Don't you see it's so much simpler with a streamlined one!  
It's so breezy, no more wheezy,  
Since we've added lots More districts for your zoning fun!  
It's amusing, not confusing,  
To see what is where and which is how for you and me!  
Don't start boozing, while you're choosing,  
It's so simple- show that dimple! Thank you, C P D!

#### OH DEAR! WHAT CAN THE MATTER BE?

Oh, Dear, what can the matter be? Form Based Zoning is Greek to me,  
What is Context supposed to be? What is the Base of this Form?  
(reply) The City has buildings in all sorts of sizes  
From one-story houses to lofty high-rises,  
We're trying to spare you some nasty surprises,  
By zoning to context and form!  
Still it's Oh Dear, it's not a snap, you see! I'll wait till there's a map to see!  
Now it's time for a nap for me—*that's* something I can perform!

#### SWANEE RIVER

Way down along our backyard alley, by the trash Bin,  
That's where we'll make a home, by golly, to put old granny In.  
She'll have lots to keep her busy, Dumpsters, bums and trucks,  
(She's getting rather deaf and dizzy, she may not know it sucks.)

#### OH WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNING

There's a bright golden haze on the meadow, from the klieg lights we see up ahead, Oh-  
The park space was sold to a guy who's so bold—  
in Neon: "Use Scum-Nix to Mop Up Your Mold!"  
Oh, what a terrible vision! Ads in the parks will not do!  
They will just lead to derision, and people threat'ning to sue!

#### THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM (a portion)

To dream the impossible dream, to write the impossible code,  
To please the impossible public, to turn them all into a toad!  
This is our quest, you may think we jest –  
To follow the road, till we all explode.... The impossible dream!

A meeting was held on the draft, a  
Meeting where nobody laughed, a  
Few folks were bored  
But nobody snored,

Perhaps reminiscent of Kafka.

## **December 2009**

-- *(tune: White Christmas)*

We're dreaming of our free parklands, just like the ones we've always known,  
Where folks get together-- with dogs on tether or spend some peaceful time alone.  
We're dreaming of a great City, with each park-letter that we write,  
May our parks be our great legacy-- and may all our parks be truly free!

## **January 2010**

ZONING CODE! ALA MODE!

*(Tune: Jingle Bells)*

Zoning Code! Here's our Ode! In the works so long!  
Folks are pining for streamlining, something sleek and strong!  
But my dears, these recent years, keep adding things on top,  
We need This, we must add That, the toppings never stop!

Some years or more ago, the process was begun,  
It couldn't be so hard, in fact it might be fun!  
Task Force made a dent, consultants came and went,  
Let's start again-- and finally, then, we'll publicly present!

Zoning Code! What a load! Draft 1, what a roar!  
Public took a look and said, this needs Less and More!  
Where's the maps? We're not saps, they will tell us true!  
Get back to the drawing board and bring us out Draft 2!

They added maps to see, but folks still said, Dear Me!  
Add these and those, -- the layers rose, as toppings on Draft 3!  
The code was piled up high, and with a mighty sigh,  
At last draft 4 was set before the hungry public eye!

Zoning Code! Ala Mode! Everyone wants some!  
Many flavors drizzling down, with sprinkles, yum, yum, yum!  
Blobs of cream, it's supreme, cherries come alive!  
Fun is fun, let's get it done -- Nuts to number 5?!!

## **September 2010**

MAKE IT ZAPPY

*(in the Gilbert/Sullivan patter-song pattern)*

When you're meeting at ZAP  
You cannot take a nap  
Or you'll miss out on something quite awful,  
Like development schemes  
That elicit loud screams  
And a lot of stuff that seems unlawful.

There's the gamblers afraid  
Of the Others who've said  
They will fill neighborhoods up with Keno,  
Each mart and café  
With machines, till one day  
Each neighborhood's something like Reno.

Then there's warehouses fillin'  
With pot by the million--  
A business as hot as a sauna,  
Where growers conspire  
To be the supplier  
Of all of the World's Marijuana.

And you may be euphoric  
On sidewalks historic  
With flagstone that needs to be saved,  
But the City you see,  
can't seem to agree,  
And says tear it out, get it paved!

There's problems galore,  
Schools, Parks, Liquor, and more,  
You can see that these meetings ain't happy,  
But we try to address  
Every muddle and mess,  
Which is what makes us Zappers so Zappy.

## **June 2014**

The Meeting-goer's Lament  
(tune: The Cowboy's Lament – Streets of Laredo)

Oh, Summertime's here, and the livin' is lazy,  
If we skipped some meetings, would you think we're crazy?  
We know they go on and on, all through the summer—  
If we didn't go, would we be that much dumber?

If we were all rich, and decided to travel  
Would anyone bitch? Would the city unravel?  
Zoning would zone, and the parking would park,  
Whether or not we went off on a lark!



Nothing would come with a screech to a stop-  
This neighborhood runs like a jolly old top  
'cause everyone joins in community labor  
And everyone here tries to be a good neighbor!

So why not goof off, and let others do meetings,  
Fight fights and sweat tears, maybe take a few beatings?  
Spend warm summer evenings on worklike addenda,  
Becoming a regular Pris'ner-of-Agenda!

But sometimes these meetings result in a change  
That truly is good for our home on the range,  
And then you feel good and so glad that you went  
And maybe improved on some plan or event...

It seems it's worth while – it's not such a bummer –  
What could we otherwise do with our summer?

January 28, 2016

*(tune: "Auld Lang Syne")*

Should I. N. C. e'er be forgot,  
That would be a Dreadful Thing !  
It's city-smart ! It plays its part !  
And tonight, its praise we sing !

With zoning, traffic, every fuss!  
We care! We share! We Dare!  
This year, the Monkey shines on us—  
We'll be Glad to help the Mayor!

So, don't forget, when dangers threat  
Your fine Community –  
We're strong! we're bold ! it's long been told –  
Forty years of I. N. C.!!!!

*-Diana Helper*

[As sung by the  
exclamation pointer sisters and brothers]

