

## Coffee Notes – August 27, 2007

Topic: Parks

Speaker: Steve Zoet filled in at the last moment since Jim Urland had a previous commitment.

A resident expressed a concern about graffiti on sidewalks and how difficult it was to remove from the porous material.

A resident said she saw a vehicle with flashing lights going up and down her street the week before and wondered what it might be.

The Mayor responded that it sounded like a mosquito-spraying vehicle because of an increase in the number of mosquitoes in Northglenn this month.

A resident asked about the status of the Clean Sweep Program.

The Mayor said that a report was being prepared for City Council regarding the effects of the Clean Sweep program.

A resident asked if there was any possibility for improved opportunity for public input during City Council study sessions.

The Mayor said that more public input was possible, but the nature of the study sessions usually resulted in low attendance and that the final decision would have to be up to the entire City Council.

A resident asked if anything was being done to improve Code Enforcement.

The Mayor referred to the City Manager's reorganization plan for Code Enforcement and noted that finding the right combination of enforcement and leniency was a work in progress. She said that people who being cited were generally upset about the citations, but eventually complied with City Codes, and that there are still people who feel that not enough is being done.

A resident asked if there was any way to require a certain education level for council members.

The Mayor answered that such requirements would be something that could be looked at by the Charter Review Committee. She also said that while she believes it is good for council members to have some kind of qualifications, she didn't know if setting a list of criteria would be the best way to ensure council is made up of quality people. The best thing that could be done, she said, was for residents to vote for people they feel are best qualified.

Another resident asked if there were any way for residents to comment on staff presentations during study sessions.

At this time, Steve Zoet took the floor to answer questions relating to parks and recreation.

A resident asked about the City's mosquito abatement plans.

Mr. Zoet said the City contracts with other neighboring municipalities and Colorado Mosquito Control in an effort to affect mosquito populations on a regional, rather than local level. He said that there is a high count of the culex mosquito, the species responsible for carrying the West Nile Virus, between 104<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 112<sup>th</sup> Ave. Because of this residents would most like see fogging or spraying in the neighborhoods along that corridor.

A resident asked if the fogging chemicals were toxic.

Mr. Zoet replied that they are supposed to be safe for adults, children and pets. The actual chemical is odorless.

A resident added that the fogging on his street smelled of citrus and Mr. Zoet said that it is possible they add citrus scent to the chemicals so people know when they are in an area that has been sprayed.

A resident asked if the City has inquired about federal grant money available for mosquito abatement.

Mr. Zoet said no, but that it was worth looking into.

A resident raised a concern about dogs running free (off leashes) in public parks. He was inquiring about the possibility of adding language to the bottom of signs that say dogs must be on a leash and to innumerate the dollar amount of the fines.

Mr. Zoet responded that there were already fines in place, through Animal Control, to punish dog owners that let their dogs run in open areas and public parks. Raising those fines would be the responsibility of City Council.

A resident complained about muck moved to the open space park surrounding the Thede-Stonehocker Farmhouse.

Mr. Zoet said he knew snow was dumped there during the snowstorm, and it is possible that some of the snow contained gravel and sand that was placed on snow-covered roads to add traction, but he disagreed that any muck was dumped on the property. Mr. Zoet agreed to meet the gentleman at the site to see what he was referring to when it became clear that a meeting between Mr. Zoet and Joyce Downing had not, in fact, taken place as the resident believed.

A resident asked about the algae blooms in the lake at Windburn Park. Mr. Zoet said he was aware of the situation and had already contacted Jim Umland to look into resolving the problem.

A resident asked about the daytime watering of the 104<sup>th</sup> trail project.

Mr. Zoet replied that the daytime watering should diminish, if not disappear all together once the recently laid sod roots were established. Then watering would probably take place at other times of the day. It was important to water the sod during the hottest parts of the day to make sure the grass survived through the warmest parts of summer.

A resident asked about the puddles on the sidewalk due to the watering of the sod.

Mr. Zoet explained about the punch list— was a list of modifications to be made and things to be fixed on the project before it is completely finished. The identified modifications and fixes would be done at the contractor's expense and are standard part of larger projects such as this.