

**CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES**

September 20, 2012

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

7350 E. 29th Ave., Suite 300

**CAB Members Present:** Nadine Caldwell, Bar Chadwick, Diane Deeter, Laura Edler, John Fernandez, Elizabeth Garner, Donna Garnett, Tim Habben, Khadija Haynes, Councilman Chris Herndon, Shannon Jones, Alice Kelly, Damon Knop, Sgt. Eric Knutson, Steve Larson, Jon Metzger, Barbara Neal, David Netz, Dennis Piper, Carol Roberts, **FC:** Tom Gleason, **SF:** Beverly Haddon, Leslie Joseph, Angie Malpiede, **SDC:** Cheryl Cohen-Vader, Rick Gonzales, **SCRG:** Kate Kramer,

**Call to Order:** David Netz called the meeting to order. The August 16, 2012, meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

**Co-Chair Report:** David Netz reported that it is time for performance review and at some point there will be a breakout session with committee heads to discuss how to do the process. They will go filing by filing to see what is open and what is left to be done.

Also, that night, of September 20, at the rec center, the Stapleton Transit Partners is doing its outreach to the Stapleton area for the station design. He encouraged representatives from the CAB to attend and he had a schedule conflict and could not go.

***Partner Cities Updates:***

- **City of Denver:** No written report.  
Councilman Herndon reported that on Monday, September 24, there will be a one hour public hearing for the Central Park station plan at city council. He thanked Cheryl Cohen-Vader and Lucia Correll for their editorials in the *Stapleton Front Porch* in response to a resident who was in opposition to the connector streets along Fulton, Kingston and Iola Streets. He has received emails from constituents who have stated that they are supportive of the connections because of the articles in the *Front Porch*.
- **City of Aurora:** No written report.  
John Fernandez reported that Kiewit Construction has gotten the notice to proceed, from RTD, to begin construction along the I-225 light rail line. They have 60 days to provide a schedule for construction. It is expected that they will be working all along the line at the same time. Utility relocation will begin in January 2013, with construction kicking into high gear in the spring of 2013. The City of Aurora has just finished the environment impact statement process to replace the Montview bridge where Westerly Creek goes under Montview Blvd. They've just been given the finding of no significant impact which will enable them to obtain FEMA funds to rebuild the bridge next year – which will mitigate flood damage since the bridge acts as a dam right now. The funds will allow for a pedestrian/bike path underneath Montview Blvd. connecting Montview Park to the south with Stapleton to the north. It is expected that there will be some impact to some Stapleton improvements, which, in turn, will be replaced. A redo of Montview Park on the Aurora side will cost \$700,000 to \$1 million.

Nadine Caldwell reported that the councilperson for NW Aurora has resigned and they are in the process of filling that spot.

The grocery store at Montview Blvd. and Dayton has not opened yet so it's looking like maybe October.

New artwork along Colfax includes large colored light bulbs, programmed by computer, strung along the rooftops of the buildings between Dayton and Florence.

David Netz and Nadine Caldwell joined the northwest Aurora walking tour and found it quite interesting and suggested that there should be more of them in which the Eastbridge residents be encouraged to attend in light of the impending street opening.

### ***Committee Reports:***

- **Communications:** Written report submitted.  
Denver Parks has recently set prairie dog traps along Westerly Creek. Concern was raised that although PAG was notified, SUN was not. All parties need to work on improving communications between the city and the other entities such as cc's. Some better way of getting information from CAB would solve some problems. David Netz suggested that it would be good for the CAB and SUN to meet together before the joint community meetings. As Stapleton transitions from a planning community to an existing community it will require new definitions of the communication lines.
- **Design Review:** No written report.  
Laura Edler reported that the commercial meeting was postponed until September 21. In addition there was to be a second meeting scheduled for that week. They will be working on two different projects. At this time, there is no set schedule for either entity of the design review committee, commercial or residential. No volunteer representative to CAB from the residential entity has been found.
- **Membership:** No oral or written report.  
Lucia Correll has volunteered to take over as the chairperson of the Membership committee. This was accepted wholeheartedly by those in attendance.
- **Housing Diversity:** No oral or written report.  
Damon reported that he has received the latest Forest City housing snapshot, but has not had a chance to provide to the full CAB. He is expecting to send it out after the meeting. Highlights: Apartments under construction or finished: After Eastbridge Apartments (118 units) are finished, affordable housing will be at 15%. Then there will be the opening of the Mercy and Bluff Lake Apartments and grading has been done for an additional 350 units at Willow and Northfield Blvd.
- **Parks Advisory Group:** Oral and written report submitted.  
Dennis Piper reported on the progress on the Stapleton high school, which is now being referred to as the Northfield Campus. DPS hopes to fund the buildings and the infrastructure on 20 acres with monies received from the upcoming bond issue on the November ballot. Football, baseball and tennis venues will also be funded

with DPS bonds. Denver Parks has been in very preliminary talks with the Colorado Rapids youth soccer club, who might be interested in developing a soccer field adjacent to the site. Now they are working on two entrances, one off of 56<sup>th</sup> avenue and one off of Central Park Blvd. For starters, they will build 2 buildings to house 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades – 900 students. Discussion followed regarding the number of entrances and the vacant lands surrounding the school. At a meeting with DPS, SUN education committee, Bev Haddon, J.T. Allen and Tim Habben, the architect, on Monday September 17 to discuss the community meeting to be held on October 4 where they will showcase and answer questions afterward.

Donna Garnett reported on the 26<sup>th</sup> avenue park. Most of the meeting was taken up with the 2 acre square park, at the corner of 26<sup>th</sup> and Fulton Street, which will include a playground. 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue will be narrowed from 60' to 48'.

Regarding the Westerly Creek North remediation, DIA was asked to revise its qualifications for contractors, which is delaying remediation.

PAG will be coming to CAB for support to in clarifying information, regarding horses in Stapleton, to Denver Parks and Recreation.

A letter went out to the Stapleton Moms website, explaining the trapping of prairie dogs.

- **Zoning & Planning:** No written report.

Tom Gleason reported on the newest proposed market rate rental senior housing development, at MLK Blvd. and Syracuse Street, which will contain 180 units and will be for very active seniors. A second senior housing market rate rental at the corner of MLK Blvd. and Ulster is also proposed. Both of these developments are in recognition that seniors should be encouraged to live in Stapleton. Along those same lines for people who want to purchase, the developers in the newer neighborhoods are offering more first floor masters for people who don't want to climb stairs.

- **Transportation:** Written report submitted.

Angie Malpiede reported that RTD is posting a propose January 2013 service change which will provide bus service between Stapleton and Fitzsimons – route 89. There will be a public hearing at the Central Park Rec center to discuss this issue on Thursday, September 27 at 7:00 p.m. The route 89 bus will go from Fitzsimons, up MLK in front of the new Bluff Lake apartments of Mercy housing, to the Central Park Rec Center and then up to the transfer center. For those who were unable to attend, Angie asked that they write a letter of support for the bus service. Khadija Haynes recommended that the CAB submit a letter of support from the entire CAB.

TMA is launching an Employer Transportation Council (ETC) network in which TMA will begin to meet quarterly with key HR people to talk about what's happening in the greater Stapleton area. Thirty-five people will be at the first meeting to be held on October 23. There will be a grand prize drawing at each meeting, the first is 2 tickets to *Cirque du Soleil* with an overnight hotel stay.

A new program, Try Transit, will sponsor 50 employees who have never tried riding transit to work, to try it and journal their experience. They were given a bus pass and a journal and will meet with TMA. Thanks to Cheryl Cohen-Vader, there are 24 Planned Parenthood employees who are going to try it.

Tasha Jones of the Forest City Inclusivity committee invited Angie to sit on the editorial board to identify any employees or residents who might be a good story to show who is in and around Stapleton. She invited the CAB members to contact her with the names of anyone they might know who fits the bill.

The TOD meeting, on September 20, at Central Park Rec Center, is being hosted by Denver Transit Partners, who is the concierge who is building out FastTracks. The topic was to be rail, aesthetics, etc. David Gaspers, who worked on the TOD master plan, of the City of Denver was to be there to answer questions. Meetings are being held throughout the city as light rail is gearing up.

The HUB at Stapleton got a grant to do innovative bike racks for people to be able to park their bikes - one of the locations is at Central Park. They have met with the design review committee and hope to have them up by spring.

**SDC Update:** Written report submitted.

Kate Kramer reported that the refuge to refuge trail doesn't have a final alignment. The Secretary of the Interior would like to have it done by fall, before the ribbon cutting in October. A permanent trail along Spruce Street will act as an extension to the Sand Creek Trail.

**Forest City Update:** Written report submitted.

Cheryl Cohen-Vader and Mark Johnson met with Pastor West of St. Stephens. They were told that there is a final design but there is some sort of dispute regarding the previous designer. It was suggested that someone from ZAP contact them when there is some sign of movement on the project.

Tom Gleason reported that Forest City is hosting Urban Land Institute (ULI) with a series of panels and a couple of tours in October.

**Stapleton Foundation:** Written report submitted.

Beverly Haddon reported on ballot initiatives 3A and 3B, which are DPS bond and mill levy proposals to be on the November ballot, and passed out information on them. This is the proposal that includes \$38.5 million for the proposed Stapleton 6-12 Northfield campus. She asked for the CAB's help in passing this issue as she sees it as extremely crucial for northeast Denver, where the majority of growth is occurring.

**Stapleton Partner Updates:**

- **Stapleton United Neighbors:** No written report. Damon Knop reported that the outreach committee is working on their own communications, not just with CAB but also with their block captains. They are doing a fundraiser this winter to try to get into new neighborhoods and grow their block captain network.

The football tournament raised a lot of money. That along with the sustainability things they've done raised \$8000.

There are concerns about how the community is receiving information about the parks, the prairie dogs, etc.

- **Master Community Association:** No written report.  
Diane Deeter reported that the pool season has wrapped up. They are winding down their events season, with a couple of events coming up. A contract has been signed with a consultant group to do a feasibility study on the tower as used for a cultural arts center.
- **Bluff Lake Nature Center:** No written report.  
John Metzger reported that Bluff Lake has just winded down their season of 8 fireside chats this season at which there were anywhere from 30 to 120 residents at each one.  
Fall Festival, a family fun activity co-sponsored with the Butterfly Pavilion, will be on Saturday, October 6.  
The golf tournament, which was scheduled in September, will be postponed until spring 2013.
- **Sand Creek Regional Greenway:** Written report submitted.  
Kate Kramer reported that SCRG is in the very final stages of 47<sup>th</sup> avenue underpass, a detour near Sapp Bros. It is the very last of the on -street crossings that will be gotten rid of. She thanked Suncor for their generosity in making that happened.  
Secretary of the Interior, Salazar, at a meeting on September 13, talked about the success of the refuge to refuge trail project so it is going forward.  
Thanks to Forest City for its generous donation to support SCRG's family fun day, for Sand Creek's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There is a new educational sign there and there will be a bench.
- **The Urban Farm:** Written report submitted.  
The Urban Farm's fall festival was scheduled for September 22 from noon to 6 p.m.  
They will get all of their internal roads rebased. The Colorado Roofers Association has chosen to provide The Urban Farm with a new roof.  
TUF will be partnering with CSU to become a research center to study urban youth and agriculture.  
An additional partnership will be putting up a greenhouse, which will be totally self-sustaining, and which will provide an opportunity for citizens to buy freshly grown organic food.
- **Johnson & Wales:** No oral or written report.
- **Police Academy/Denver Police District 2:** No oral or written report.

- **Others:** John Fernandez reported that Denver is holding public meetings, the first week in October – October 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. It is the East Colfax transit alternative study – Colfax corridor connections. It's to study how to build up transit capacity from Fitzsimons to Auraria through downtown.
- **Adjourned:**  
The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the Citizens Advisory Board will be **October 18, 2012, @ 7:30 a.m.**