Parks & Recreation Advisory Board  
August 13 meeting minutes

Prab meeting on Aug. 13, 2015

Attending: JT, Eric, Thad, Frank, Dwane, Shane, Jack, David, Leslie, Brian, Florence, Norma, Marcus, Noel

Public comments:

Letter from INC about Solid Waste incinerator in Zoo.  Letter from INC on Designated Parks

Shane wanted to add comments about park designation process.  Commenting on issues around henzel Phelps.  Comment on the Zoo and suggest it is not harmful.  Likes the people and doesn’t understand the concerns.

Mr. Good, friends of RedRocks, advocate on behalf of not changing redrocks...received national parks recognition.  Concerned about the Colorado music hall of fame.  Concerns about trading post.  Would like to convene a taskforce or others to discuss a broader plan to deal with red rocks.  Road straightening is also a concern.

Mr. Watson: Whittier Neighborhood. Review inc letter from the Zoo issue. Biomass gasification process. 10-1 support the current process at the zoo and incredibly transparent about the zoos process. Zoo has always answered questions. And does not support inc request from inc. And recommend that zoo does not reevaluate their process. Worked with NREL to partner this process and make sure it is ok for the environment.  90% waste will be eliminated from driving through the neighborhood. 1.5million pounds of waste will be removed and changed to energy.

Kevin Lyles: red rocks will be negatively impacted by changes at the red rocks roads.  Trading post is a Denver land mark. Board continues to remain silent. City is proceeding with design docuemtns and concerns are falling on deaf ears. Providing advice is the job of the board. Time for an update to the red rocks plan.

Shane, did we get updates on plans.

Scott suggested we did not.

Katherine Koon: city park speak in favor of the gas plant.  I am a scientist and have a background in renewable engery. This is like beating a dead horse. There is no danger with this gasafacation plant.
One in Norway ran out of trash to create energy and are buying trash from another country. We are running out of renewable energy and we produce trash everyday. It is a great educational and renewable resource. It is absolutely fantastic.

Andy: Park Hill cochair for city park neighborhood. Add my voice to support the gas system. Bottom line the public process is over and we do not need more investigation. This is safe and beneficial this is not a reasonable request.

Scott: friends of red rocks are a huge support with volunteers and keep the park beautiful. Colo music hall of fame. Is in the trading post. Arts and Venue managers the facility...parks manage the park. Colorado hall is managed by arts and venues and is highly successful. There are no plans or design drawings. They moved into the building and they brought some things to purchase. I believe it is a great addition to the park. There is a concept drawing that AVD is discussing to increase the size of the museum. Public process about the hall of fame done by avd board. Reach out to jeffco residence. No dates yet. Road projects are working now. The upper parking lot is dirt. We have funding to fix parking lots and get the projects done. AVD is working that update. National parks service and land mark status would not let it go through. Secretary of interior signed the designation knowing about the project. The land mark designation was granted. Construction and design can be shared...drain and water issues are caused by this hairpin and we will come back to show you. These projects are managed by arts and venues. Try to keep people on the path. Bob finch oversees mount parks and done a great job managing red rocks. No fatalities this year climbing rocks or for two years. I commit to a presentation next time...also take city council to update them.

Dave richter. Thought the road improvements looked straightforward.

Noel. I think it sounds like you are backing into a solution. I think we should see some concept drawings. I think we need to see them. The way you are approaching it I don’t think it is appropriate. There are all kinds of considerations and think about how it could best thrive over time. Create a study to think about the programing of arts and venues. How can that best be satisfied. There are lots of questions. The concept is getting out in front of the park.

Jack: Ortega met with you and avd. She wants to underscore the robust outreach plan. People should have a update.

Scott: we got the drawings when they came out. But AVD is in charge of this process. No decisions have been made.

Shane: I am hearing the red rocks individuals for being advocates. I want you to feel like you are heard. I am not there yet but appreciate it. RR historic designation is awesome. The public does it better to conserve
brian. supports the zoo

Leslie asking for vote on the minutes. David approve Marcus second

Obtain by shane jack eric jt. Thad

Scott manager report. Ask new board to intro

Kendra Black...frank is a chalk beat publisher. At wash park and golf at welshire.

Thad Jacobs: Gilmore. Form er inc secretary and works at centry link. Wants more parks.

David Richter. Representing Jolon but reappointed.

Scott: thanks for volunteering for being on the board. Lots of stuff coming. Swick and westwood park master plan. Sept. Barnum parks court and walk. Lots of stuff going on around that area. When cdot does projects they have the right to move some parts and put in turf and a ball field. States cut parks instead of community and the park is named after PT Barnum. We need a bridge to connect the parks. Had to close the dog park. It was poorly placed on a side of the hill. The bottom of the hill is a lake and cause damage. Had to close it. We are looking to relocate dog park.

David: new play ground at the ball park is it the crown jewel playground.

Scott: no, but paco sanchez will be the crown jewel.

Wanted to find the right place for the park. The entire community wanted the park so we moved it there

Westerly creek restoration, new freedom park.

Redo 51st and Broadway park. New courts new fitness stuff and 500k in improvements.

If you ever want to help name a park. Talk to Arthur.

Master plan for spaces downtown. Not just parks but actual space. Fountain in front of union station is the coolest place in the city. Can we create more active spaces downtown. 21st can we create a festival street where no one drives. 750 people filled out our survey on line.

Working incredibly on designation. Lake wood gulch be came to you twice. 40 parks designated and more parks designated since parks was created. It just isn’t that easy. Rtd, Lakewood, waste water, netty moore playground and her playground sits in front of the right-of-way. We sometimes have to
vacate those roads. Just almost there. These are tough. We have resources to do this designation. We have to use funds and it is very time consuming so we make sure we do it right. Found space to continue finding space. Looking for new parks and new park spaces. In west wood and park hill. Looking to work with DIA an open space properties.

David: page two of letter. 22 of parks are designated. Caesar Chavez park has a right of way down the middle. City park golf course was only partial until last year. Improve the list to explain the difference.

Noel. Information is the best way to sway the fears of people who make letters like this.

Bob finch. Why do I work on regulations? Because I oversee the ranger program. 2 years ago we updated regs. They were not updated prior before 1996. Updating some new regs now and need to administrate citation. They are a civil penalty not a criminal penalty. Brought to you for review. Post for 45 then you make a recommendation and the director chooses to take your recommendation. Time to update rules for admin citation. See handout. This citation allows us to administer fines. Charged a fine that would actually prove to make money and not too low that wouldn’t recoup their costs.

We have 20 rangers in Denver and 8 in the mnts. Red rocks pays for mount parks rangers. Next month you will received the verbiage of the admin citation. You can review and we will vote in nov. this is not too exciting if you want to talk about some things please let me know. Park citation are happening through us instead of acc or rowe. Creation of a civil order to allow someone to be removed from park and continue to break law they can receive a civil order. Must be signed off by the executive director. Fine schedule update.

David: how does a ranger call the dpd.

Finch: our regulation are on the civil side…dpd are on the criminal side. 60-70% compliance. Parking and acc are all civil. Police don’t make parks high priority. Sept we will give you the written list.

Thad: should work with neighborhood orgs on the difference between police and rangers. We attempt to create compliance without issuing tickets. Progressive compliance. Verbal written citation removal and call dpd.

Scott. Huge success with rangers and will continue to try to grow. They have a volunteer bike patrol to help get our eyes and ears around working with the rangers to id service issues and problems.

Shane: can you speak to issues with homelessness

Finch: honestly we don’t write a lot of tickets around homelessness. I don’t see us applying these regs to that population. We have issues with certain behaviors around camping and drugs and alcohol abuse. Try to remove your trash from the campsite. And sometimes people feel unsafe because of trash or strange behavior because of drugs or alcohol.
Scott. We have specific issues in parks. It is everyone’s right to be in the park. Don’t leave it littered. We also have a curfew so you should not be in the park after 11pm. It is for safety issues. You can put yourself at risk at night. People can target you in dark parts of the parks.

Finch: there will be a formal administrative procedure to ban someone from a park because of criminal activity.

Flo. Ashland looks great with new equipment.

Eric. City park looks great even after citypark jazz.

Scott. Fountain lights didn’t work well. That fountain is really difficult to fix. We will try to fix the fountain before the end of the fountain season. We found funding for fixing the lights.

Noel. Water feature to the west of the NSM. Kids love playing in the water feature and city park looks amazing this year. Tennis is looking great in Berkley park. Constructed similar to pinhurst country club. City has a history of patching instead of fixing courts and looks great.

Scott. We plan the other 4 courts this year.

David did a ride along around mount parks and liked learning about all the ccc camps and challenges in the mnt park issues. I think we should do a tour for the board. Then should do some low elements on the rope course.

Leslie. On the search committee for the mayor to find a new parks director. Looking for good candidates.

Scott. Looking for a new press person.

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