

City Park Neighborhood Advisory Committee

June 27, 2017

6:00-7:30pm

Denver Museum

Members:

- *At-Large Board Member – Andy Sense*
- *City Council District 9 – Val Hearne*
- *City Council District 9 – Emily Lapel*
- *City Park Alliance – Greg Davis*
- *City Park Friends and Neighbors – Hank Bootz*
- *City Park West – Mary Therese Anstey*
- *Congress Park – Victoria Eppler*
- *Denver Museum of Nature & Science – Peggy Day*
- *Denver Parks & Recreation – Kelly Ream*
- *Denver Zoo - Megan Deffner*
- *First Tee - Paula Purifoy*
- *Greater Park Hill – Ryan Hunter*
- *South City Park – Michelle Reichmuth*
- *Uptown on the Hill - Alison Torvik*
- *Whittier – Ben Chenard*

Greg – Circulating questions regarding event planning for events in City Park

- We need to take this to the Events Advisory Committee (Erin can hook us up with this)
- We should talk to parks and rec (Tony Hernandez).... This is getting on the front end. Tony could provide the connection for how to distribute this.
- Maybe we could provide the web site... one thing we can provide is a list to specific people or companies

- Greg will talk with Tony Hernandez first and then circle back with revised questions/process

Peggy

- Next Thursday, tour of the collection space
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Scott Gilmore

- Porta potties... Scott is going to fix this. Dustin Redd is the main one. He will make everything perfect.
- We can call/text Scott any time if we see issues
- There is a weather station at City Park Golf Course. The lightning detector is key. The station will be lost when the golf course temporarily closes
- Request is coming from the national weather service
- It is a temporary re-location
- Museum will have information about what is on it
- Proposed location is in The Ballfield

Tom Morris (Zoning)

- Parks are zone OSA (Open Space)
- Zoning is one of the few things in the city charter that is assigned to the council
- There should be a process and description
- The director has total discretion for expenditures <\$500,000 (as an example, you could put a large parking lot in the playing fields without any notification if the mayor approves it)
- The Zoo and Museum will continue to expand, so designating green space is a concern
- Albus suggested perhaps to a pilot project in the park with City Park
- City Park was R1 prior to 2010 (it's now OSA)... (Scott)
- The charter would need to be changed (Scott)
- \$500,000 is a very minimal amount of money... projects in parks are not cheap (Scott)
- Parks buildings city wide beyond certain dimensions need to be approved by council (Scott)
- Are there benefits to the Director to having mayor control?.... Yes, we can get things done (Scott)
- Tom is hoping to move it forward (do a zone map overlay of the park)
- Perhaps Tom can share this with newspapers.
- The guidelines currently being developed are going to support some of this
- Zoning could prevent growth of the two institutions (museum and zoo)
- This is usually done through IGAs (zoo and museum and city)

Kari Lilley (City Park Jazz):

- 31 years now with City Park Jazz
- cityparkjazz@gmail.com (These emails go to Kari Lilley)

- They need more sponsors
- RNOs can have tables....
- You can provide the RNOs any ideas (collect trash/how to use the Pavilion, etc.)

Tom Morris Zoning proposal (from him/separate Email):

If Council returns land use in our parks to itself, the legalities of zoning will be applied to our parks. My initial idea of how to complete the zoning maps is shown below. It is a proposal and needs to be discussed before implementation.

These legalities deal with most of the shortcomings of having a single branch of city government being responsible for such important decisions with only the courts as an option. Most importantly, the legal requirements of zoning would bring a tested-in-practice, legal method of dealing with these issues. Best of all, it will introduce the third branch of American traditional democracy to the discussion.

Having the Department of Parks and Recreation create the subdistrict definitions under the OS-A zone district uses the expertise of the Department to inform the discussions. Each subdistrict will require the Department, park users and park neighbors to discuss and agree with such uses as are allowed in each district such as restrooms, shelters, events (type, frequency and size allowed). Existing institutions in parks such as the museum and zoo and recreation centers will require form requirements - height, building areas and boundaries. The process will also create requirements for amenities such as parking and long-term limits on future development. It may be necessary to describe a variety of park types - regional, neighborhood, incidental (such as the triangle parks which flank Park Avenue and the medians of streets such as 17th Ave. and 6th Ave.

The first issue is to put firm boundaries on publicly accessible green space, which is the essence of our parks, parking lots, playing fields and institutions. This will require discussion with the Department planners, maintenance staff, park advocates, neighbors, park users, and institutions located in each park. The work product of these discussions will require cooperation and compromise. I would expect the Department to develop expertise in communicating among its constituents to find agreement and support for its subdistrict descriptions.

Having Council approve these sub-districts will require the rules for any zoning change - posting, notifications, publication and public hearings. Citizens are assured that they will have time to respond under law if changes are proposed to any of districts descriptions.

Finally, like all zoning requirements, there will always be an opportunity to change them if there are issues. Changes which respond to problems will be easily approved. Changes which create problems can be broadly discussed in the future.

Mapping will be the job of the Department in consultation with park users, neighbors and preservationists. Discussions of these designations will hopefully lead to easy passage by Council. Even if there are disputes, they will be in public under strict zoning requirements. I would hope that participants will see the advantages of finding cooperative proposals to share our parks among their diverse users and staffs.

Any project proposed for any park which has not yet been mapped will be required to be approved by Council. This requirement will urge DPR to complete the mapping in a timely way.