

City Park Friends and Neighbors (Final)
Members Meeting
November 7, 2017
6:00 – 8:00 PM
Parkhill Library, 4705 E. Montview Blvd., Denver, CO 80207

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by CPFAN board member Louis Plachowski.

A total of 21 people signed in and attended the meeting. Fourteen were CPFAN Members (a Member Meeting quorum was present; 12 required.) Eight CPFAN Board members were present (Board quorum present; 5 required). Board Members present: Hank Bootz, John Van Sciver, Louis Plachowski, Keith Loftin, Jackie Victor, Steve Eppler, Georgia Garnsey, Jacqueline Lansing, and Bridget Walsh. (Bridget Walsh left at 6:30 pm to attend another neighborhood meeting.)

Welcome: Louis Plachowski introduced Sally Ortiz, who read a short poem relating to the loss of City Park Golf Course as we know it. It was a timely and relevant piece about Denver’s endangered parks. Charles Nichols then presented a poem titled “Truth Decay”, which seemed to refer to certain Denver elected and appointed officials.

Community Reports:

Georgia Garnsey; City Park Master Plan update and Design Guidelines Committee: Historic Denver has \$200,000 available from grants and donations earmarked to update the 2001 Master Plan and develop design guidelines. The project needs the approval of the Committee before it can begin. Once completed Historic Denver will have the information needed to make application for Landmark status, should it wish to do so. The Zoo and the Museum are represented on the Committee, and to date have been reluctant to support local Landmark status for City Park.

Woody Garnsey; Park Hill Golf Course: Woody presented two Options (see attached) on how CPFAN can help support protection of open space, specifically the Park Hill Golf Course. Proposed options include storm water detention to protect I-70 east from flooding, zoning changes to allow construction of residential/commercial uses, a park/open space, a golf course, or a combination of these. This is coming about because the Clayton Foundation, owner of the golf course, wants to sell it. The two attached resolutions (Option 1 and Option 2) describe how this might be done. An *informal motion* was made to take a “Straw” vote in support of both options, with “Open Space” as a preferred use. Approximately 70% of those at the meeting raised their hands in favor. There were no votes in opposition.

Bridget Walsh; 2885 Fairfax Park Development; Bridget read the attached “*Resolution to Conduct a Public Engagement Process for 2885 Fairfax Park Development, presented to the Greater Park Hill Community Board, 11/02/17*”. The Resolution has been approved by GPHCB, and they are asking for CPFAN support. After discussion favoring use as a pocket park, Jackie Victor moved to support the Resolution, seconded by Keith Loftin. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Hank Bootz and Maria Flora; Tee Shirts “We’re Not Happy”; the shirts are offered at \$10 ea. to cover costs, and to support the CPFAN cause. Hurry, they’re going fast!

Tom Morris; Zoning of Denver Parks; Tom is continuing his push to change the way we govern use of our parks. Here is a brief quote,

“At present every decision about every park use rests, by city charter, with the manager of the Department of Parks and Recreation. The almost - absolute power of Manager, now the Executive Director, is only denied by the Charter, itself, which grants all decisions regarding the use of all municipal land to City Council.

As proof of this I cite the lack of a Charter change when Council appointed the ED of DPR to make all land use decisions in our parks. They made this decision under their Charter duty to defend the use of all lands in the city.”

(Full document is attached “Tom Morris; Zoning of Denver Parks.”)

Louis Plachowski; CPGC Law Suit update: Louis said the judge acknowledged in writing that denial of the plaintiff's lawsuit was *bad for the neighborhood*, was *bad for the environment*, and was *bad for the park*. Meanwhile, Aaron Goldhamer continues his support of neighborhoods through his NEPA lawsuit vs. CDOT.

Bridget Walsh; October 22, 2017 afternoon vigil at City Park Golf Course: About 50 people attended the vigil, placing signs and yellow ribbons on many of the 261 trees scheduled for removal to accommodate construction of a 218 acre-foot storm water detention facility. Speeches and songs and bagpipes set a mood of sorrow and loss. An 800 foot long scroll with over 4,200 signatures was stretched across the grass. It contained names and comments from people opposing the project. The moment was captured by drone flyover, and enhanced by a setting sun.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm

Due to lack of time, agenda items that were not covered will be suspended until a future meeting.

Notes by John Van Sciver
Secretary CPFAN

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Attachments:

1. Tom Morris; Zoning of Denver Parks.
2. CITY PARK FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS: RESOLUTION REGARDING PARK HILL GOLF COURSE LAND (Option #1)
3. CITY PARK FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS: RESOLUTION REGARDING PARK HILL GOLF COURSE LAND (Option #2)
4. Resolution to Conduct a Public Engagement Process for 2885 Park Development presented to the Greater Park Hill Community Board, on 11/02/17.

ATTACHMENT 1

“Tom Morris: Zoning of Denver Parks”
Jan 15, 2018 update

Thought it might be useful to you.

I was asked to talk about changing the way we govern our parks. At present every decision about every park use rests, by City Charter, with the Manager of the Department of Parks and Recreation. The almost-absolute power of Manager, now the Executive Director, is only denied by the Charter, itself, which grants all decisions regarding the use of all municipal land to City Council.

As proof of this I cite the lack of a Charter change when Council appointed the ED of DPR to make all land use decisions in our parks. They made this decision under their Charter duty to defend the use of all lands in the city. Now David Broadwell, a deputy City Attorney, is suggesting that any relocation of park use issues, would require a Charter change to return the powers to themselves instead of a single, appointed bureaucrat whose every opinion must meet the sitting Mayor’s random imaginings.

I think the best way to go forward with this is to make it as public as we can. The only power citizens have in this city is the vote. Under the existing system, our opinion is only important in Denver when it worries the Mayor. I hope that the preservation of our parks will be best served by shrinking the constituency of the decision maker.

The Mayor has 690,000 constituents as do two at-large councilors. The other members of Council represent 11 same size constituencies. Divide the 690,000 by 11 and you get 66,000 and a headache. Because of an agreement among council members which respects the opinion of the member representing the site of the zoning. This means that, if a proposal which might destroy the city, the other members were released from the agreement to vote their consciences.

At present all our parks are zoned OS-A. The zoo is zoned OS-A. The museum is zoned OS-A. The publicly accessible green space, the playing fields, the parking lots, the golf course, everything is zoned OS-A. This means that the museum and zoo are always looking for a chance to expand. There are no limits to their expansion. Consequently there is no limit to the amount of green space the park will lose.

I propose that you each think of something that happened to the park and I’ll tell you what zoning might do to respond to your issue. If you can create a series of three-minute presentations for Council, you can go down to the City and County Building at 4:30 on a Monday and fill the half hour of their new “town halls” with testimony of why Council is better than Happy.