From:	Dave Felice
To:	dencc - City Council
Subject:	Zoo Master Plan
Date:	Monday, April 20, 2015 3:18:38 PM
Attachments:	pastedGraphic.pdf

ACity Council Members:

As a member of Greater Park Hill Community, I am writing to ask you to determine if our RNO has been given sufficient notice for our membership to consider the Denver Zoo's request to build 27 oversize (greater than 3000 sq ft) buildings over a 20-year period. City Council plans to vote on this issue tonight, April 20, 2015.

According to Municipal Code, the only information that the Zoo is required to present is a one-page map showing the locations of the proposed buildings. However, also according to Municipal Code, every affected RNO is supposed to be given the opportunity for public comment based on an informed discussion and vote of their membership.

It's my understanding that a notice went out to RNOs on April 10, 2015, indicating that there would be a hearing at Council on April 20, 2015, and claiming that this met the requirement for notification. Whether you agree or not with that interpretation, it would certainly seem to be the case that 10 days does not provide adequate opportunity for RNOs to collect information for their members, meet, discuss, and vote on an issue that will affect their neighborhood for decades to come. In fact, it is my belief that the notice was not sent to GPHC.

Please see the one-page map below that is the basis for the Zoo's request to Council, and here is a link to their Master Plan:
http://denverzoomasterplan.org/sites/denverzoo.engagingplans.org/files/pdf/140911%20pp%201-72%20BAMP_small.pdf

While Zoo officials believe that they've asked for feedback, their efforts have focused on asking potential visitors to react to the new exhibits and buildings. They have not asked the City Park neighborhoods for feedback on how such an extensive building program and concomitant increased visitorship will affect the neighbors of City Park and City Park itself over the next 20 years. The world outside the perimeter of the Zoo is where we live, and they just don't seem to understand that.

Construction impacts for a 20 year period need to have a well-defined process that includes public input and review. This should include public meetings to disclose plans & schedules; rules about what & when park roads can be used to access construction sites; rules about traffic planning and detours, especially considering 23rd Avenue, which has become a significant commuter route for commuters - both car and bike - on weekdays; rules about the location and management of construction yard & worker parking; and impacts on users of City Park. I believe that City Council needs to ask city departments such as Traffic Engineering (traffic impacts), Environmental Health (noise), and probably others, to assist us in evaluating the impacts of this plan on our neighborhoods and on City Park.

Furthermore, a 20 year construction period is very long and could be considered open-ended. With our unprecedented growth and increasing density, It is would be better for Council to consider giving the Zoo limited permission - such as an expiration after 5 years - after which its process and the impact on neighborhoods can be re-evaluated and, if appropriate, renewed by the sitting Council at the time.

Thank you,
Dave Felice