

## NOTES FROM INC PARC MEETING AUG. 19, 2014

INC PARC (Parks And Recreation Committee) met August 19 at 6 p.m. at the Heritage Club, 2020 S. Monroe St. Present were co-chairs Katie Fisher and Maggie Price, Larry Ambrose, Cindy Johnstone, Ray Ehrenstein, James Sample, Ronnie Crawford, Brad Cameron, Kathleen Wells, Dave Felice, Diana Helper, Michele Fuerst, Bonita Lahey, J.D. MacFarlane, Louis Plachowski, Linda Drake, Hank Bootz, John VanSciver, and guest speaker Sonia John. No one from DPR was able to attend.

Katie reported news from the August 14 PRAB (Parks/Rec Advisory Board) meeting which she and several other PARC members attended. PRAB believes the recent CHIVE Event will be a big success, and is eager to place more events in more parks throughout Denver. The INC recommendation of a suitable Festival Park also is a consideration. Central Rec Center plans are underway. Citizens in the Paco Sanchez Park area met with DPR and voiced approval to build the former "City Loop" project in that park. A Rocky Mt. Arsenal proposed park site is being discussed. PRAB approved the "white paper" they had created. PARC will ask to receive a copy, as this was the first we had heard about it.

Brad said the Park Designation Committee meets next week with Councilwoman Susan Shepard. He commented that the five parks being developed along the S. Platte have not been designated, and that after some confusion it appears the Denver Skate Park is designated.

Attorney John Case will file an Appeal with the Court of Appeals by August 28<sup>th</sup>, on behalf of the Friends of Denver Parks (Hentzell Park matter).

Sonia John spoke and showed pictures of tree damage in Washington Park and other parks. This situation is getting worse, due to lack of proper watering, planting at the wrong time, planting too deep, mulching improperly, restricting rooting space, quality of water, vandalism, unchecked diseases, and in many cases- tree trunk damage caused by park mowers. The demise of many young trees due to improper care has is costly to the city. The Forestry Dept. is assessing trees for pruning and other care, but is short-staffed so this moves slowly. Sonia agreed PARC (and INC) should take on the project of surveying as many park trees all over the city as possible, pool the information, and get it to the city administration. This will be brought up at INC Sept. 14. Kathleen said that trees, as noted by Sonia John, are also negatively affected by climate change. There are national groups (with local representatives) working on the climate disruption issue. For information regarding these groups, please contact Kathleen at [Kathleen.wells@case.edu](mailto:Kathleen.wells@case.edu).

Ray announced the Safety Exposition Sept. 14 at South H.S. and Dictionary-packing project Aug. 20 at 950 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. Ronnie said S. Platte reconfiguration is ongoing, Florida-Evans. Park plans in final stage.

CHIVE Fest neighbors described the excessive noise which topped the noise meter limits, and was not enforced. "311" was not operating; police said there was nothing they could do. The foul language loudly broadcast into the neighborhood was sexist, racist and obscene. Trash littered the park and neighborhood, where residential lawns were used as bathrooms. PARC discussed two drafts presented by the neighbors: "Neighborhood Noise Resolution" asking that the City revise the noise ordinance and measurement process, and "Resolution on Disturbance of the Public Peace in Parks" asking that a policy be created regarding festival permits for public parks that honors the intent of the Denver Municipal Code. PARC voted to present the "Noise Resolution" draft, with some changes to be made

by Kathleen Wells, to INC Sept. 14. She also will work on the second Resolution above. Events in public parks adjoining neighborhoods must have lower noise level limits, monitored accurately and continually, and police enforcement must be available for all unlawful activity.

Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m. Next PARC meeting: September 16. – Diana Helper, PARC Member