

## City Park Neighborhood Advisory Committee

August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015

6:00-7:30pm

Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Harry T. Lewis Room

### Attendees:

- *City Council District 9 Office – Val Hearne*
- *City Park Alliance – Carolyn Lieuvers (for Greg Davis)*
- *City Park Friends and Neighbors – Hank Bootz*
- *Greater Park Hill – Rebecca Born*
- *Uptown on the Hill - Alison Torvik*
- *PRAB – Andy Sense*
- *Denver Zoo: Megan Deffner*
- *DMNS – Peggy Day*
- *South City Park – Michelle Reichmuth*

### Presenters/Speakers:

- *Chris Krook, DPW Transportation & Mobility*
- *Michael Koslow, DPW Transportation & Mobility*
- *Patrick Picard, Fehr & Peers*
- *David Center, AECOM*
- *David Benjes, Rock 'n' Roll Marathon -Denver*

### Minutes

1. Rock and Roll Marathon – David Benjes
  - Event date: October 16, 2016.
  - There will only be a half-marathon (and shorter runs) this year , though if the City asked the full marathon could come back. The route will be the same as last year's event, except for new section that passes by the Transamerica offices (a major new sponsor).
  - The organization got a "gold star" from the City of Denver for its execution of the event last year, including its management of the impact on City Park.
  - The event is coordinated with RTD – its course is designed with RTD stops/access in mind – and promotes B-cycle.
  - The WAZE app will incorporate the route into Google Maps on event day, routing drivers around the run.
  - The event features local bands, including Roger Klein and the Pacemakers.

- **CPNAC can help by publicizing the event via social media, including NextDoor.**

## 2. Construction at 17<sup>th</sup> and Garfield – Public Works

- A new traffic light is coming to 17<sup>th</sup> street at the Garfield intersection, to facilitate bike and pedestrian access to and from City Park, improve public safety, and calm traffic on 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Additional features: bike signals/detection; crosswalks; curb extension; trail connection from the crosswalk to the City Park trails; a raised median (which will improve safety for pedestrians and bikers and restrict left turns for cars)
- Implementation is scheduled to begin in April 2017, with an expected completion in 4 weeks.
- This project is a component of a broader effort, Denver Moves, that was initiated in 2011. A major goal of the broader effort is to connect City Park to the Cherry Creek trail. Research showed that intersection improvements are the best strategy, as these can divert car traffic onto other streets without making Garfield exclusively a bikeway (which is not feasible).
- Projections are that car traffic will increase by approximately 5 cars/hour on Monroe and 14 cars/hour on Jackson during peak traffic hour (5-6pm).
- **A Community Open House is scheduled for Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup> 2016 from 10AM-2PM at 16<sup>th</sup> and Garfield. The public is invited.**

## 3. Data on Park Use – Rebecca Born (RB)

- Using data provided by Parks and Rec, RB determined the following re: patterns of permitted events at City Park:
  - Most events are concentrated around the areas of the park which have facilities (e.g. the Pavilion/Bandstand).
  - The park is most heavily utilized during Spring and Summer.
  - City Park Jazz accounts for 20% of the total impact on the Park year-round.
  - Very small 5ks (of which there were 35) account for 10% of the impact on the Park.
  - Tour de Fat accounts for 1%.
  - RB notes that not all events at the Park are included in the data, possibly due to differences in the permitting processes for those events (e.g., the Marade)
  - RB suggests that perhaps one more big event would be better than lots of small events, which disrupt the enjoyment of the Park by many of her constituents.
- Michelle Reichmuth (MR) notes, and Peggy Day (PD) and Megan Deffner (MD) concur, that the Zoo and the Museum have improved coordination re: Free Days. PD notes incentives provided by DMNS for its employees for using shuttle/public transport.
- Additional discussion of Park usage and Parks and Rec rules deferred to PRAB component of meeting.

## 4. DMNS – Peggy Day

- September 23 is the opening day of the Extreme Mammals exhibit at the Museum, which celebrates the diversity of mammals
  - October 14 is the opening for the new Mummies exhibit, which explores how new technology is driving new insights into ancient Egyptian culture.
  - Free Days at the Museum are scheduled for August 29<sup>th</sup> and September 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Museum is engaged in a new effort, the Co-Visioning Community Project, that will transform how the Museum engages with the public and what it presents. Traditionally the Museum's offerings have been dictated by scientists. In 2014, the Museum launched a community voice initiative to learn more about the public it serves and what that public values and wants to investigate. The Museum seeks CPNAC representation in the Project.
    - Val Schwebach (VS) volunteers.
5. Zoo – Megan Deffer
- Four new lion cubs are living in the Zoo's maternity ward and are slowly being introduced to various areas of Predator Ridge. They will live here as a bachelor pack as long as that works.
  - September 24 is the opening of Washed Ashore, an exhibit of "art to save the sea". All fifteen pieces are constructed from trashed that has washed up on ocean beaches. Exhibit runs until Jan 16, 2017.
    - September 23 is the Adults Only opening of the exhibit. Food trucks and beverages will be available. \$17 admission includes the purchase of one beverage.
  - Wendy Khawaja has been selected to implement her vision of the Edge Public Art Project.
    - Vision is of three concrete "papasan chairs" with a water feature that will be placed in the Tiger Exhibit to provide enrichment for the tigers.
    - Timeline is still under development.
6. PRAB updates – Andy Sense
- The Office of Special Events is still revamping Special Events rules.
    - Outstanding issues are capacity and impact questions.
    - Rules from last fall are probably what will be put into place going forward, e.g. there will be 3 rest days/month on weekends, with no extra opportunities for events on months with extra weekends.
    - **Anyone who wants to weigh in, needs to weigh in soon.**
    - Parks and Rec maintains that they cannot use the content/context of an event as part of their evaluation criteria, but they are very receptive to new priorities/a new metric.
      - MR asks whether the Dept has looked at what other cities do.
      - AS says historic prioritization is the one thing that lots of other cities do, but the way they implement that is all over the map.
      - One adjustment that will be made to the current approach is to require four years of "good standing" instead of three to achieve "historic priority" advantage in permitting/scheduling.
  - Andy suggests that CPNAC should compose a letter inviting Parks and Rec to a conversation about this issue and offering to provide input/assistance to Parks and Rec on rules as applied to City Park.

- RB notes that her data analysis suggests ways in which the Department’s rubric for evaluating event permitting requests could be improved/streamlined, e.g. to incentivize noise reduction, reduce traffic congestion, spread events more evenly throughout the park, etc.
- VS asks whether the same metric is used for regional parks as pocket parks. AS says yes.
- MR, several others suggest CPNAC write a letter to Albus Brooks, Chris Herndon expressing the wish of CPNAC to get formally involved in the rulemaking for City Park. (No specific action item recorded or assigned.)
  - Approach would be: “we understand the difficulties involved in creating these rules and managing the results. We would like to provide feedback from our constituents that can help that process.”

7. CPNAC Year One Discussion

- Next month is CPNAC’s 1 year anniversary – time for elections!

8. Other Business

- RB advises of the Free Farm Stand offered by GPHC. Produce not sold at the East Farmers’ Market is often donated to GPHC and then available to the public for free. Those with more home garden produce than they can use are also welcome to donate.