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Neighborhoods work better when they work together.

Parks and Recreation Committee

Katy Stracina
Special Projects Manager
Office of Mayor Michael B. Hancock
Katy.Stracina@denvergov.org

Dear Ms. Stracina

INC is in receipt of your email of June 6, 2014 in response to the letter from INC President, Larry Ambrose of March 8, 2014. Having heard nothing at all regarding the formulation of policies regarding how the City plans to handle the overwhelming number of events being scheduled in Denver's parks and in our streets, INC Parks and Recreation Committee wishes to express its concerns about scheduling events, notification process and policy and raise some questions to which we feel Denver's neighborhoods are entitled to have answers.

It was at the INC delegation meeting on November 12, 2013 that you presented the Hancock Administration's plan to deal with the problems being presented by the lack of policy and control over the event scheduling processes within the Denver City government. You asked that INC be part of the Special Events and Planning Task Force (SEAP) as stakeholders and INC provided three representatives to this group which met and held a number of public meetings in January of 2014. No policy, followup or change to the event scheduling policy seems to have taken place. And other than your email in which you promise that a follow up meeting of the SEAP Stakeholders group will be held, no reported progress has been made by the Hancock Administration.

Instead, there seems to be a trend of more events taking place on our streets and in our parks, some that have negatively branded our City and which are disruptive to the quality of life of our citizens and the enjoyment of our out of town visitors.

The City seems to continues to promote, expedite and provide help for those wishing to navigate the event scheduling process through Kevin Scott, whose title is Citywide Film and Event Administrator and who serves as the City's liaison for event promoters. Mr Scott seems to have the ultimate power to make commitments to event promoters and effect permitting. Using his seemingly unquestionable authority, major events continue to be scheduled which could have significant ramifications for the City's neighborhoods without notification or involvement whatsoever of RNOs or members of the community.

This has come to light just in the past few days as a result of widespread publicity being given to the Chive Fest in City Park on August 16. This precedent setting, alcohol, rock concert based event featuring 2 stages and 8 bands is likely to have negative impacts on animals at the Denver Zoo and to surrounding neighborhoods. Although the event does not as yet have a park permit, it is already selling tickets and garnering widespread publicity. [Visit http://www.chivefest.com/denver](http://www.chivefest.com/denver)

The INC Parks and Recreation Committee has the following questions:

Why has the Hancock Administration failed to publicly identify ideas and recommendations from the SEAP Stakeholders and promulgate proposed policies developed through the SEAP process before the critical 2014 summer event season?

What role and under what policies is Kevin Scott operating and what powers does he have to make commitments to groups such as the Chive Fest that they can begin the sales of tickets and advertising of liquor sales before a park permit has been issued or liquor license application has even been posted?

What responsibility does Mr. Scott have to notify and involve RNOs in the planning of major events which will impact life in Denver's neighborhoods? A major discussion item in the stakeholders meetings.

How can the City of Denver justify permitting the Chive Fest event at City Park in light of the fact that an identical type of event was denied the use of City Park in 2008 due to the impact of loud music on the animals at Denver Zoo?

Given the impact on noise, public safety and parking, how can the Hancock Administration justify allowing the precedent setting use of Denver's City Park as a rock concert venue for an event such as the nature of Chive Fest and why was this event not directed to a venue such as Sports Authority Field where other such rock concert events have been directed? In Chicago the Chive Fest was held in Soldier Field. Seattle's fest was held in the Seattle Center and Dallas' will occur at South Fork Ranch. A video from the concert in Soldier Field can be found at <http://chivefest.com/chicago/socialize>

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maggie Price". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Maggie" and last name "Price" clearly distinguishable.

Maggie Price
Co-Chair, INC PARC

Attached Message

From: Strascina, Katy L. - Mayor's Office <Kathryn.Strascina@denvergov.org>
To: 'Ida@earthnet.net' <Ida@earthnet.net>
Subject: Special Events Stakeholder meetings update
Date: Thu, 5 Jun 2014 01:02:42 +0000

Mr. Larry Ambrose
Inter-Neighborhood
Cooperation
Denver, Colorado 80218

Dear Mr. Ambrose,

I am writing in response to your letter to Lauri Dannemiller dated March 18, 2014 regarding the SEAP Stakeholders Group.

To clarify, the March 4th date for the final Stakeholder meeting was verbally discussed at the 3^d Stakeholder meeting and at least two emails were sent out to all stakeholders reminding them of the date (to note: January 13, 2014 @ 5:07 p.m. and February 10, 2014 @ 9:30 a.m.). The only thing that was not done was an additional "courtesy" reminder email prior to the meeting. Since more than half of the Stakeholder members did attend the March 4th meeting, we know that the date was clearly communicated.

I am sorry you are disappointed that we didn't reschedule. I believe that rescheduling the meeting at that time would have been disrespectful to the Stakeholders that read the communications and took their valuable time to show up.

As you know, we sent the identical survey that was taken at the meeting to the stakeholders that did not attend asking that they complete and return it to Ms. Erickson. I can assure you that no one group's response will have any greater weight than another. In fact, there is no way of matching survey responses to individuals once they have been entered into the system. A composite summary of responses is the final output of the survey.

After careful consideration, I did not see the benefit of scheduling another stakeholder meeting. We have received almost all of the survey results from those that did not attend and will publish the final results to all stakeholders. In addition, I expect that we will be pulling the group back together once some solid proposals are formulated by the group to garner the opinions of the stakeholders. I look forward to receiving continual and valuable input from all the stakeholders as we continue to move through this lengthy yet crucial process.

Sincerely,

Katy Strascina



Katy Strascina | Special Projects Manager

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March 18, 2014

Lauri Dannemiller, Manager
Denver Parks and Recreation
City and County of Denver

RE: SEAP Stakeholders Group

Dear Manager Dannemiller,

The SEAP Stakeholders meetings in November and December were to gather input from various representative points of view. INC was invited to help represent the community. The stakeholders were told the process was to meet several times, then after the public meetings another stakeholders meeting would be held to "...discuss the public's input and review the recommendations that will be moved forward."

As you are aware, unfortunately the normal notification process that had been used for all other stakeholder meetings did not transpire for the final March 4th meeting. For those who did attend it should have been a red flag that an important group was missing, the community representatives. Although an apology and a survey was sent to those not in attendance, the fact that the public comments were not reviewed and discussed with community representatives present, raises questions about the validity of the process. We are disappointed that the meeting was not rescheduled at that time when it was obvious that more than a few stakeholders didn't show up.

Regardless of what occurred during the March 4th meeting, there is a significant perception that the community's input, whether or not it is submitted by clickers or survey, does not have the equal weight or value of promoters and event planners. We are, therefore, requesting another stakeholders meeting be held for the purpose of discussing the results of the public meetings and, now that the survey has been taken, its results and the recommendations that are being put forth by the City. The promise of the comprehensive SEAP process and resulting policies to deal with the spate of Denver special events, is too important to the communities to overlook the obvious mistake in notification and inclusion of all representatives.

Most sincerely yours,

Larry Ambrose
President, INC

Cc: Katie Stracina, Special Projects, Office of the Mayor
Mayor Michael B. Hancock
Katie Fisher and Maggie Price, Co-chairs, INC PARC
INC Executive Committee
INC SEAP Stakeholder Group Representatives