

Inc Park and Recreation Meeting June 17, 2014

INC PARC (Parks and Recreation Committee) met June 17 at 6 p.m. at the Heritage Club, 2020 S. Monroe St. Present were co-chair Maggie Price, James Sample, Ray Ehrenstein, Ronnie Crawford, Judy Case, Renee Lewis, Paula Kauffman, Marlene Johnson, Cindy Johnstone, Nancy Francis, and Diana Helper. Present from DPR were Yolanda Quesada and Jeff Green.

Jeff introduced Yolanda (Yoli) who is now the contact person for neighborhoods. Her email address is Yolanda.Quesada@denvergov.org. Jeff explained that Angela Casias is now developing a public education program for the Forestry dept. regarding the threat to Denver's ash trees. Cindy asked for information about the status of DPR's plan to assess trees and begin work to protect them, urging a start as soon as possible. Also needed is a plan to care for Denver's parkway and Right-of-Way (ROW) trees, and a way to assess needs for trees on private property. Jeff referred PARC to forester Rob Davis. Jeff said water is not to be rationed for trees in parks. PARC asked that watering new trees for the first 4-5 years be a job for park maintenance. Norway maples along Buchtel Blvd. west of S. Univ., and other such trees, should have been wrapped, and are now damaged from sun and may need replacement, an expensive oversight. Significant damage to trees by mowing machines has been seen in Washington Park. Cindy took photos and will send to Jeff. Marlene verified that damage to several benches in Rosemond park has occurred because of mowing. She asked that the benches be repaired by Parks and Recs. Jeff agreed and will take it back as an action item.

PARC asked for an update on SEAP, and was referred to Fred Weiss. PARC asked how citizen involvement is included on the Downtown Parks committee, which is formed by DPR, Downtown Denver Partnership, and a group of consultants (not yet hired). PARC wants representation in the earliest stages of this committee's work rather than after the selection process has begun. Cindy requested that RNOs be included in any review of Washington Park permits, fees, balance of summer park use.

When asked about the "Loop" regional "playground", Jeff said DPR is looking at other sites possibly in the Westwood/Barnum area. Cindy asked that INC be involved in needed restructuring to re-fit a new site, including budget and usage.

There was a brief discussion about the status of a portion of Gates Crescent park and if it had been sold yet and if so for what amount. Jeff didn't have info on that portion of Gates Crescent park land to be used by Children's Museum.

Also: Designation of parks continues with round 4 and 5. PARC asked that the list of parks designated so far and to be done appear on the DPR website. INC reps to this committee urge addition of parks in the Westerly Creek area and elsewhere. Judy reported that the Friends of Denver Parks lawsuit is going forward. The school at Hentzell Park is now to be a theme-based public school. PRAB showed the capital improvement budget has many needs, slim funds.

Diana mentioned the major Prairie Park project undertaken by University Park. Nancy talked about a plan devised by citizens, for redoing City Park playground. Paula spoke of the fund raising needed for the improvements at Cheesman Park. RNOs need a plan, and a supportive Planner. All these projects point to the need of a process at DPR whereby neighborhoods can do park projects, raising money for specific work that DPR will OK *and* carry through. Development of such a process could be a goal for PARC.

At the June Delegate Meeting a discussion was held by the attendees about the Committees and several suggestions were given. Cindy who chaired that meeting asked that PARC choose several goals for the

coming year from the list. Also suggested were a continued call for a Festival Park, a review and possible revision of the Park Platform to include density and open space, and questions for City Council candidates to aid in electing supportive new councilpersons.

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m. Next meeting July 15. – *Diana Helper, PARC member*