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Next General Meeting:

Wed., September 16 @ 7:00 - 8:30
PM
Montview Manor Penthouse
1663 Steele Street

Meeting Agenda:

- Intro of Guests, Announcements
- Denver Strategic Parking Plan
- New Denver Zoning Code Impact
- Police Dist. 2, Q & A
- 2010 SCPNA Officer Nominations
- New, Old Business Topics

SCPNA NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2009

Thanks in abundance to Propaganda Labs and their Bluebird Beat.com for converting our articles into a beautiful Newsletter, and a big thank you once again to Saint Paul Health Center for helping with the printing costs! Please come to the September Meeting!

Dear South City Park Residents,

There will be a presentation by the Denver Strategic Parking Plan Committee at our September 16 Meeting. There were many questions raised by attendees at our May Meeting, and a subsequent request to hear answers directly from the SPP Committee.

Also at the September Meeting, there will be nominations taken for 2010 SCPNA elected officers, and there will be further discussion of the proposed New Denver Zoning Code and how it will impact South City Park.

Please enjoy this longer version of the home-delivered Newsletter, available at the scpna.org web site.

Jim Slotta
SCPNA President

SUMMARY OF THE JULY 15, 2009 GENERAL MEETING

Eleven (less than a required quorum) attended at the Montview Manor Penthouse from 7:00-7:40 PM. DPD Technician Amy Esten led a discussion of recent crime statistics, which were summarized in a handout. Resident Rob Hunsley led a discussion of the status of the proposed New Denver Zoning Code as it relates to South City Park. Because there was no quorum, there was no voting. Possible parking ramifications of the New Denver Zoning Plan and of the Denver Strategic Parking Plan were briefly discussed. SCPNA proposed boundary changes were also briefly discussed, with several questions raised that attendees could not answer. Attendees asked about any update of the status of an SCPNA request to the city for improved pedestrian crossings on 17th Avenue. No update was available as of the meeting. The full meeting minutes will be made available at the scpna.org web site.

-Submitted by Jim Slotta from a digital voice recording.

NEW ZONING CODE EXPLAINED FOR SCP

DENVER'S ZONING CODE IS CHANGING As most of you have certainly heard, Denver is in the process of adopting a new zoning code. The city has an excellent website at <http://www.newcodedenver.org/>. At this website you can view the latest draft of the new code and maps showing the proposed zoning for your property. You can submit your feedback directly to the city on both the draft language and the maps.

CURRENT ZONING Most of South City Park is currently zoned R2 or R3. Developers historically have been able to build big projects on R-3 land if they get enough lots together. The process is sometimes referred to as assemblage. Developers buy two or three houses next to each other, scrape them and build something big and out of character that doesn't fit in with the rest of the neighborhood (like the development at 16th and Colorado). That is why many people in the past changed the zoning of their lots from R-3 to R-2. Most parts of Colfax in our area are currently zoned MS1 (allows 3 story buildings) and parts are zoned MS2 (allows 5 story buildings). There are step back requirements in place that lower allowed heights next to residential areas.

(Cont.)

(New Zoning - Cont.)

JUNE 2009 MEETINGS A very preliminary map that Carla Madison and a small group of South City Park representatives looked at in early June showed proposed zoning for South City Park that would allow much more dense and higher elevation uses like the old R-3 category did. The preliminary map showed all of our part of Colfax as being MS5. (Note-old MS1 has basically been changed to MS3 in the new code and Old MS2 has been changed to MS5). Changing all of Colfax to MS5 would allow 5 story buildings in the old MS1 areas that currently have 3 story limits. Carla Madison sent the zoning officials an email proposing Urban Neighborhood context category U-TU-B (Two Unit B) for South City Park which is probably closer to our current R-2 zoning. Carla's email proposed keeping the height restrictions for our part of Colfax as they currently are.

SCPNA distributed a flyer and sent emails to residents encouraging them to attend the first official meeting on June 24, 2009 where a draft map for South City Park could be reviewed. South City park was very well represented at the June 24th meeting. The city had a district 8 map posted and asked attendees to put dots in the area where they lived. There were so many dots on our area that you couldn't even see the streets in SCP. Because of the large number of residents there that they broke us up into two groups.

Most SCP residents at the June 24th meeting were relieved to see that the 1st draft map reflected major positive changes from the preliminary map that had been looked at with Carla in early June. The proposed zoning was more like R2 zoning than R3 zoning. The two possibilities for most of our area shown on the map were E-TU-A or U-TU-A. The City map still showed all of our part of Colfax as MS-5 which was of concern. They told us that was a mistake, and they would change it. The current MS1 areas would be changed to MS3 and current MS2 areas would be changed to MS5. That would keep the current height restrictions.

AUGUST 2009 MEETING The second public meeting for District 8 was held on August 22, 2009. A 2nd draft map was reviewed at this meeting. Approximately 10 residents met with city planner Steve Jordan. Most of the area is now shown as U-TU-B. We discussed the differences between this zoning and the current R2 zoning. One of the differences is that Accessory Dwelling Units would be allowed under certain conditions. In addition a duplex or two tandem units would be allowed on a 4500 sq. ft. lot whereas R2 zoning now requires a lot size of 6250. Some suggested that off street parking requirements should

be added before these denser uses are allowed.

Some residents expressed concerns about owning properties in the proposed U-TU-B zone that had more than 2 units currently in them. City planner Mike O'Flaherty indicated that the "grandfather" provisions were quite liberal and that seemed to alleviate many concerns. Some opening comments at the meeting indicated that some "urban" areas similar to ours were getting SU zoning. Some SCP residents stated that much of our area is single unit and suggested that SU zoning for those areas is more appropriate than TU zoning, especially in light of the liberal "grandfather" provisions.

There were also discussions about the denser zoning proposed for Fillmore and Detroit and the zoning for Colfax. Concerns were raised about the zoning for parts of Fillmore that would allow storefronts in the neighborhood for the first time. The step back provisions that lower the building heights allowed along Colfax immediately adjacent to residential areas were discussed. The city promised to keep the "step back" provisions that are currently in place.

There is a lot at stake for South City Park. Please note that there is still time to give the city your feedback by going to the website and submitting your comments and suggestions.

-Submitted by Rich Kadinger, SCPNA Block Captain

NEW ADMINISTRATOR-ST. PAUL HEALTH CENTER

Sara Dent is currently the Nursing Home Administrator at St. Paul Health Center, a 160-bed facility at 1667 St. Paul Street in South City Park. Sara has an undergraduate from Missouri State University in Psychology and is currently in the last months of her MBA. With a background in Social Work, she brings compassion and understanding to development of excellence in care for elders in an urban setting. She comes to St. Paul Health Center with over 13 years of experience and dedication to long-term care. Beginning as the Director of Social Services at Springfield Rehab and Health Care Center in Springfield, MO, she became a Resident Family Coordinator at Centura Health Namaste Alzheimer Center in Colorado Springs, CO, where she completed her Administer in Training program. She became Administrator of Operations at Centura Health – The Villas at Sunny Acres and shortly after became the Nursing Home Administrator. During this time she has demonstrated leadership in implementing culture change and CMS outcomes. She is dedicated to excellence in care, evidenced by her consistent record of high World Class Gallup and Patient Satisfaction Scores during her administration. She is a

(Cont.)

(New Administrator - Cont.)

member of the American College of Health Care Executives and has been actively involved in several committees addressing Behavioral Standards, Pay for Performance, and Advanced Directives within long-term care.

Sara E. Dent

NHA, Colavria Hospitality, Saint Paul Health Center

303-399-2040 720-252-3501 cell

Sdent@colavria.com

SCPNA GARDEN TOUR '09

Approximately 100 South City Park neighbors enjoyed a beautiful August weekend evening in six stunning gardens. Young and old alike snacked on pretzels, cookies, juice and even champagne (well, maybe not the young!) as the three hour walking tour progressed. This fourth annual event is presented for the sole purpose of meeting and greeting neighbors as gardening tips and interests are shared. Many thanks to these talented host gardeners: Ryan Sarin, Craig LeMieux, Jim and OliveAnn Slotta (Elton Arms Condominiums), Ann Luke, Kathleen Stewart, Erin and Daryl Atencio, Kendra Moskal and Nora Berrouna, and Alan Radke. Thanks also to the committee: Mardi Mathers, Molly Parrish, OliveAnn Slotta, and Erin Atencio for their organizing and balloon management efforts.

-Submitted by OliveAnn Slotta

MISCELLANEOUS TIDBITS

New Block Captains appointed for three Blocks:

- 1500 Milwaukee--Maria Hunt and Tom Rutter succeed Kathryn Middleton
- 1600 Jackson--Michael McNeill and Mike Hardy succeed Kendra Moskal
- 1500 Cook--Cindy McNair's successor(s) to be announced soon

THANKS TO EACH FOR PROVIDING ONGOING SUPPORT!

Nominations sought for SCPNA elected officer positions:

Nominations accepted at both the September and November SCPNA Meetings, with elections held at the November Meeting.

Senger's becomes known as '3014':

Senger's, a tavern at 3014 East Colfax, recently closed and has reopened under the name 3014 and is now under the new ownership of Nick O'Sullivan, one of the founder/owners of Brother's Barbeque. The former owner, David Senger, will manage 3014. No other changes have been announced.

-Submitted by Michael Henry, CHUN Zoning Committee

MEETING OF UNION STATION ADVOCATES

I attended a meeting in late July of the Union Station Advocates (USA). The meeting was sponsored by the Denver Union Station Planning Authority (DUSPA). Both groups are sure to be making news in the coming months. The DUSPA is the coordinating agency for the \$500,000,000 transportation project, taking place at Union Station.

Not lacking in meeting opportunities at our household, I was motivated to attend this particular one because of my many long ordeals at the Cleveland AMTRAK station, a "temporary, trailer-type" station built along the tracks in the Cleveland municipal parking lot, always deserted in the middle of the night when the trains pass through the city. (The picturesque, old, original Cleveland Terminal & Tower was turned into a commercial mall called "Tower City" about twenty years ago. Therefore, this bleak site is not temporary; it is Cleveland's train station. Hard to believe, this station is only 'loosely' located to transportation venues such as public buses and transit systems, and far from restaurants, even safe sidewalks. Within this frame of personal experience a few pertinent aspects of this Denver project, already underway, emerged in my notes.

- The project is being funded without bond money, but with private partnerships and stimulus loans. Concern: Does public accountability exist?
- Over the next four years we should expect substantial construction around Union Station, but with 1100 new jobs as the benefit. Concern: Can the elegance of the old station be preserved?
- Four government entities are involved: DRCOG, City and County of Denver, RTD, CDOT. Concern: How will effective coordination and communication among these agencies be assured?
- It was acknowledged that there will likely be interruptions related to public transportation. Concern: How much additional time should we plan for when traveling by light rail, AMTRAK and the #20 bus all of which originate at this location?

As residents of a neighborhood besieged for the past five years by construction and threats of construction, this situation calls for the attention referred to in the old Chinese adage: "If a dragon lives in your back yard, it best be taken into account when making plans."

-Submitted by OliveAnn Slotta, SCPNA Block Captain

MEETING MINUTES-WED., JULY 15, 2009

Eleven (less than a required quorum) attended at the Montview Manor Penthouse from 7:00-7:40 PM. The meeting was chaired by SCPNA Vice President Alicia Thorne in the absence of President Jim Slotta, who was traveling. Because there was no quorum, there was no voting.

DPD Technician Amy Esten led a discussion of recent crime statistics, which were summarized in a handout. Most of what is going on in June and July is criminal mischief crimes such as broken out car windows or graffiti, and a few aggravated assaults. All the information on the handout is available at the city's denvergov.org web site. Overall crime has gone down in most categories versus last year. Please call her with any questions or concerns; her phone number is on the first page of the newsletters.

Question: There were complaints about trash and junk left after the Black Arts Festival. What types of actions can people take? Answer: Contact the promoter. Usually there are permits that require groups to take care of trash in the park. If it's not taken care of appropriately, then it can fall back on the promoter. When blocks surrounding the park or bordering Colfax are trashed, that falls on the city to enforce the situation. Amy introduced Lieutenant Kyle of District 2. He is in charge of the District's two SCAT Teams, the Detective Bureau, and the Community Resource Officers.

Resident Rob Hunsley led a discussion of the status of the proposed New Denver Zoning Code as it relates to South City Park. Copies of two maps were passed around--one of the proposed new zoning, and one of current zoning. Basically, after more than 50 years the city is re-doing zoning city-wide, changing from legalistic, formalistic wording such as setbacks and bulk planes, and going to something more contextual that defines neighborhoods. They have six different designations (Suburban, Urban Edge, Urban, General Urban, Urban Center, and Downtown). Neighborhoods are being defined by how they are now, and by how the city and the planning department visualize them changing over the next 20-25 years. If Denver is going to grow and adapt it will be through infill within existing borders and not through annexation. This new map is out to define the different areas (of stability and change). Congress Park between 13th Avenue and Colfax is listed as "Urban Row House 3"(U-RH-3), and that is also what they initially listed for most of South City Park. What that would allow for at a maximum is Row Houses 3 stories high anywhere in the neighborhood. So what you would get over time is a much denser neighborhood than what we have now--which is mostly single-family homes and duplexes. Councilwoman Carla Madison met

with some of us and made some changes. What we have now is "Urban TU-A" (U-TU-A), which is 2 Units on a 4,500 square foot lot, and some "General MU-3" (G-MU-3), which allows multi-units up to 3 stories high--think neighborhood apartment houses. They are defining us under the new zoning as a combination between the current R-2 and R-3. The "2 Unit" tops out at 2 ! stories, so think of the Denver Squares (Victorians) that are on Steele as being as high as anything in the neighborhood can go, except for where you see the "MU-3"; then they can go to 3 stories high. Another thing is that the "TU" designation allows duplexes and tandem houses on a 4,500 square foot lot. Smaller lots will not be allowed to develop duplexes, convert to apartments, or build "Granny Flats" under the new zoning. They also made changes to "Main Street" zoning. There are a lot of "MS-3" lots, meaning a height of 3 stories, which is similar to the current "MS-1" designation. Some of the larger Colfax lots have "C-MS-5" or "C-MS-8", which have lower parking requirements. A lively question-and-answer period followed Rob's presentation. Basically, Rob pointed out that our meeting with Carla Madison, and our large turnout at the District 8 zoning meeting, got results. What we have now is much better than our original designations.

Possible parking ramifications of the New Denver Zoning Plan and of the Denver Strategic Parking Plan were briefly discussed. SCPNA proposed boundary changes were also briefly discussed, with several questions raised that attendees could not answer. Attendees asked about any update of the status of an SCPNA request to the city for improved pedestrian crossings on 17th Avenue. No update was available as of the meeting. Plans for expansion of the Museum of Nature and Science were also briefly discussed, as well as plans to repair the lightning-damaged fountain in Ferril Lake.

Finally, an announcement was made about the "Tasty Colfax" restaurant event coming July 28.

These meeting minutes will be made available at the scpna.org web site.

-Submitted by Jim Slotta from a digital voice recording

GET A LARGE PIE

FOR THE PRICE OF A

SMALL

.....
ANYTIME AFTER 9PM, MONDAY - THURSDAY
DINE IN • PICK UP • DELIVERY
.....





THE FELINE FIX, COLORADO'S FIRST HIGH QUALITY, HIGH VOLUME SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC FOR FERAL AND STRAY CATS IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Rocky Mountain Alley Cat Alliance (RMACA) opened the state's first high quality, high volume spay/neuter clinic for feral and stray cats, The Feline Fix, on July 15. The Feline Fix can accommodate up to 40 cats, four days a week, 50 weeks a year.

"The clinic will enable RMACA to double the number of surgeries it performs annually," says Executive Director, Amy Angelilli. "Through this increase, we hope to see fewer homeless cats entering area animal shelters."

Every year approximately 30,000 cats are euthanized in Colorado simply because there aren't enough homes for them all. Unfortunately, adoption cannot solve this problem. Spay/neuter is the only way to humanely control the homeless cat population. With The Feline Fix, RMACA is committed to providing affordable and accessible spay/neuter surgeries in an effort to lower these euthanasia numbers.

Because the clinic is subsidized through RMACA's fundraising efforts, surgery prices are affordable with \$20 the cost of a spay or neuter (which also includes rabies and distemper shots) for a feral cat. (Tame cat surgeries are \$35; vaccinations are \$5 each.)

The clinic is open Wednesdays through Saturdays. For more information, or to make a reservation, call 303.202.3516 or go to www.rmaca.org.

About RMACA

Founded in 1991, Rocky Mountain Alley Cat Alliance (RMACA) is dedicated to humane population control for the Denver region's free roaming cat population. The Feline Fix, RMACA's spay/neuter clinic, is the only high quality, high volume clinic in the state devoted to providing affordable spay/neuter services for feral and stray cats. Traditionally RMACA spayed or neutered approximately 3,000 feral and stray cats annually with veterinary partners. With The Feline Fix, the goal is to double the number of surgeries; and in doing so, humanely prevent up to 45,000 homeless kittens from being born each year. RMACA also offers humane traps for loan, along with instructions for safely and effectively catching cats. The Feline Fix Ambassador Program provides TNR (trap-neuter-return) information and education to the public. For more information about RMACA, call 303.202.3516, or go to www.rmaca.org.

2600 W. 2nd Avenue, #8
Denver, CO 80219

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Denver, CO 80219

From the Tuesday issue of the Denver Daily News:

Danger to parks in proposed zoning code

Letter to the editor

Tuesday, August 4, 2009

DEAR EDITOR: The Hickenlooper administration is proposing a new zoning ordinance for Denver. The new code withdraws zoning from our larger parks. The proposal says that all decisions about what is built in our parks will be left to the whims of future managers of parks and recreation.

Zoning is one of the most useful tools for urban stability — not because it freezes the city in the amber of law but rather because it outlines the means of resolving land use issues within a functional relationship. Take away zoning and the result is lingering disputes, anger and unstable land uses.

For five years in the late 1970s I attended most city council meetings. I had a prime seat at the press desk in the days when reporters actually attended council meetings. When zoning hearings came before council the press people would yawn and exchange gossip. I, on the other hand, loved every minute of every zoning hearing.

Genius of American democracy

I saw zoning as the ultimate expression of the genius of American democracy at work. Disputes often involved the forces of political power in their grey suits and ties arrayed against the underdog locals in their plaid shirts and tennis shoes. The two opposing forces were made equal in zoning disputes because the deciders, members of city council, were equally beholden to the expertise and money of the suits and the votes of the public. There was very little backroom discussion. More often than not the decision was based on what was said at the hearings.

When zoning hearings were over and the issue was decided, the dispute was over. Oh, the anger might linger a while. The council member whose district was under discussion might lose their seats at the next municipal election. The neighborhood might suffer from the decision. A developer might lose a lot of money. But the question had been decided in a fair forum. It may have taken a couple of years, but the arguments were over.

Contrast this with the question of whether the Museum of Natural History could double its size back in the 1980s. The manager of parks and recreation at the time made the decision quickly without bothering to tell the public. She signed the construction documents and the museum began building its addition. When the public discovered what she had done when a gigantic furniture warehouse engulfed the prim Beaux Arts museum and the Phipps Auditorium, a lingering dispute burst into view.

By the time the dust settled a decade-and-a-half later, a succession of parks managers had come and gone, often in the heat of battle, the city's aquarium had been removed from City Park's future, the city's parks department had been barred from the park by a court decision, City Park had a joke of a master plan, park roads had been closed, the city charter had been amended, the parks advisory committee had been expanded by 14 new members, two subterranean parking garages had been constructed, and neighbors of the park had a festering distrust of the department.

Parking problems

An example of the fitful resolution of the various issues in the park was begun with a statement by the museum's CEO, Raylene Decatur, that the museum would never again expand its floor area in the park. Based on that statement (which was never reflected in any law), the parking garage serving the museum was designed without the capacity to expand vertically even though it was sharply restricted in horizontal expansion by underground utilities, roadways and nearby structures.

Since there were no legal limits installed by zoning, the next museum CEO, George Sparks, got the city's voters to approve an additional 60,000 square feet of exhibit space for the museum. In the olden days when the city saw a lack of parking as a detriment to orderly growth, the zoning ordinance would have required the museum to provide 300 more parking spaces as a condition of its expansion.

The Hickenlooper administration, however, views a lack of parking as a sign of urban vitality. This means that when new museum visitors again begin parking along the shady residential streets of west Park Hill, the neighbors will have to find comfort in the idea that they are living in a trendy neighborhood rather than an inconvenient mess.

The new zoning ordinance being proposed by Hickenlooper removes any suggestion that the neighbors be informed about changes coming to their lives, have any right or opportunity to speak out on their own behalf or have any decision recorded in any way that might protect them from future "great" ideas. The Hickenlooper ordinance even allows future managers of parks and recreation to change any agreements now existing.

If you live near or love a Denver park, get ready for a couple of decades of dispute and anger.

**Sincerely,
Tom Morris
Denver (South City Park)**

CITY PARK EVENTS-IMPACT ON SCP QUALITY OF LIFE

Note to the readers of this collection of 2009 email exchanges:

Living next to City Park is a gift that most if not all South City Park residents consider their good fortune. To be able to walk to City Park Jazz, the Museum, the Zoo; to exercise in the Park with or without our pets; to enjoy the colored fountain--these are the positive additions to our quality of life, and are readily available to us just because of where we live.

This email collection recognizes a corresponding negative impact on SCP Quality of Life attributable to this very same proximity to City Park. Primarily because of noise and parking issues related to City Park events, we are often overwhelmed by the same positive attributes that we enjoy so much.

By reading this representative collection of emails (there are many more), one can understand the "real-ness" at the heart of the writers' messages. There is no resolution suggested here, save what might result from serious dialogue between representatives of our residents and of those responsible for the events, including Parks and Recreation officials as well as events organizers. The sharing of this email trail is hopefully a beginning to that end. They are presented in reverse order, starting with the most recent.

Sincerely,

James Slotta-President, South City Park Neighborhood Association

=====(#1)

11 Sept 2009 (from SCP resident Lisa De Graaf to Denver Zoo VP Dennis Smith)

Dear Dennis,

Thank you very much for your email and for your efforts to work with our concerns.

I live at 16th and Harrison; nearly the farthest corner of the south City Park neighborhood.

I just heard, what I believe was a 'testing' of the PA system and Mic at the event; I could hear it loud and clear. This is unfortunate.

If my neighbors were playing music at a level that disturbed us, we would call the police, but we cannot do that in this case. I cannot read in my backyard on this very pleasant evening, without listening to your event; this is unfair.

If you have to face your speakers south, in order to direct the music away from the animals, perhaps you should (greatly) reduce your sound or simply not have an event that adversely affects so many people.

Thanks again for your attention to this matter,
Lisa de Graaf

=====(#2)

11 Sept 2009 (from Denver Zoo VP Dennis Smith to SCP residents)

(Note: A similar email was sent by Denver Zoo President Craig Piper to District 8 City Councilwoman Carla Madison, who forwarded it to us.)

Dear City Park South Neighbors:

Denver Zoo's annual Brew at the Zoo is this evening and I wanted to share with you that Denver Zoo is committed to being a good steward of our community and a good neighbor. Brew at the Zoo will have live, amplified music and I wanted to make you aware of the steps we are taking in advance of the event to minimize sound impact on our neighbors.

In the past, we have not had problems with music since we are focused on keeping sound at a safe level for the animals in our care. Earlier this year, we did experience a situation where music at our annual Do at the Zoo gala did disturb some neighbors in South City Park. For some unknown reason (e.g. weather, stage location), sound carried differently than at past events. Unfortunately, we did not measure sound levels outside the zoo that evening so we are unsure whether decibel levels in the surrounding neighborhoods varied from past events.

We are working closely with Richter Scale, our lighting and sound contractor, to take steps that should help to minimize any noise disturbance for our City Park neighbors and to better understand the acoustic environment outside the zoo.

- 1.) Richter Scale & Denver Zoo are working with the Department of Environmental Health, reviewing city ordinances pertaining to noise and developing strategies on how we may lessen potential noise impact from Brew at the Zoo such as speaker and stage locations.
- 2.) Richter Scale has been taking decibel readings at locations around City Park during the evenings to develop a baseline of ambient noise levels so we have a better understanding of current levels.
- 3.) The night of Brew at the Zoo, Richter Scale will be taking periodic readings from locations around City Park to insure Denver Zoo is adhering to all noise ordinances and minimizing its disturbance to surrounding neighborhoods as much as possible.
- 4.) All amplified music will end promptly at 10 p.m.

As always, we appreciate your support and if you receive any concerns or complaints, please feel free to contact me and we will respond right away.

Sincerely,

Dennis Smith

Vice President for Zoo Operations
Denver Zoological Foundation
2300 Steele Street
Denver, CO 80205
Phone 303-376-4817
Fax 303-376-4801

=====(#3)

2 Sept 2009 (from SCP resident Ann Luke to Jim Slotta)

I see in the neighborhood paper that there is another "walk" planned for Sept 12---10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

I have looked at the website for the ALS association and found the Ex. Director (Pam Rush-Negri) and Dev. & Marketing Assoc. (Caroline Grandchamp) and their e-mails.

Could we compose an e-mail to them requesting a well-planned amplification of their event? I notice the event will be staged at the pavilion--as usual.

I walked over to the event on Sunday. It was Breast Cancer 3Day Walk Benefiting Susan G. Komen for the Cure a Nat. Philanthropic Trust Project presented by Energizer, Bank of Am, KOSI, and others I did not catch as they were read ALOUD.

www.The3Day.org.

The problem was 12 speakers directed at the museum of Nat. and Sci.---sound bouncing off the building and reverberating into the large audience, across the lake and 5 blocks into the neighborhood. It actually made it more difficult for the audience to understand what was being said.

I think it is futile to contact planners after the event. The planners move on to another city and do not care that their event was a problem for a particular neighborhood. They raised their millions, so are happy with the results. That is why I hope we can compose a letter to the up-coming planners, citing the problems these events face communicating with their audiences and impacting the neighborhood.

Ann

=====(#4)

22 Aug 2009 (from Ann Luke and Jim Slotta to Jenn Dormann, 2009 Park to Park Neighborhood Coordinator)

Dear Ms. Dormann,

Thank you for contacting South City Park Neighborhood Association about the upcoming Park to Park event. It looks as though the run will provide variety and reward for the participants, and your thorough advance planning is admirable. SCPNA always welcomes events such as yours and wishes you a great day.

For the residents of South City Park Neighborhood, our main concern is sound amplification prior to the run. Your event will take place on a holiday, which is a time many residents look forward to a quiet time at home and in our gardens prior to returning to work.

This summer, City Park has been the venue for many events. Some have been so respectful of the neighborhood that residents didn't know an event was taking place in the park. Others have taken place, sound-wise, in our bedrooms. As some of us have monitored events, we have noticed that a 50% reduction in sound amplification would not have impaired anyone's ability to hear everything being announced.

Will you please be mindful that South City Park residents do not want to hear your event unless we choose to participate in the run. Of course, we expect you to use a sound system to communicate with your participants. Just be aware that music and announcements inspire and inform your runners---they annoy residents of the

neighborhood.

Sincerely,
Ann Luke (resident of SCPN and member SCPNA)

Jim Slotta (President-SCPNA, southcitypark@gmail.com)

=====(#5)

10 Aug 2009 (from Jenn Dormann to community leaders)

Good evening~

Summer comes and goes so quickly, but that means its almost time for the 3rd annual Aetna Park-to-Park 10 Miler! The race is less than a month away!

This year's race will be hosted on **September 7, 2009 at 7:00 AM**. The organization is excited to invite novice and experienced runners on a tour of four of Denver's most beautiful parks. This 10 mile course will start in City Park, wind its way to Cheesman Park, then to Alamo Placita Park, and finish with food and musical entertainment in Washington Park.

As with any community event we are aware of the potential impact it might have on our neighborhood communities. I'd like to assure each of you that the organization is eager and willing to help minimize this potential impact. Each neighborhood association will receive a follow-up phone call to ensure I have communicated the race information to you up through race day. A group of volunteers will be distributing door 'knockers' on August 15 to affected neighborhoods along the route to inform those individuals of the upcoming race.

All proceeds from the race will benefit the Lorenzen Cancer Foundation in the fight against pancreatic cancer.

For race day information, please visit our website at www.parktopark10miler.com. You will find information on the race course, registration, volunteer opportunities, and time tables. The 2009 race course map is attached as well.

For further comments or questions about race day information, please contact me via e-mail at jdormann@gmail.com.

I look forward to working with you to make the 2009 Aetna Park-to-Park 10 Miler an enjoyable community event!

Sincerely,

Jenn Dormann
2009 Park-to-Park Neighborhood Coordinator

=====(#6)

10 June 2009 (from Jim Slotta to SCPNA Officers & Block Captains)

Dear SCPNA Officers and Block Captains,

(copy to a representative of City Park Jazz and to a representative of the Denver Black Arts Festival)

A few of us were able to gather last week to begin a discussion amongst ourselves about events in City Park. Notes from that meeting are attached. The notes do not reach conclusions, rather they are meant to represent the flow of conversation that occurred.

A closing 'general comment' recognizes the realization that "Successful control of all these (City Park Event) venues is directly related to Quality of Life in South City Park." To me that means that having meaningful events nearby, and having them successfully controlled, increases our quality of life.

Please let (us) know if you would like to be actively involved in this continuing dialogue. One current opportunity is that SCPNA has been asked to dialogue with organizers of the Denver Black Arts Festival (DBAF); we are awaiting word from the DBAF about when they can be available.

Thanks,
Jim Slotta-for SCPNA

SCPNA Special Committee Meeting on City Park Events

Wednesday 6-3-09, 6:30 PM, Saint Paul Health Center, 1667 Saint Paul Street

Attending: R. Hunsley, H. Malavet, A. Luke, O. Slotta, J. Slotta

a. Use of City Park for Events

- Kevin Patterson replaced Sharon Bailey as Parks & Rec Director. Policies under review
- How to relate to the image of City Park belonging to the whole city versus being a locale for events

New Denver Zoning Code being introduced, not mapped out yet, unsure of parks impact

- What does City Park Alliance do? (Includes taking on projects, like funding for Mile High Loop, Saturday morning book readings, funding for Ferril Lake fountain; William Bowman is current President; new project will be funding for refurbishing Duck Lake.)
- When can Parks & Rec keep the deposit for not following rules?
- "We respectfully ask that residents be given the same consideration as the Zoo lions."

b. Denver Black Arts Festival (DBAF)

- SCPNA waiting for opportunity to talk with organizers
- Organizer Michael Wilhite said parking for handicapped to be provided in City Park, entering at Harrison Street
- Is the DBAF using the Museum Garage?
- Could the East High School lot be used? (One idea was for EHS students to park cars in the EHS lot for a fee, and to possibly use school buses to shuttle attendees into the park)

c. 2009 Colfax Marathon

- SCPNA has requested a meeting with event organizers
- wants to give honest feedback about problems in 2009
- Race came down Harrison Street to residents' surprise. Higinio delayed half hour from leaving for work at hospital
- Traffic blockade on 17th ignored by traffic; police contacted and resolved unsafe condition
- Extreme noise from sound system at nearby race finish line

d. City Park Jazz

- Difficult for people to arrive by public transportation; many bring strollers and coolers
- Pinnacle residents, facing the park above tree line, have to leave their units during event due to noise impact
- Positive comment: People don't litter in our yards; not nearly as unruly as people exiting bars after midnight

e. Colfax Businesses

- Nearby residents could rent a late-night security guard for \$75/hour and split cost

f. General Comment

- "Successful control of all these venues is directly related to Quality of Life in South City Park."

- from meeting notes taken by OliveAnn Slotta

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Partial list of 2009 City Park Events--**negative impacts expressed** by SCP residents):

11 September--Denver Zoo's annual Brew at the Zoo
28-30 August--Breast Cancer 3 Day Walk
10-12 August--Denver Black Arts Festival
18 June--Do at the Zoo fundraising event
17 May--Colorado Colfax Marathon

-Submitted by Jim Slotta from emails sent and received