

Minutes of FANS of Washington Park of Jan. 11, 2017

1. Meeting was called to order by Tim McHugh at 6:00 PM
2. Introduction of Speakers: Scott Gilmore, Deputy Executive Director, DPR, Park Administration; Adrienne Burton, West Denver Parks Planner, DPR; Mark Tabor, Assistant Director of Park Planning, DPR, City and County of Denver
3. Attendees: Karen Larson, Gary Christlieb, Dave Matthews, Kathryn Smith, Judith Cassel-Mamet, Cindy Johnston, Sonia John, Alan Cooper, Kathy Philip, Karen Bedard, Jeff Bedard, Bill Tracy, Carol Lyn Tiegs, Helen Perin, Herb Kindsfater, Tim McHugh
4. Scott Gilmore welcomed all to the meeting and provided some history of his personal involvement with Washington Park and specifically the original Dos Chappel Bathhouse. He then acknowledged the challenges encountered by loop road users. He recognized the significant input provided by those community members involved with the stakeholders group. Scott noted the changes in DPR staff which have occurred since approval to proceed with loop road changes in March, 2015, and felt that these personnel changes have been a significant factor in delaying renovations.
5. Scott then discussed DPR's supportive actions for the Gerald Endsley Tribute Bench, placement of bees in City Park to increase pollination, renting bandshells for the Denver Municipal Band, use of sodium blocking agents in recycled water used for irrigation, proposed playground renovation, tree planting.
6. Mark Tabor thanked those who have contributed their time and ideas in helping to develop loop road changes, and expressed his full support to improve safety. He related that \$300,000 will be used for curb realignment and road striping.
7. Adrienne Burton then provided a brief personal history before providing the slide presentation which was presented in Nov. 2014 entitled "Washington Park Loop Road Safety

Planning Recommendations”. A complete handout of this presentation has been previously provided to us.

8. Mark Tabor, Scott Gilmore, and Adrienne Burton then led a discussion, involving all attendees, of problems which have been identified. These problems include: zones where all users mix, crosswalks, how to label proposed lanes to minimize conflict, what type of traffic should use each lane, what approximate speed limits would be appropriate for the vehicle lanes, dogs on extended leashes, and the ever-present geese. Specific questions and comments arose concerning the appropriate locations of the “fast”, or perhaps more safely titled “passing” lane, and the “slow” vehicle lanes.
9. Other issues included crosswalk locations, the hill near the Recreation Center, appropriate signage types and locations, and planned parking changes. Specifically, the current plan is to remove 32 parallel parking spaces along northwest part of the loop road. Current parking availability in the park is: 36 parallel (32 to be removed) spots, 227 in lots. There are 231 park perimeter spots and 566 spots in South High School lot.
10. The first phase will include improved signage and striping. Discussion then occurred concerning types of paint to be used (thermoplastic and non-thermoplastic). A stakeholders meeting will occur in a few weeks. A request for bids is hoped for by Feb. 1. Renovations will hopefully begin by late Spring or early Summer.