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Subject: CB14-0941 Zoo's Gasification Certificate
Date: Monday, December 15, 2014 3:34:05 PM

I write to urge City Council to delay a Second Reading of the proposed Bill CB14-0941 to authorize the Zoo to operate an industrial process in City Park.

To be very clear, the issue is not a referendum on the very laudable goal of sustainability or even on waste to energy processing. Rather, the issue in front of Council is one of **oversight**.

You have visual evidence (see photos below) illustrating what failure of oversight has produced so far: an industrial facility sits as a wart on the landscape; a permanent defacement of City Park, planted in the very midst of its most historic and heavily used areas.

Another recent illustration of the Zoo's lack of regard for City Park occurred during its Boo at the Zoo event. The Zoo and Denver Parks & Recreation worked together to treat City Park as the Zoo's overflow parking lot:

- Signs posted at the 23rd Avenue entrance read "Lots Full - Try City Park."
- Motor coaches patrolled City Park throughout the 2-day event, shuttling passengers from stops labeled with large animal banners.
- Parks and Recreation "helpfully" cleared City Park's event calendar for the weekend.

And just last week, more turf was torn out along Ferril Lake to make way for a concrete roadway up to the Bandstand (see photos below).

The Manager of Parks and Recreation has unilaterally declared that the Zoo's waste process is a valid use of parkland, and did not even deign to notify the public of her decision. Do you believe that one political appointee, who has no credentials in Industrial, Mechanical or Manufacturing engineering or in power generation, should make this decision without public scrutiny? It may be legally authorized by current Denver ordinance, but is this appropriate? Is it good management or stewardship to place so much control in the hands of a single appointed official, who is not even required to reside in the City and County of Denver?

The Zoo asks to begin operation of its industrial plant while insisting that disclosure of specific data concerning impacts: noise, emissions, deliveries, and so on - would expose Confidential Business information. You can not rely solely on the Colorado Dept of Public Health and Environment to regulate the Zoo's industrial process. The state's permit considers ONLY emissions - they have told us that:

"The APCD has reviewed your comments on the draft permit for the project at the Denver Zoo, Your comments include issues around community awareness, land use and noise. The Division does not have the authority to deny a permit based on these issues. These issues are addressed at the local and/or county level."

Consider this very carefully, please. You are talking about an industrial process in a public park- in fact, City Park, the "Crown Jewel of the Queen City" - in the midst of residential neighborhoods, with no oversight by the City and County of Denver. Really? Citizens have asked for "Family Weekends" free of events in City Park. We don't even merit a hearing on that suggestion - it's viewed as "controversial." But the Zoo can build an industrial facility and use it to convert poop to electricity without scrutiny or input regarding its impact on City Park and its users?

Before you consider a Second Reading of the proposed Bill, please give consideration to City Park, the historic Denver "jewel" whose stewardship has been so neglected. I ask you to take two steps:

1. Begin the process of establishing an oversight body to provide a means to engage citizens in the process of making decisions that impact City Park, modeled after the Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC) in the Denver Botanic Gardens. Show your good faith by waiting to consider this bill at least until the outlines of a proposed structure are in place.
2. Take a tour of City Park, guided by a City Park neighborhood resident who knows the history of the park.

Please, don't rubber-stamp operation of an industrial process in City Park, the "Crown Jewel of the Queen City." Wait until oversight and control mechanisms are in place that will ensure success for the Zoo while protecting our City Park, its users, and neighborhoods.

Thank you,
Nancy Francis, City Park West resident



New roadway from south shore of Ferril Lake to Bandstand - December 15, 2014



View of new roadway from Bandstand looking south.



Zoo's Plant as seen from North Side of Ferril Lake, inside City Park - taken November 29, 2014.



View from Duck Lake - where children stand to watch birds



View of mulching machine from City Park Road near Pavilion parking area



View of Zoo's plant from Pavilion parking area



View of Zoo's Plant from City Park Pavilion