

From: nfrancis@me.com
To: [dencc - City Council](#); [Brooks, Albus - City Council District 8](#); [Robb, Jeanne - City Council Dist. #10](#); [kniechatlarge](#); [Deborah Ortega - Councilwoman At Large](#); [Shepherd, Susan K. - City Council District 1](#); [Faatz, Jeanne R. - City Council Dist #2](#); [Lopez, Paul D. - City Council Dist #3](#); [Lehmann, Peggy A. - City Council Dist #4](#); [Susman, Mary Beth - City Council](#); [Brown, Charlie - City Council District #6](#); [Nevitt, Chris - City Council Dist #7](#); [Montero, Judy H. - City Council District #9](#); [Herndon, Christopher J. - City Council District 11](#)
Cc: [Shannon Block](#); [MileHighMayor - Mayor's Office](#); [Dannemiller, Lauri J. - PR Administration Division](#); [Jon Murray](#); [Joe Vaccarelli](#); [Alan Prendergast](#); [charlesbonniwell@yahoo.com](#); [Editor@LifeOnCapHill.com](#); [Susan Barnes-Gelt](#); [CPFAN - City Park Friends and Neighbors](#); [cpnboard@congressparkneighbors.org](#); [Bonita Lahey](#); [whittierpresident@gmail.com](#); [chair@greaterparkhill.org](#); [Deborah Fard](#); [Larry Ambrose](#); [INC Parks and Recreation Committee](#); [Hank Bootz](#); [Linda Drake](#); [Dave Felice](#); [Georgia Garnsey](#); [J D MacFarlane](#); [Tom Korson](#); [Tom Morris](#); [LaMone Noles](#); [Louis Plachowski](#); [Bridget Walsh](#)
Subject: Certificate of Designation for the Denver Zoo's Animal Waste/Energy Program
Date: Monday, December 01, 2014 2:44:32 PM

December 1, 2014

Denver City Council
Dear Council Members:

We, the undersigned individuals, residents of City Park neighborhoods, write to express our concerns regarding the Denver Zoo's animal waste reprocessing plant, and our dismay at its location inside City Park. We are responding to the announcement of your Infrastructure and Culture Committee meeting on Wednesday, December 3, at which you plan to discuss this issue.

You may wonder why we bother to write to you now. After all, the plant's construction was completed two years ago, the Zoo has received kudos and awards for their forward-thinking and energy-conscious design, Walmart has donated \$1.2M worth of micro-turbine generators. What's left to say? What's not to like?

While we commend the Zoo's determination to cut energy costs by burning animal waste products, the location of this plant appears to us to indicate a complete lack of regard by the Denver Zoo and the City Administration (Denver Parks & Recreation) for the formerly pastoral park that houses the Zoo and for the people who use it to unwind from the pressures of city living or to get a small taste of being at peace in a verdant landscape. Had the Zoo placed their industrial facility within the interior of the Zoo or along their 23rd Avenue border, which has nothing but fences, gates, and parking, then its impact would have been contained to the Zoo.

To our knowledge none of the RNOs and neighborhood groups who received notice of this project were told the gigantic machine to convert fuel to energy, along with its buildings and gate, would be fronting City Park Road, just yards away and very visible from:

- the historic City Park Pavilion and Band Shell
- the Duck Pond where children gather to watch the birds
- Ferril Lake
- the Rose Garden where weddings and other events take place
- the Historic Burns Garden where different groups meet to celebrate Robert Burns and his poetry and hold other events

Whereas the revamped Denver Zoning Code, enacted in 2010, sought to simplify and re-categorize private and City land in ways that would streamline their management and development, an unintended - or perhaps intended - major consequence is that, with the removal of City Council from the process, representation of the voices of Denver citizens has been summarily excised from any kind of substantive input on the use of City properties, such as this.

The "new and improved" zoning code, coupled with the City's 1998 Agreement with the Zoo, enables the Manager of Parks and Recreation to wield total control over land use in City Park. The wisdom of the citizens is never sought, their preferences and reasoning are not considered, and we are ignored through opaque "public" processes whereby City Council committees rubber-stamp their approvals of any project or policy promulgated by the City Administration.

So when the City undertakes projects truly harmful to the greater public good, Denver citizens are left with announcements of *faits accomplis*, such as this week's committee hearing on the Zoo's proposal to burn waste products to generate energy. Such a procedure guarantees that concerned citizens will rally to object strenuously. That which you assumed to be simple and efficient is in actuality autocratic.

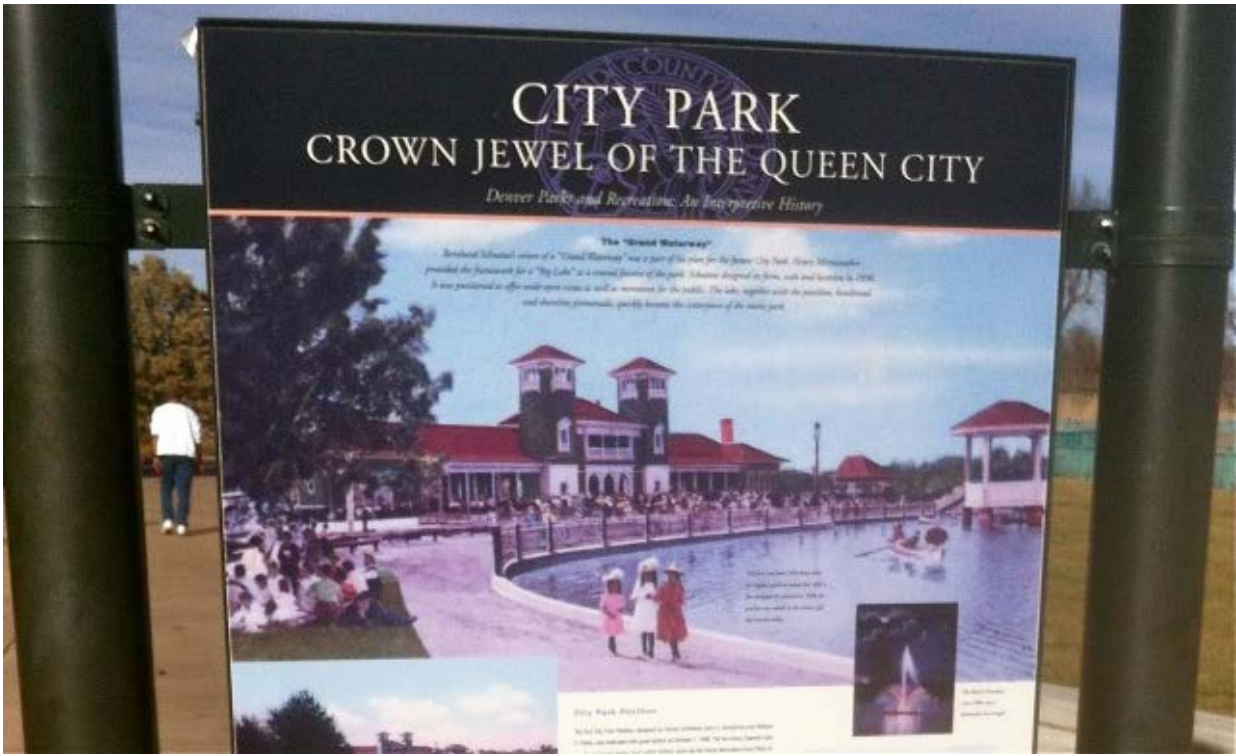
When power generation operations inevitably begin in the Zoo's City Park industrial plant, will the animal waste mulching machine produce loud noise in these areas of parkland used extensively by park-goers? Will there be a stench, created by the stored excrement or its processing, that wafts into the park? The sight of the gigantic machine is visible throughout the north-central part of the park. Anyone walking along Ferril Lake's shore sees it, even sitting on benches across the lake. The Zoo took care to shield *their* visitors from this industrial section of their facility, inflicting it instead on people using City Park. And the Zoo has made no effort to soften or shield the view of the complex—with its huge, ugly machine, hardscape industrial setting, and prison-style gate-through setbacks, vines or other plantings, attractive screens, or other means.

We've included some photos for those of you who aren't familiar with the view presented by the Zoo's industrial complex, which City Park visitors can't avoid. As you look at them, ask yourself if you'd include these images in a City Park brochure.

Georgia Garnsey has offered to take anyone interested on a tour of this once-beautiful part of our historic City Park. We encourage every member of City Council to accept Georgia's offer, and thereby experience what has been done to City Park, before you cast your vote to approve the commencement of electric power generation by the Zoo. It's the least effort you can make to give respect to the "Crown Jewel of the Queen City."

Hank Bootz, Park Hill
Linda Drake, Park Hill
Dave Felice, Park Hill
Nancy Francis, City Park West
Georgia Garnsey, Park Hill
JD MacFarlane, Park Hill
Tom Korson, Park Hill
Tom Morris, South City Park
Lamone Noles, Park Hill
Louis Plachowski, Park Hill
Bridget Walsh, Park Hill

cc: Shannon Block, CEO, Denver Zoo
Mayor Michael Hancock
Lauri Dannemiller, Executive Director, Denver Parks & Recreation
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Alan Prendergast, Westword
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Whittier Neighborhood Association
Greater Park Hill Community
North City Park Civic Association
Congress Park Neighbors
Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC) and INC Parks and Recreation Committee



Denver's "Crown Jewel"



Zoo's Plant as seen from North Side of Ferril Lake, inside City Park



View from Duck Lake - where children stand to watch birds



View of mulching machine from City Park Road



View of Zoo's Plant from City Park Pavilion

From: maribethclemm@gmail.com on behalf of [Maribeth Clemm](#)
To: [dencc - City Council](#)
Subject: Support for the Denver Zoo Waste Disposal System
Date: Monday, December 01, 2014 7:39:57 PM

Hello,

I am a resident of City Park South and I fully support the Denver Zoo's proposed waste disposal system and urge the City Council to approve the plan.

Thank you,
Maribeth Clemm
Fillmore St
Denver, CO 80206

From: [go hyde](#)
To: [Smith, Shelley - City Council](#); [dencc - City Council](#); [coreteam](#)
Subject: Public Comment Tomorrow
Date: Monday, December 01, 2014 7:26:33 PM

Hello,

My name is Marcus Hyde. I live and work at the Denver Catholic Worker, a hospitality house for people who are currently experiencing homelessness in Denver. I also do some advocacy work with people who are experiencing homelessness. I'm told that there will be a city council committee meeting tomorrow concerning the proposed "solutions center". As a person who works with and for homeless people in Denver, I sincerely hope that there will be time allotted tomorrow for public comment. Is this the case?

Please let me know, as there are plenty of homeless providers, advocates and homeless individuals themselves who ought to weigh in on this use of public funds if those funds are indeed meant to provide "solutions" to homelessness.

Sincerely,
Marcus Hyde
Denver Catholic Worker
303-296-6390

From: [Chip Irving](#)
To: [dence - City Council](#)
Subject: Request for public comment
Date: Monday, December 01, 2014 9:31:08 PM

To whom it may concern:

As a 4th generation Denver native and a resident of Park Hill, I am adding my signature to the letter below.

I have been incensed at the insensitivity of the current mayor and his staff to the issues presented herein. With the recent development of the Elephant Passage exhibit, the Denver Zoo, with the complicity of the city, has turned the area of the park adjacent to Duck Lake into a forlorn, ugly alley, not to mention stealing a section of land along the road to the north of Ferrill Lake.

This urgently needs to be mitigated; to worsen the situation by starting up the waste processing facility is an insult, a showing of bad faith, and a betrayal of the neighbors who have supported the zoo with taxes and votes.

I vividly recall when citizens' objections to the playground were heeded last year, and that project was tabled. Please listen to us now.

Sincerely,
John W. Irving, Jr.
4063 E 17th Ave Pkwy

December 1, 2014

Denver City Council
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approve the commencement of electric power generation by the Zoo. It's the least effort you can make to give respect to the "Crown Jewel of the Queen City."

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cc: Shannon Block, CEO, Denver Zoo
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Congress Park Neighbors
Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC) and INC Parks and Recreation Committee

From: [Ray Lyall](#)
To: [go hyde](#)
Cc: [Smith, Shelley - City Council](#); [denncc - City Council](#); [coreteam](#)
Subject: Re: Public Comment Tomorrow
Date: Tuesday, December 02, 2014 8:15:54 AM

NICE!

||

What is important to the people you're representing isn't: Did you win the fight? What is important is: Did you put up a fight? Did you take a

||

stand? Are you willing to lick your wounds and keep fighting again tomorrow.

"Ain't No Rest For The Wicked!" ;>/

On Mon, Dec 1, 2014 at 7:25 PM, go hyde <gohyde@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello,

My name is Marcus Hyde. I live and work at the Denver Catholic Worker, a hospitality house for people who are currently experiencing homelessness in Denver. I also do some advocacy work with people who are experiencing homelessness. I'm told that there will be a city council committee meeting tomorrow concerning the proposed "solutions center". As a person who works with and for homeless people in Denver, I sincerely hope that there will be time allotted tomorrow for public comment. Is this the case?

Please let me know, as there are plenty of homeless providers, advocates and homeless individuals themselves who ought to weigh in on this use of public funds if those funds are indeed meant to provide "solutions" to homelessness.

Sincerely,
Marcus Hyde
Denver Catholic Worker
[303-296-6390](tel:303-296-6390)

From: [Tom Morris](#)
To: [dencc - City Council](#)
Subject: Park Use
Date: Monday, December 15, 2014 1:59:29 PM

> Members of City Council,

>

> The Denver City Charter identifies the branch of government responsible for the city's land use as City Council. In 2010 you assigned that responsibility in regard to our parks to the Manager of Parks and Recreation. Several controversies have arisen over that policy.

>

> This latest one involves the Manager approving as a "Park Use" a fecal-matter-to-energy operation adjacent to the Pavilion, to the main road in the park and to those of us who use the park as a location for exercise. Inasmuch as the District Court denied a ruling that the city's Park and Recreation Department's offices were a legal "Park Use," for the Pavilion, it would appear that some sort of public process should have been conducted on the question of a plainly industrial use in City Park.

>

> Since the issue was decided unilaterally by the Manager, Council, as the Charter custodian of city land use, should require a public hearing with public notice prior to final approval of this significant land use decision.

>

> Tom Morris

> City Park

> Denver

From: MBJ@skybeam.com
To: [dencc - City Council](#)
Subject: Public Comment Request
Date: Monday, December 01, 2014 5:13:18 PM

Re: Consideration of Zoo's On-Site Waste Disposal System in view of City Park.

Please, Denver's City Park is a Denver jewel that has been gradually taken away from the public with the expansion of the Museum and the Zoo.

A Waste Disposal System which emits odors and sound and is in view of City Park will be a direct affront and attack against the original intent of the Park.

It is beyond understanding why City Park, one of the few free respites of grace and public enjoyment, seems to be constantly under attack. The public needs grass and trees and space to walk through, to unwind and calmly enjoy. It is also our heritage as Denver citizens.

Please do not allow this Waste Disposal System travesty to occur in City Park.

Sincerely,

B. J. Stratman and family
2990 E. 17th Ave. #1804
Denver, CO 80206

From: [Georgia Garnsey](#)
To: [Bridget Walsh](#)
Cc: [dencc - City Council](#); [Felice Dave](#); [Korson Tom Korsin](#)
Subject: Re: zoo and city park
Date: Friday, November 28, 2014 5:17:55 PM

The large machine showcased at the west end of the Asian Elephant Receiving Area IS the machine that has been purchased to grind up animal waste in order to produce energy for the Zoo. Noise, smell, ugliness? All for us in plain view. Now an Industrial Area is proposed for Cit Park.

Georgia

Sent from my iPhone

> On Nov 28, 2014, at 4:52 PM, Bridget Walsh <denverbridget@gmail.com> wrote:

>

> the waste project sounds interesting.

> the zoos record of considering the impact of its projects on the park is not good. a case in point is the south edge of the elephant exhibit. there seemed to be no awareness at the zoo that the loading dock for the elephant exhibit was the primary view from the historic Pavillion and the promenade around Ferril Lake. the truck and other pieces of industrial equipment dont help along with the new parking lot and razor wire topper.

> will any part of the new waste system be visible from any part of the park?

> thanks for your consideration.

>

> Warmest regards,

> "Bridget" Eileen Walsh

> Real Estate Broker

> DenverWelcomeHome.com

> 720-440-3562

> Bridget@DenverWelcomeHome.com

> Sent from my iPhone

From: [Georgia Garnsey](#)
To: [dencc - City Council](#)
Subject: Zoo's proposal to burn waste materials for energy.
Date: Friday, November 28, 2014 4:59:51 PM

Whereas I commend the Zoo's determination to cut energy costs by burning animal waste products, I am very alarmed by where this industrial activity is slated to take place in City Park. I believe none of the RNOs and neighborhood groups who received notice of this project were told the gigantic machine to convert fuel to energy is fronting City Park Road, yards from and very visible to the historic City Park Pavilion; The Duck Pond where children gather to watch the birds; The Rose Garden where weddings and other events take place; the Historic Scottish Garden where different groups meet to celebrate Robert Burns and his poetry and other events.

Will there be loud noise generated by the animal waste mulching machine in these areas of parkland used extensively by park-goers? Will there be a stench created by the process that wafts into the park? The sight of the gigantic machine is already visible throughout this northwest part of the park. Anyone walking along the lake shore sees it or even sitting on benches across the lake and unfortunately, the Zoo has made no effort to soften or shield the huge and very ugly machine with vines or attractive screens or other means. I would be happy to take anyone interested on a tour of this once-beautiful part of our historic Olmsted Park.

I am alarmed by this development and what seems to be a complete lack of regard for the beautiful park that houses the Zoo. I would like the Zoo to offer off-site or alternate sites for this industrial venture. Its present location is inappropriate and shows, I fear, a complete lack of respect for or interest in City Park and those who use it to unwind from the pressures of city living and get a small taste of being in the country.

Sincerely,

Georgia Garnsey
Park Hill
303-377-5125

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Bridget Walsh](#)
To: [dence - City Council](#)
Cc: [Felice Dave](#); [Georgia Garnsey](#); [Korson Tom Korsin](#)
Subject: zoo and city park
Date: Friday, November 28, 2014 4:52:42 PM

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Warmest regards,
"Bridget" Eileen Walsh
Real Estate Broker
DenverWelcomeHome.com
720-440-3562
Bridget@DenverWelcomeHome.com
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Bridget Walsh](#)
To: [dence - City Council](#)
Cc: [Felice Dave](#); [Georgia Garnsey](#); [Korson Tom Korsin](#)
Subject: zoo and city park
Date: Friday, November 28, 2014 4:52:42 PM

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thanks for your consideration.

Warmest regards,
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