

Minutes from the South City Park Neighborhood Association
September 15, 2010 – 7-8:30 p.m. Montview Manor

Thirteen adults (all members) and one infant attended the September 15th meeting at the Montview Manor Penthouse, 1663 Steele Street.

SCPNA President Bonita Lahey brought the meeting to order with the temporary appointment of Claudia Hall Christian to the position of SCPNA secretary. Appointment will be valid until the end of 2010.

Denver Police Department District 3 Report

Technician Amy Esten brought City Park area crime statistics handouts (see attached). Highlights of her presentation include:

- Crime is down 17 percent in South City Park
- The Denver Police arrested a group of teenagers who were breaking into homes and creating vehicle crime (thefts & break ins)
- Parking is handled by the parking management and public works departments. They are both closed on Sundays. The police will write traffic and parking tickets, however this type of crime takes a lower priority over domestic issues (which increase during Bronco season).
- We were reminded that if you call on criminal activity in the neighborhood, you must ask to file a complaint for the Denver Police to have a record of your complaint. You may either sign a complaint or do it over the telephone.
- Non-emergency police phone number is: 720-913-2000

Denver Museum of Nature and Science

Dr. Bridget Coughlin discussed the Museum's use of the \$23 million in bond funds. The Museum was charged with matching the funds. They have raised \$15 million in funds so far and will be on track when they are ready to build.

The Museum plans to build two building with the funds: 1) a Science education building and 2) changing the boiler building. Overall, they will not remove any green space from City Park to create these buildings. However, she did say that the building site would disrupt green space. This space would be returned to the park when the building was completed. There was a general conversation about specific saved trees.

The Science building:

The building will have two subterranean floors. These subterranean floors will house all of the permanent collections in a climate controlled areas. There will be three above ground floors. The first floor will have three new science studios for the education of the over 300,000 students who visit the museum every year. The second floor will be dedicated to ages 1-5. This will double the size of the discovery zone. The third floor will be dedicated to temporary exhibit space. This space will either be: 1) cut into two areas for smaller exhibits or 2) be used to house one large exhibit. (Dr. Coughlin shared that the museum hasn't been able to house larger pieces of exhibits such as the Titanic or Genghis Khan.) The new building will be more civically oriented and very beautiful. The new building will create a safer entrance for children by moving the dock as well as changing the streets around the museum.

The boiler building project:

The boiler is currently a small building on the North side of the Museum complex. The Museum will move the dock to this building. Items will be moved into the museum via a series of underground tunnels. The boiler building will be extended 3,000 sq ft. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of next summer.

Roads:

The plan is to close the Montview to 17th avenue cut off. The traffic plan includes the recreation of a road closer to Colorado Boulevard which will be used for bus and event parking. There will be a road from 17th that will terminate at the building. This is all part of the current drive plan for the

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park. However, because the State of Colorado and City of Denver are having trouble finding funds, the road changes may not happen immediately.

The new building is not expected to increase visitors to the museum but rather to better serve the current visitors and particularly children and school visitors.

Discussion – SCPNA Parking issues

SCPNA President Lahey started the discussion with her hope that SCPNA could make a resolution about parking and join forces with Congress Park Neighborhood Association. Jazz in the Park has begun to impact parking from 17th Street through 11th Street. Vice President Karen Newman has reviewed the City of Denver's Ninety-two page document to create a four page review of the plan (see attached). Vice President Newman took the floor.

Parking pressures:

- Denver Film Society is moving to the building next to the Tattered Cover.
- The Denver Jazz in the Park continues to grow
- The Open Air movie will be in the park for thirty days.
- The Bluebird has increased the number of events
- With the revitalization of City Park, there will be more and more events in the Park that will create more and more pressure on parking

Key discussion points:

- Neighborhood permit parking could hurt the smaller businesses on Colfax such as Hooked on Colfax and Stella's
- Jazz in the Park Sunday evening gridlock created a public health danger as police and fire trucks would not be able to respond to the neighborhood.
- Discussion of parking infractions – parking in front of hydrants, over alleys, behind garages, etc.
- Colfax trolley is a possibility but not in the planning phases yet.
- Residential parking issues: 1) must apply for permit every year, 2) must ask for guest permit. If lose, you will not get another, 3) if have a party, can only get 12 (max) permits

Conversations and coalitions needed with:

Jazz in the Park:

- Need for increased Police presence
- Traffic problems
- Parking issues
- Safety of people going to park and after the event is completed

Denver Police:

- Public safety issues
- Parking issues

City of Denver:

- Need a valid parking survey
- Conversation about creation of parking garages and other solutions
- Event parking on the South side of City Park (17th) as done at Botanic Gardens

Vote on Four potential options from Parking Plan

1. Residential Permit Parking only on one side of the street at all times, 13th through 17th Street and timed parking (ex. 2 hour parking) using signage to note the timed parking on the other side of the street

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2. Residential Permit Parking during the evening hours of 6 – midnight and weekends on one side of the street, and timed parking using signage to note the timed parking on the other side of the street.
3. Residential Permit Parking
4. Status Quo

Results of Vote: 1=0
 2=4
 3=4
 4=3

Voting to be continued via Survey Monkey on the website and via email.