

CPFAN Board Meeting
December 2, 2014

Board members attending:

Louis Plachowski
Georgia Garnsey
Tom Korson
Hank Bootz
Dave Felice
John Van Sciver
Bridget Walsh
Linda Dowlen
LaMone Noles

Guest Speakers

Councilman Albus Brooks
Councilwoman Mary Beth Susman
Scott Gilmore, Denver Parks and Rec (DPR) Deputy Director

21 Guests

Speakers

Albus Brooks — Opened by asking audience to take into consideration the opinions of those in favor of developing the park and that we have civil debates. Landmarking City Park is a priority. Dustin Redd Playground remodeling needs to be an inclusive process. South City Park passed a resolution on that.

Scott Gilmore — DPR continues work on the landmark designation. They are updating the master plan for the park. The focus is on what would the future be. DPR is developing guidelines determining what is going to be allowed in the park. With City Loop stopped, DPR is working on the existing Dustin Redd playground, fixing broken parts. Gilmore has told his staff to keep it maintained. Dustin Redd was added to the capital improvements projects list. The DeBoer waterway and lily pond leaks. DPR is working with museum to study how to fix that. The museum has committed funding to help fix the lily pond and DPR is looking for additional funds. DPR also is repaving roads in the park and replacing parts of the sidewalk. They have done maintenance on the Bible house and replaced the irrigation system in some areas. DPR has a \$12 M investment in projects in City Park. DPR has talked to zoo about the ugly fence and buildings across from Ferril Lake. They are meeting with zoo this week. Gilmore pointed out that the zoo animal waste recycling project was OK'd by INC PARC.

Brooks — Pointed out that as a Councilman, he doesn't see much about the park. He agrees that the back of the zoo is ugly. He proposes developing a plan for the future about how the zoo and museum are connected to the park. Brooks wants to come together with key stakeholders and talk about how we connect the different park institutions.

Susman — Agreed with Brooks' statements and the need for Council to encourage connections with the different institutions.

Members of the audience commented that a structural process for zoo and museum are needed so people have a voice.

City Park Landmarking Report

Georgia Garnsey — The City Loop project was an unfortunate incident and wrong for city park. She continues to work with the City Park Landmarking committee. They are using the 2001 Tina Bishop master plan for park as a reference. Civic Center Park has both national and local designation. Local designation gives the landmarking teeth. The committee is talking about agreed upon standards. There is a need for intensive outreach to the community to help them understand the designations, what they do and don't do. Garnsey said it is unusual to have a charter that gives the manager of Parks and Recreation veto power. Gilmore said design guidelines for Civic Center Park cost \$800,000, but Garnsey related discussions within the Designation Exploratory Committee about the very real possibility of creating shorter, more succinct Design Guidelines for City Park that would also incorporate the quantity of information already included in existing documents like the 2001 Master Plan and several others. Design Guidelines along these lines could well cost under \$100,000. She said that robust fundraising with the support of CP Brooks' office was already underway. Having Historic Designation for City Park would trigger comment when changes are proposed.

Members of the audience indicated that there is a need for different groups in neighborhoods to be involved. The process should be inclusive with quality time spent developing guidelines. The only real cost is time, time spent in public meetings.

General Park Discussion

Gilmore — There have been specific forests for specific parts of the park but the Ash trees are endangered by the Emerald Ash Borer (a destructive insect). It's a big impact since 30 percent of trees in City Park are ash trees.

Nancy Francis — Admonished city officials to listen to public knowledge available. There are many with deep expertise. Before City Park Alliance was formed, there was a committee brought together under Tina Bishop, a city park task force. There were at least four neighborhood meetings on designs of the parking garage under that committee. But there is no avenue or interest for input now.

Susman — Noted that CPFAN's activities will be a catalyst for communication. The zoo is asking for a lot of dollars. They were asked about what outreach was done for waste project. They cited a number of meetings with RNOs and an invitation to tour the project area. The zoo plans a beautification project for the fence on the south side. A meeting on the project is scheduled the following morning. Susman thanked the group for the great dialog and many constructive comments.

Brooks — Promised a future task force with representatives from CPFAN, RNOs, Parks and Rec, the museum and zoo. He hopes for a vision and strategy. He proposed a community meeting about all of this in February or March.

Business

- Approved the minutes of the last meeting

- Two vacancies on board - open for suggestions
- Councilman Chris Herndon will be our guest in January
- Zoo representatives will be our guests in February
- Treasury Report — \$274 in the bank, nothing spent

Zoo Waste Project

Incinerator meeting tomorrow room 391' City Council - waiver for emissions for air quality emissions. The zoo wants to be exempt from the standards.

CPFAN wants to know specifics

- Beautification plans for the south fence
- Pollution impacts
- Noise impacts
- Smell impacts
- There is a tipping point on how much more zoo can do to the park
- Granting the zoo a waiver for the waste project will set a precedent
- INC's approval of the project was made with no knowledge of where it was going to be

Dustin Redd

John Van Sciver — Reported that South City Park RNO met and passed a proposal to rebuild a playground within the existing footprint with new materials, including picnic tables. The playground site is 0.8 acres. The SCP Proposal has timelines for funding and design.

Rehabbing has less acceptance at Denver Parks and Rec than building new. A new build would get the City moving faster if all organizations agree. He requested CPFAN take a position on this at the next meeting.

Adjourn