

PARC MEETING JANUARY 21, 2014

INC Parks and Recreation Committee (PARC) met January 21 at 6 p.m. at the Heritage Club, 2020 S. Monroe Street. Present: Maggie Price and Katie Fisher, co-chairs, Steve Fisher, Larry Ambrose, Brad Cameron, Ronnie Crawford, Diana Helper, Marlene Johnston, Cindy Johnstone, Jay Rust, James Sample, George Mayl, Jim Considine, Nancy Francis, and David Gaskin.

Larry distributed a draft of a resolution regarding protection of Denver parkland. PARC discussed the draft and will study it; voted unanimously to try to prepare it for presentation to INC delegates on Feb. 8. PARC commented that we support elected officials who are strongly concerned with conservation of Denver parks. Brad and Jay will work on this draft.

Larry also distributed a draft regarding a Zoning Code text amendment about General Development Plans (GDP), urging that the 10% open space requirement be based upon gross, not net percentage of acreage. He also proposes that the GDP process should be controlled by the city rather than the applicant, and that the GDP be approved by City Council with a public hearing. PARC voted (12 aye, 3 abstained) to have this item presented to INC Zoning and Planning (ZAP) Committee on Jan. 25.

Brad reported on the progress of Park Designation. He, Jay, Kathleen Wells, Tom Hawkey, and Rosemary Stoffel represent INC on this committee. Designation Round 2 is finished and Round 3 is underway slowly, as DPR wants to define parks with complete legal descriptions. PARC stated that neighbors of the parks under designation review are not informed of this work, and should be included by DPR in early talks. Veterans' Park is one case in point. Diana asked that portions of parks Not designated because of ownership difficulties (utilities, etc.) be officially added to the park in the event the ownership reverts to the city. Prairie Park may be one such case.

There was brief discussion of a document stating INC had approved of a DPR Communication Policy. PARC could not remember such an approval. Katie will contact Angela Casias to clear this up, and to request early notification to RNOs of park designation studies.

Nancy reported that about 100 people attended a City Loop meeting in December and stated that they were not in favor of the proposed plan. DPR said it will commence a public process. Greater Park Hill has advised DPR it has chosen reps for this process. Larry said DPR asked for reps from INC. Maggie, Jay, and Larry will participate. A City Park Advocacy group is planned and Nancy thanked PARC for its support. PARC is aware that the DPR Manager now has the power to make park decisions, and that City Council gave up that power in the recent Zoning Code revision. Now decisions are made by mayoral appointees.

George is INC rep to the city's Special Events And Planning (SEAP) committee. He attended three lengthy meetings on the many problems of special events in parks and the city's determination to add more such events. Destruction of park grass and property, traffic, noise, crime, parking, enforcement, permits, cost recovery, and lack of notification to neighbors, lack of public access and park use, are some concerns. PARC comments that the city administration does not recognize public park space as its original intent, a quiet respite from city bustle and noise, where one can enjoy the beauty of nature. Parks were not intended as an entertainment or money-making center. The need for a proper Festival Park was stated, if Denver is truly to be a World Class City.

SEAP will hold **4 citywide meetings** for public information and comment in February: 2/12, 6-7:30 p.m.,

Scheitler Rec Center, 5031 W. 46th; 2/15, 10-11:30 a.m.,
Central Park Rec Center, 9651 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.; 2/19, 5-7:30 p.m.,
Botanic Gardens, 1007 York; 2/24, 6-7:30 p.m..
Dist. 3 Police Station, 1625 S. University Blvd.
You are strongly urged to attend!

Ronnie advised that the Platte River plan has been revised due to the flooding last September, and the added expenses incurred for restoration in flooded areas. Overland Park will get an update at its January meeting.

Jim stated that in Denver, events happen To us, and not For us, and that Top-Down planning is known to fail. Katie said INC may have a workshop in "How to run for office."

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. Next meeting, Feb. 18. *—Diana Helper, PARC member*