

City Park Alliance Board Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2014

Members Present:

Gregory Davis
Brian Friel
Carolyn Lievers
Jacqui Shumway

Guests:

Linda Drake, neighbor
Andrew Rowan (Zoo) will not serve on this Board, but is our contact on Zoo issues.
Randy Hunt, neighbor

Business Discussed:

- a. **Chive Fest** The event went off without an incident; though it was loud for residents on the South side of the Park and some bands had adult content (Two bands used foul language and adult suggestions that some people found offensive). Jacqui reported that one group with a permit left early because it was surprised that Chive Fest was happening at the same time as their event in the Park. She also made the point that we should find ways to remind Park users that the permitted events are on a calendar published by the Alliance and Parks and Recreation. Perhaps we will pass out a prospective 'calendar of events at City Park' at Story Hour.

A discussion about talking points for Chive Fest led to the conclusion that the Alliance should request that Parks and Recreation convene a review of the paid admission rules with a purpose of tweaking the rules in light of Chive Fest event and other concerns about similar events. Some examples discussed was should there be more time between the event and issuing the permit for it and is City Park generally overused. (Everyone knew about Chive Fest well in advance of it happening). The Alliance will follow though by participating in rulemaking and urging others to do the same. We want clear permit policies and procedures and if someone or a group meets the terms then a permit should be issued. We do not view the permit process as an opportunity for censorship.

- b. **Speaking for the Alliance:** The Board agreed that a member's personal opinion may be expressed to outsiders, provided that the member states explicitly that the opinion expressed is NOT the opinion of the Alliance, but a personal opinion. Note that the Alliance has a blog and posts all written comments it gets so that all opinions from members and non-members are aired and attributed publically.
- c. **Story Hour review:** – Jacqui made some purchases (a banner plus) out of her own funds for Story Hour that she wants approved and paid for by the Alliance. Greg reminded her that we already approved reimbursing her. She needs to get invoices/receipts to Brian to get paid.

The Zoo volunteers are not helping at Story Hour this summer.

We agreed to change the handout at Story Hour to be a calendar of coming events in the Park. Jacquie will continue to hand out fundraising envelopes and to collect email addresses for the e-blasts. No direct solicitation of \$\$ is permissible at Story Hour.

- d. **Membership:** We are actively looking for Board members and to that end had two prospective members at the meeting. We answered questions about the history of the Alliance and how it operates. We got information about their concerns and interests focusing on what they could contribute as an Alliance Board member.

We plan to contact organizations that designated a member to the Alliance in the past, like the Park People, to invite them to appoint a Board member. Also now that the Museum has finished its major construction we want Peggy Day to return!

- e. **Historic Designation:**

Carolyn will attend the Friday meeting at Historic Denver on 8/22/14. The group of stakeholders is focused on whether historic designation could be a Park management tool. She shared the list of questions to be considered at this next meeting: members thought it would help with communications between Parks and Recreation and Park users whenever work on a historic feature required approval and it would encourage Parks and Recreation to consult in good faith in meetings leading up to big decisions. On the other hand, like the Master Plan, designation will have to be open ended to accommodate necessary changes which means designation may be a new layer that does not do much to involve a majority of Park users.

- f. **CPA and Mile High loop:**

Greg reported on meeting about repairing /improving Mile High Loop in partnership with Parks and Rec. See Greg's written list of points in favor of participating in this project through an MOU with Parks and Recreation. [Mile High Loop was the idea of an Alliance Board member and we helped raise funds for it.] Members voted in favor of contributing \$20,000 via email last month to this project.

Greg reports that the plan is to start the project by grading the trail for resurfacing in October. There are 12 defined areas that need repair. After a discussion about what would be done and that the City would pay the remainder of the costs, members decided to make a formal motion/second and a formal vote on the project: The Alliance shall contribute \$20,000 for the repair/improvement/signage for the Mile High Loop starting in October 2014 pursuant to an MOU with Parks and Recreation. Carolyn made the motion and Brian gave the second to it. This motion was passed again unanimously. Greg will work on the MOU for the Alliance.

- g. **Dustin Redd Playground:**

Greg reported that CPFAN sent a request to the Alliance to contribute \$2,000 to fund a consultant to do a private assessment of the playground and to decide what repairs should be made. CPFAN would

then ask Parks and Rec. to fund the consultant's plan. After a discussion the Board voted on Jacquie's motion 3 to 1 NOT to give CPFAN \$2,000. However, The Board decided that the Alliance will renew a discussion with Parks and Recreation about progress on/plans to repair the Playground as promised in the public meeting ending the plan to build City Loop in City Park.

h. Others items:

1. 17th and Harrison:

Randy Hunt expressed the view that this intersection needs work, especially for bike riders that want to go towards Colfax from the corner of 17th and Colorado. He will send a drawing.

Also Greg will send a map as the Alliance needs to talk with Parks and Recreation about a proposed road just above the eastern roundabout [at approximately 22nd] that would encourage more traffic though the Park if built.

2. For the next meeting we will discuss a ten year vision for City Park – review the Master Plan in prep and talk to neighbors about wants and needs.

3. Putting the Beds to Bed is a volunteer opportunity in City Park. It is October 4th. Check the website for whom to contact at Parks and Recreation and the time.

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Livers (8/25/14).

Note on the Historic Designation discussion: There will be a meeting summary from Annie soon. Some highlights:

- The Landmark Commission would not review all decisions about the Park, and their review is traditionally triggered by pulling a permit; something the City does not have to do.
- Discussed whether the Master Plan needs to be updated/ will it suffice
- how to involve actual Park users, rather than just RNOs' leadership and interested individuals that are not reflective of the 45,000 residents who live around this Park and it's a regional park
- There were more pros than cons for continuing to explore historic designation
- A shared vision requires compromise and inclusiveness – how and on what?
- How to balance historic nature with today's needs and the changing neighborhoods around the Park
- We did not decide the designation question and agreed to have at least one more discussion about what historic designation can cover. It's a thoughtful group and everyone was respectful of opinions expressed and are looking for answers rather than riding a soap box.