

**CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES**

April 19, 2012

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

7350 E. 29th Ave., Suite 300

**CAB Members Present:** Keven Burnett, Nadine Caldwell, Bar Chadwick, Lucia Correll, Diane Deeter, Tech. Amy Esten, John Fernandez, Phil Flores, Khadija Haynes, Chris Herndon, Alice Kelly, Jeff Lamontagne, Steve Larson, Barbara Neal, Dennis Piper, Carol Roberts, Justin Ross, **SF:** Leslie Joseph, Alisha Brown, Angie Malpiede, **SDC:** Cheryl Cohen-Vader, **Community:** Andy Emke, John Liptzin.

**Call to Order:** Khadija Haynes called the meeting to order. The March 15, 2012, meeting minutes were set aside until a quorum was reached.

**Co-Chair Report:** Khadija requested that those who provide written reports for the CAB to please have them to Pennie Goodman by the Friday before the meeting to be included in the packet. Also, an updated CAB list was circulated so that the members could correct their information.

***Partner Cities Updates:***

- **City of Denver:** No written report.  
Bar Chadwick reported on a meeting in which representatives of the city of Denver, Forest City and Stapleton Development Corporation met to hold discussions on affordable housing in the Stapleton community. Right now the plan is not working as everyone would like but agree that they have a good start. The current market is an issue. Several other good ideas were posited; but an open communication has begun.  
Khadija Haynes asked about redistricting and how it may or may not affect Stapleton. Chris Herndon stated that the final public hearing would be held on April 23. As it stands now, District 8 would encompass Stapleton, Park Hill and one-fourth of the Montbello community about 52,000 people. District 11 would be Green Valley Ranch and the rest of Montbello. This information is on the city (Denver.gov) website.
- **City of Aurora:** No written report.  
John Fernandez reported that Aurora might be receiving a grant to rebuild the bridge over Westerly Creek. It would allow for a bike path. There will be some re-grading of Westerly Creek to provide the flood conveyance and to construct a path.. There is an environmental assessment for which public notices will come out in May for the whole public input process. They hope to have the design done in the fall in order to begin construction in the spring. The Westerly Creek re-grading on the north side of Montview Blvd. is included in this grant. This will trigger a reconfiguration of Montview Park in Aurora. The Parks Dept. has set

aside money for this project. So, the two projects will be going on at the same time.

John will keep CAB informed of all the relevant meetings regarding these projects.

Discussion followed regarding the completion of the 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue greenway (park). The width of the street that is being mandated by the city of Aurora appears to be a stumbling block to the completion of the park since Forest City has stated that it has money for a narrower street and the park, but not for a 44 foot wide street and the park. The ultimate conclusion is that it has become a Forest City issue – not a city of Aurora issue – Aurora has no jurisdiction. It was asked if the bike planner coming to the CAB would help. Khadija Haynes suggested that it might also be helpful if the Aurora city council representative was present at the community forum to answer questions and to make sure that the correct information is being disseminated. Discussion as to whether there should be a larger meeting to discuss all of these sorts of issues might be necessary before the upcoming community forum.

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

- **Design Review:** No written report.  
Cheryl Cohen-Vader reported that the committee shrunk when there were very few projects. However, things are revving up now.
- **Membership:** No oral or written report.
- **Housing Diversity:** Oral and written reports submitted.  
Last month CAB was provided an analysis and a resolution regarding housing diversity and affordable housing in Stapleton, and was provided again recently to read. Justin Ross requested the CAB to pass/accept the documents to be presented to the next SDC meeting. Discussion followed regarding what is the next step if Forest City is unresponsive. Justin spoke, at length, of his concerns regarding the lack of diversity and affordable housing in Stapleton. If Stapleton Development Corporation Board doesn't force Forest City to adhere to what was agreed to when Forest City was chosen, then another recourse is available to the citizens and that is the city of Denver who is ultimately in control  
Justin also encouraged members of CAB to attend meetings of subcommittees and SDC meetings to know what is going on.  
*(At this point, it was determined that there was a quorum and it was possible to vote on the minutes and the Housing Diversity resolution and memorandum)*
  - The minutes of the March 15, 2012 meeting were approved.
  - Nadine Caldwell made a motion to move the housing diversity resolution forward and Lucia Correll seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.
- **Communications:** A written report was submitted.

Diane Deeter stated that at their meeting the particulars for the SUN/CAB forum to be held on May 17 were finalized and that one of the pieces will be a panel on Westerly Creek to which Charlie Bayley will be invited.

A DPS update is coming from SUN.

- **Parks Advisory Group:** Written report submitted.

Lucia Correll reported that Charlie Bayley has been coming to meetings and talked about the redesign of Westerly Creek area. And he reports that Forest City is expecting a banner year. DIA is analyzing the soil north of 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue at Westerly Creek park and have completed the potholing for the old design and Forest City wants them to analyze that same data for a potential new design. Some residents have adopted parts of the creek for cleanup. Bluff Lake, Sand Creek and Westerly Creek are looking at the idea of “adopt-a-creek”. There are issues with it, so they are planning a meeting to discuss the issues. A member of the PAG, Brian Hyde, is doing creek walks of different creeks – about 3 or 4 mile walks – and people are invited to get on his email list if they are interested.

The Neighborhood Partners Environmental Team (NPET) had a good response on April 7. There were about 50 volunteers who cleaned up a large amount of trash – a lot of which was construction debris – and they have asked Forest City to remind constructions crews to cover up their construction materials and to chase it down if it blows away.

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

- **Transportation:** Oral and written reports.

Angie Malpiede talked about the opening of the new HUB at Stapleton and she distributed a calendar of events. Since they have been there, they have had community members are starting to feel comfortable enough to come in and make reports. They met with hotel general managers and talked to them about the HUB and services available in the area. They’ve developed several community collaborations, one of them with the Senior Center at Central Boulevard and Lucia Correll. They have begun a series of walking clubs. The first one is “the HUBwalkers”. They will walk for 15 days in a row and hope it will create its own synergy. There’s a group of seniors who are interested in walking. They will also be hosting a group of walking events throughout the community – the first of which is May 17 at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, hosted by Stephen Smith. They are also working with Fitzsimons and DIA because DIA has an amazing tour program. Diane Deeter, Alisha Brown and Angie are working on a series of Friday summer strolls, the first one will be June 22, dubbed “the Stapleton Summer Solstice Stroll”.

The hotel managers expressed a concern about the construction debris being dropped off behind the hotels.

Khadija Haynes suggested that the Communications committee could help them get the strolls onto some of the electronic news media to get the word out.

- **Workforce & Business Opportunity:** Oral and written reports.

Beverly Haddon stated that after a few years' hiatus when there was a slowdown in work activity, the Foundation re-ignited the Workforce Opportunity monthly meetings last summer. The same 5 or 6 people were always present with Bob Smith chairing. There had been very few things to talk about. Things are picking up – most of the activity beyond what homebuilders are doing is with RTD. However, there wasn't much to talk about. Now instead of expending energy with meetings, they are now working with Charlie Nicola, Carrie O'Connell, Kim Broyles, and Angie Malpiede, of RTD, to gather information to put in their reports.

**SDC Update:** Written report submitted.

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

Barbara Neal reported that she is working with the city on the public art for the Sam Gary branch library, which will open on August 4. There is repeated damaging of the airfoils at Northfield, near what was once Zale's Jewelry store. So they are being strengthened and the edges smoothed. The hardware for the grasses are being repaired also. There are plaques adjacent to the art pieces with a phone number which allows people to hear the artist talk about his/her work and a code that links people to the Denver website that has pictures of the artwork, its description and a picture of the artist. And, there is a bike tour of the public art on August 11.

**Stapleton Foundation:** Written report submitted.

Alisha Brown reported on the *be well* project. She distributed a handout wheel that describes who they are and what they do. Residents are trained on how to encourage others to live healthier lifestyles. They were awarded a grant in partnership with the city and county of Denver to open 2 *be well* centers – at the Central Park Boulevard Recreation Center and the Hiawatha Davis Recreation Center. The idea is for people to be able to access healthy opportunities in their own communities. Their opening will be June 4. Early next year they will open a 3<sup>rd</sup> center at the Moorehead Recreation Center in north Aurora.

They just received a grant from the Piton Foundation to work with 12 Denver schools in the next 4 years. The grant for the Denver rec centers is an \$181,000 grant from the Colorado Health Foundation, for one year and the grant for the Aurora rec center from Live Well Colorado. The monies for the school project is from the Gary Williams Foundation to provide healthy living education for youth through DPS' health and wellness agenda. Leslie Joseph developed a very user-friendly website which allows people to learn how to get involved.

Nadine Caldwell stated that, because of the *be well* foundation, the city of Aurora has decided to remodel the kitchen and workout areas. The attendance at the Moorehead Center has gone from 500 people a month to 3000 a month.

**Stapleton Partner Updates:**

- **Stapleton United Neighbors:** No oral or written report.

- **Master Community Association: Oral and**written reported submitted. Diane Deeter reported that the events calendar will be in the full *Front Porch* newspaper – 27,000 distribution. MCA is launching their summer events. Most events are free. There will be Bungee boot camps on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Keven Burnett is vetting the tower for an art and cultural center. The pools open May 26 at noon.
- **Bluff Lake Nature Center:** No written report. Jeff Lamontagne reported that their new concrete footers for their new entrance sign have been installed – thanks in part to *be well*. Their Earth Day celebration was occurring on Sunday, April 22 from 1p.m. to 5p.m. – thanks to Forest City, MCA, First Bank and TJC. The lake is full, thanks to recent rain.
- **Sand Creek Regional Greenway:** Written report submitted. On April 21, 100 high school students will be installing xeriscapes gardens at the trailhead at Westerly Creek and Smith Road. Kate Kramer is working to keep the trail open during construction, while the bridge is being built. SUN is having an Earth Day event on Friday evening.
- **The Urban Farm:** Written report. Khadija Haynes reported that there were just 5 or 6 slots still open in their summer program. The garden is underway. May 5 is a mulch giveaway at Smith Road and Havana and Urban Farm is having a bake sale for the 4H.
- **Johnson & Wales:** No oral or written report.
- **Police Academy/Denver Police District 2:** No written report. Tech. Amy Esten reported on the commander change – Michael Callo – who is very familiar with District 2 and with gangs. This is a positive change for the whole community. She wrote an article for the *Front Porch* about the leash law. Off leash dogs are a problem. Construction theft at Stapleton is a major problem. People are stealing everything – flooring, cabinets and copper, etc. Khadija Haynes asked that the new commander come to one of the meetings.
- **Others:** Councilman Herndon reported that people could come out to the Hiawatha Recreation Center on that same evening to view the 3 finalists for the independent monitor starting at 5:30 p.m. There will be a financial literacy course for young people in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades in June for children in northeast Denver, sponsored by Young American. A group of 5<sup>th</sup> graders in the architect program will be allowed to go around the tower and measure and suggest projects. Parking at the tower will always be constrained. Parking will be figured out when the whole project is designed.

**Adjourned:** The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the Citizens Advisory Board will be **June 21, 2012 @ 7:30 a.m.**