

Notes from PARC Meeting July 15, 2014

INC PARC (Parks and Recreation Committee) met July 15, 2014, at 6 p.m. at the Heritage Club, 2020 South Monroe Street. Present were: Co-Chair Maggie Price, Larry Ambrose, Ray Ehrenstein, James Sample, Linda Dowlen, John Van Sciver, Hank Bootz, Tracey MacDermott, Nancy Francis, John Joseph Niemann, Ronnie Crawford, Diana Helper, and DPR guests Michael Bouchard, Scott Gilmore, and Samantha Gilmore, and Denver Post reporter Joe Vaccarelli who was interested in the “City Loop” discussion in particular.

Mr. Bouchard presented preliminary ideas regarding the former City Loop project, titled “Re-Imagine Play - New Site.” Supporters and stakeholders had heard this talk July 9 in the Paco Sanchez Park neighborhood. It showed features such as an undulating soccer field, shapes for creative play for all ages, DPR staff to facilitate spontaneity. Councilman Paul Lopez is interested in this project for 10 of Sanchez Park’s 26 acres. There was lengthy comment from PARC and Scott Gilmore, PARC emphasizing the need to work from the beginning with the needs and wants of the people this park serves, in planning any major project, and public funding. Mr. Gilmore stated that nothing definite has been decided yet. A meeting with the entire community (and all interested) will be held later this summer.

A group of citizens from City Park West, Park Hill, Congress Park, and South City Park, has written a letter to Mr. Gilmore, which Nancy Francis presented, with questions regarding the large, for-profit Chive Fest Event scheduled to be held in City Park in August. Questions concerned parking, traffic, public transportation, facilities, finances, public access, tailgate parties, noise, safety, recovery. The group believes City Park is not a proper venue for such a huge, 10-hour event, with two stages for bands, because of its impact not only on the neighborhood but especially upon the Denver Zoo animals. Mr. Gilmore said if a permit applicant agrees to all terms, DPR must grant the permit. The event is to be stopped if the agreement is not followed, but it is unclear how such an event can be shut down mid-event.

PARC reiterated the urgency to have a Festival Park, in the best interest of the city and its citizens. PARC agreed to send a letter of concern to DPR regarding the Chive Fest.

PARC asked DPR to inform police when a large park event is scheduled in their District. A note from the Golden Triangle neighborhood said that its new Small Area Plan includes parks and park connections within its area. Mr. Gilmore spoke about “200 acres of open space” DPR is going be managing between Pena Blvd. and Rocky Mt. Arsenal. Other sites DPR is working on are 61st and Pena Blvd (new light rail station) and 38th and Holly. He also distributed copies of the Park Designation process Rounds 4 and 5, and said any PARC members with comments should email him any time.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10. Next meeting is August 12.
Diana Helper, PARC member