

Boo-hoo, I can't park at the Zoo!

--- A tale of a Park

Boo At the Zoo

- 2-day event in the Zoo October 25-26
- Heavily promoted throughout the metro area
- Lots full? Try City Park
- Parked in the Park? Take the comfy tour bus to the Zoo

Nosy neighbors asked questions

1. Did DPR coordinate with the Zoo?
2. Gate 15 - did Zoo offer to share its new Private Lot?
3. What happened to the \$4.4M in Better Denver Bonds for parking?
4. Next Zoo event - Silverback Race

DPR's Response - Question 1

- DPR blocked out 2 days - no events permitted
- Coordinated with Zoo to provide bus shuttle
- Zoo paid for shuttle, police presence
- DPR felt this effort was successful

DPR's Response - Question 2

- Zoo's parking is behind a gate
- Zoo's parking is private and will not be shared

DPR's Response - Question 3

- Zoo and Museum asked for Parking Funds in 2012
- Better Denver Bond funds (\$4.4M) allocated to them in 2013
- “The City” told them *not to use the funds for parking* in January, 2014
- Zoo/Museum keep the money & use it for whatever they want

DPR's Response - Question 4

- Silverback Race is not a Zoo function - Zoo is a sponsor
- Race was permitted
- Race has been deemed a Festival - up to 80 dbA allowed

Back to parking

...and those Better Denver Bond Funds

- Money diverted from Boettcher Concert Hall improvement funds
- Mayor had a “commission” to pick the winners - congratulatory press release
- Fund diversion ratified by City Council Ordinance 2013-0063
- \$4.4M to “Denver Zoo and Denver Museum of Nature and Science Shared Parking”

2013: Not a good year for Mayor Hancock and Parks

- Hentzell Park land deal approved in April - City claims it was not-a-Park
- Neighbors form Friends of Denver Parks; file suit
- City Park neighbors began City Loop protest in November, 2013
- December public City Loop response in this very room

So what happened to the \$4.4M?

- January, 2014. DPR announces they will regroup on City Loop
- Same timeframe. DPR tells Zoo/Museum to keep the money, but don't use it for parking

Was this Legal?

- In a word: Yes (Caveat: I am not a Lawyer)
- Language says that recipient can't change the "Purpose"
- "Purpose" for \$4.4M was "For the funding of new construction of cultural system facilities"
- "Project" was "Denver Museum of Nature and Science and Denver Zoo shared parking"

Was it appropriate?

- Did DPR take public input on this decision?
 - No record that Lauri Dannemiller took it to PRAB (Agendas, Minutes)
 - No record of City Council discussion (Agendas, Minutes)
- Did Zoo/Museum or “the City” publicize this decision? No
- Do City Park and the surrounding neighborhoods bear the brunt of Zoo/Museum parking overflow? Yes

What next?

- A Resolution?
- Cooperative Parking Project?
- City Park Transportation Assessment & Plan?

A Resolution?

Be it Resolved, that City Park Friends and Neighbors:

- asks the City to specify what happened to the \$4.4M in Better Denver Bond funds directed to Zoo/Museum for shared parking, particularly in light of the impact of Zoo/Museum overflow on City Park and surrounding neighborhoods, and
- requests a public process to address the Zoo/Museum parking problem, as was done before the garages were built circa 2000

Cooperative Parking Project?

- Precedent for this when garages were built (circa 2000)
- Ideal project for CPFAN to coordinate neighborhood input
- Need to get Zoo and Museum on board to work with neighbors as well as DPR

City Park and Surrounding Neighborhoods Transportation Needs Assessment?

- Current parking and traffic impacts:
 - Zoo/Museum parking and traffic
 - City Park events (number, size increasing all the time) parking and traffic
- New parking and traffic impacts:
 - SEAP
 - ABE
 - New Rec Center
- Public Transportation
- Bicycles