

**FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS FOR CHEESMAN PARK (FANS FOR CP)
ANNUAL MEETING**

**Tuesday, October 25, 2016 – 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Tears McFarlane Center – 1201 Williams Street**

Officers Present: Jay Rust, President; Greg Sorensen, Vice President; Paula Kauffman, Treasurer; and Kathleen Rust, Secretary.

Members Present: Leslie and Kent Miller, Don Bain, Shelia Bisenius, and Tom Morris

President Jay Rust called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: **Leslie Miller** made a motion to approve the Agenda for the Annual Meeting and **Paula Kauffman** seconded the motion. The Members unanimously approved the motion.

Approval of Minutes from October 25, 2016: The Members unanimously approved the Minutes of the October 25, 2016 Annual Meeting.

Treasurer’s Report: Paula Kauffman, Treasurer, made the following report:

2015 Holiday Card Fundraiser Net Profit: \$252.78 Current Balance: \$19.56
Some Annual Expenses: Chun Membership Fee: \$35 INC Membership: \$40
Colorado Annual State Registration Fee: \$10 Annual Meeting Expenses: \$100+
Other Donations made in the name of FANS:
District 6 Police Department Children’s Halloween Party: \$100
Holiday cookies/cards for Dist. 6 Police Dept. and Parks and Rec. Staff: \$120+

New Business:

Capital Improvement Projects for Cheesman Park – Greg Sorensen

Councilman Wayne New introduced a new process this year to invite citizens of District 10 to propose projects to the City for inclusion in the Capital Budget Request Process. FANS CP, Chessman Park Advocacy Group (CPAG) and Friends of Little Cheesman (FOLC) all submitted projects for consideration: \$300,000 to repair and replace the Cheesman Fountain Basins; \$100,000 to repair and replace the cracked and crumbling concrete pad and steps surrounding the Pavilion and in the Rose Gardens; \$250,000 to redesign and renovate the dangerous and unsightly Cheesman running/walking paths and street crossings at many intersections in the Park; additional Park Rangers to address safety and escalating drug use issues in Little Cheesman and the surrounding neighborhood.

Park Ranger Report – Jay Rust

Park Ranger contacts for Cheesman Park and the Esplanade January 1 – April 30, 2016: Patrol Hours – 131; Contacts – 1502; Service Calls – 20; Violations – 909; Citations – 109. (Contacts with visitors include: assistance (first aid, etc.) information and rules' education.) Jay thanked Park Ranger Joshua Glover for compiling the report and commended the Rangers for all they are doing in our parks. More Rangers are needed to address the many issues in all the parks. Please call 311 at any time to report any concerns in the park. Remember to call 911 to report any emergencies.

Recycled Water – Jay Rust

The City formed an Advisory Committee comprised of members from Denver Water, Parks and Recreation, Scientists from CSU, and Denver Citizens. The focus of the Committee is to study the effects of recycled water on conifer trees. Last year Washington Park lost 45 trees (mostly conifers), and they are losing 3% of their trees per year. There are concerns with the effects of large concentration of salts in the soils from recycled water that has been used to irrigate the park for many years. In June of 2016 Parks did tissue samples of the needles and soil from 20 conifer trees in Cheesman since the park is being watered with recycled water for the past few years. Parks is testing for a wide range of substances – mostly salts – in 20 locations in the park. They hope to have results of this testing by the end of the year.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) – Jay Rust

Jay is Councilman New's appointment to PRAB. PRAB recently reviewed and supported Parks and Recreation's newly developed rules and regulations for permitting and managing the Special Events in the City. The new regulations go a long way to improving the permitting process itself; however, only time will tell how effective the new rules are at managing the effects of 600+ large and small events throughout the City and in our Parks each year.

As a part of the Special Events Policy, the maximum "event capacity" was determined for each Park in the City. This capacity was determined by factoring in traffic for the event, parking availability, access to public transportation, and square footage of the event site. Cheesman's capacity was originally set at 30,000 people but was later revised down to 11,000. Even that seems an enormous number considering the density of the Cheesman Park neighborhood with limited parking.

Historic Events in Cheesman (those that have been permitted in the Park for more than 2 years) can pose the most hardship on the neighborhood. Once established, it becomes more difficult to effect change to the event. The Arts Fest is a good example. In spite of many neighborhood complaints about parking, traffic, cooking odors and noise from generators going 24 hours a day near Cheesman residences, little has changed and the event has been allowed to increase the number of booths and people each year.

Game Plan Revision – Jay Rust

Denver has experienced considerable growth since 2003. Because of these changes, it's time to think about the continued evolution of our Denver Parks and Recreation system, taking into

account the city's population growth, changing recreational needs, as well as sustainability and resilience in the face of climate change. We are invited to help update the Game Plan, and build the framework for future DPR investments and policy.

Through community involvement, the Game Plan will help Denver Parks and Recreation identify and address key issues, opportunities and challenges; changing demographics, climate change realities and pressures from increased visitor usage.

Our input can help define:

- Areas for new parks and recreation centers
- Types of programs that are relevant to the communities they are intended to serve
- How existing parks and recreation centers are maintained and enhanced.

2016 Holiday Card Fundraiser for FANS and CPAG – Greg Sorensen and Kathleen Rust

Once again the Cheesman Park Advocacy Group (CPAG) is offering sets of holiday cards. This year two sets are being offered. One set of cards features five different views of the Cheesman Park Pavilion in both winter and summer, and the other set features photos of roses in the beds to the north and south of the pavilion. Each set includes 5 cards for \$15, which includes a \$5 donation to CPAG. For all cards sold by FANS for Cheesman Park, CPAG will make a donation to FANS. The Internal Revenue Service recognizes CPAG as a 501(c) (3) organization, and donations are deductible to the extent that the law allows.

Please make your check payable to the Cheesman Park Advocacy.

Other Business:

Neighborhood Planning Initiative – Kathleen Rust

North Capitol Hill, Capitol Hill, City Park West, Cheesman Park, City Park and Congress Park neighborhoods will participate in the first phase of a new, accelerated schedule for creating and updating small neighborhood plans. These neighborhoods will be included in the East Central area plan and that process will begin in the second quarter of 2017. The plan calls for creating area plans for 19 neighborhood groups, covering every Denver neighborhood, over the next 10 to 14 years. The process will include traditional and non-traditional methods for engaging residents in the process. Under the city's prior approach, it would have taken 80 years to do these all these individual plans. The planning process itself should take 18 to 24 months. For more information, go to denvergov.org/neighborhoodplanning.

Welcome to the new Commander for District Six – Commander Ronald Saunier. The former Commander, Tony Lopez, now works out at DIA.

Board Elections: The Current Board Members – Jay Rust, Greg Sorensen, Paula Kauffman, and Kathleen Rust, were re-elected by the Membership by Acclamation.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

