

**CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

August 16, 2012

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

7350 E. 29th Ave., Suite 300

CAB Members Present: Nadine Caldwell, Lucia Correll, Diane Deeter, Laura Edler, Tech. Amy Esten, John Fernandez, Elizabeth Garner, Tim Habben, Councilman Chris Herndon, Damon Knop, Kate Kramer, Jeff LaMontagne, Steve Larson, Barbara Neal, David Netz, Dennis Piper, Carol Roberts, **FC:** Tom Gleason, **SF:** Beverly Haddon, Leslie Joseph, Angie Malpiede, **SDC:** Cheryl Cohen-Vader,

Call to Order: David Netz called the meeting to order. The July 19, 2012, meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Co-Chair Report: David Netz provided a short overview of current master-planned communities in the U.S. and abroad, with a view to how Stapleton compares.

Partner Cities Updates:

- **City of Denver:** No written report.
Councilman Chris Herndon reported that the Denver city council just passed the first reading of the city medical marijuana advertising prohibition and the second reading will be August 20.
He has heard from a few Stapleton residents who are opposed to the street connections into northwest Aurora. One person, who is in opposition, has written a letter which will be printed in the September issue of the *Stapleton Front Porch*. Councilman Herndon requested that anyone from CAB, who can provide a long term perspective with regard to planning, respond to the letter. It was proposed that not only residents from Stapleton, but, maybe, SDC and FC could respond with some history as to why the connections to the neighboring communities were proposed in the first place and could cite the Stapleton Green Book goals regarding this issue. It was also pointed out that connections to other communities makes good economic sense in terms of people outside of Stapleton having easy access to retail and other businesses within the Stapleton community. For example, Forest City has been unable to entice a grocery store to locate in the Eastbridge Town Center until MLK Blvd. and the other connections are open. There will be a tower meeting on August 30 from 5 to 7 at the MCA offices. And, the Sam Gary library had its grand opening on August 11 with approximately 2200 attendees. It was a remarkable success and helped to make evident the need for a library in this community.

- **City of Aurora:** No written report.
Nadine Caldwell reported on the transportation bond extension issue that the Aurora city council passed and which will be put before the voters on the November ballot. It includes the Montview Blvd. improvements.

John Fernandez reported that he, too, has received phone calls from Stapleton residents regarding the street connections. There are some very strong feelings around this issue.

The Aurora city council has been consumed by the I-225 light rail project. It appears that the work will take place with several projects being under construction simultaneously, rather than this project happening linearly.

The Congress for the New Urbanism, an organization of the leading advocates of walkable, mixed use neighborhood development, recently released an article about the Stapleton streets in its publication called *Better Cities and Towns*. It was quite critical of the lack of connections between Stapleton and the neighboring communities. The article was written by a UCD professor and resident.

Angie Malpiede reminded the group that, on August 19, from Saturday evening at 9 p.m. to Sunday morning at 6 a.m., RTD will shut down I-225 between Iliff and Parker Road.

Committee Reports:

- **Communications:** No oral or written report.
- **Design Review:** No written report.
Design Review needs to elect new professionals for the committee.
The committee is still looking for members to sit on the residential committee for Design Review. Laura Edler has volunteered to represent the commercial committee on CAB.
- **Membership:** No oral or written report.
CAB was reminded that Elizabeth Garner is no longer the chairperson of this committee and CAB needs a volunteer for this position.
- **Housing Diversity:** No oral or written report.
Tom Gleason was asked about the Forest City quarterly report. The report will be out soon.
- **Parks Advisory Group:** Oral and written report submitted.
Lucia Correll reported that some park activity review has been held up by delays in the implementation of the street extensions. Planning for north Stapleton has also been delayed due to negotiations about priority projects between the SDC, the City and Forest City. Because of negotiations with Denver Parks and Recreation about the cost of the parks, there is a delay there.
Cheryl Cohen-Vader provided an update about the discussions between SDC and DIA regarding the funding for removal of rubble from Westerly Creek north. SDC is seeking cost estimates and it looks like it might be about \$15,000.
Dennis Piper reported on the proposed relocation of Westerly Creek. A voluntary cleanup plan has been approved by the state. DIA has to receive bids, hire, prepare the scope of work and do the cleanup – hopefully by winter. Once the scope of the cleanup is known, the design of Westerly Creek can begin.

Tim Habben, architect, reported on the progress on the Stapleton high school. DPS will have a bond issue on the November ballot, a good part of that sum will be for the new high school. Right now they are working with Denver Public Schools on the school designs on the twenty acres for the buildings and with Denver Parks for the adjacent acres for shared recreational facilities. Bev Haddon reported that there is opposition from several individuals because there is open capacity at Manual and George Washington High Schools, as well as Smiley Middle School. There are those who question why the monies aren't going into improving Manual, GW and Smiley schools. However, the numbers suggest that the need is there for a high school at Stapleton. There will be between 800 and 1,000 additional students by 2016. If the bond issue for \$38 million for a grades 6 thru 12 school at Stapleton goes through and the school is built, the school will exceed capacity by 2016. There may be a split vote at the Board of Education – 4 to 3. Bev asked the CAB to communicate the needs of the neighborhood and its explosion of future students to anyone they might know on the Board of Education. The bond issue will provide money for the building of the school and the mill levy will provide monies for needed school curricula. The target date for the completion of the Stapleton high school is 2014. The proposed high school is only the second school at Stapleton to receive bond monies – DSST received \$7 million. The rest have been financed through TIF and contributions.

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

Angie Malpiede reported that the walking groups in Park Hill went very well. The next walking groups will be in northwest Aurora on August 23rd and 25th. It was suggested that the flyer about the tour be distributed to Eastbridge residents so that they would have the opportunity to become more familiar with the neighborhood to the south.

The HUB has partnered with Cycleton, which is next door to the HUB, to sponsor free bicycle maintenance workshops, every second Tuesday at 6:00 p.m., no reservations necessary.

The HUB has received a grant through CDOT, to encourage people who work at Stapleton to ride the bus. They will be given a free bus pass for one month and asked to journal their experience.

Denver's planning office hosted a meeting with the Central Park North residents to discuss land use in their area as part of the new TOD plan. Angie, Cheryl Cohen-Vader, David Netz, Chris Herndon and Tom Gleason attended. Angie felt it was a good meeting and she received a thank you note.

The Central Park Station is scheduled to open in 2016, at the same time as the I-225 Peoria Smith Road station is set to open.

Stapleton is in the queue to have its bike lane striped from Central Park Blvd. to Quebec on MLK Blvd.

The HUB attended the VIVA Street fun day and raffled a bike, which was won by a 15 year old girl who was very appreciative.

SDC Update: Written report submitted.

Cheryl Cohen-Vader reported that the new email addresses are working at this time. SDC is working on FAQ's for the website.

Forest City Update: No written report submitted.

Tom Gleason reported on the grading being done on the north and south side of Northfield Blvd., at Northfield Blvd. and Willow Street, for an upcoming apartment complex. The Eastbridge Apartments are getting ready to start leasing the first apartment building. Astor Town Center Apartments has leased up very quickly.

Barbara Neal noted what a great celebration the opening of the Sam Gary Branch Library was and gave kudos to those who made that event happen. Then she reported on the public art at the library which was funded by One Percent for Art program. It consists of a chandelier inside the library that disseminates sunlight intensely throughout the main room. This piece is by Stephen Appleton from Los Angeles.

She is working with Patricia Leighton and Del Geiss, from Denver, on developing the Grove which is just east of the US Post Office. They hope to have those proposals by the end of September. There are 2 proposals.

An art project, by Robert Orr, which will commemorate fallen police officers, is in the works at the jail. And David Griggs, a local artist, will be doing 3 or 4 pillar-like art forms that will be placed there.

Stapleton Foundation: No written report submitted.

Beverly Haddon reported on a grant for the *be well* program from the Piton Foundation for a youth program, working with DPS. It is for a 4 year program which is part of the DPS Healthy Living program, for which DPS had no funding. This will be a pilot program, which they hope will eventually spread throughout the city, at Bill Roberts School in Stapleton, Ashley School in Montclair and Smith School in Park Hill. Each school will have wellness program with teachers, parents and community members. A youth coordinator has been hired.

Stapleton Partner Updates:

- **Stapleton United Neighbors:** No written report.
At the SUN meeting on Monday, August 20, the street connections will be discussed. David Netz encouraged CAB members to attend.
- **Master Community Association:** No written report.
Diane Deeter reported on the record numbers that MCA has seen at facilities and at events this summer.
MCA has more than doubled its ticket sales for the Beer Festival to be held August 18.
Angie Malpiede reported that the TMA has partnered with Recycled Bicycles, a group of retired professionals who rebuild bikes and donate them to those who need them. TMA will host the concessions for the Beer Festival and donate those

proceeds to Recycled Bicycles. There will be 24 different types of beers and people from all around the metro area and outside are expected.

The pools will close after Labor Day weekend. There was only one day in which the pools were closed for weather concerns this summer.

Kids Triathlon: 240 kids signed up, 237 participated. They ran along Westerly Creek path and rode bikes in Central Park.

- **Bluff Lake Nature Center:** No written report.
Jeff Lamontagne reported on the great attendance at their wine tasting fundraiser. Bluff Lake has received very positive feedback regarding the \$0.5million grant they submitted to the National Resources Defense Element related to events at the arsenal and Shell. Those moneys would help restore Bluff Lake.
There are five new board members, providing a new infusion of energy.
Bluff has postponed its golf tournament to September 24.

Sand Creek Regional Greenway: Written report submitted.

Kate Kramer reported that SCRG received a \$4.65 million grant. The Colorado Natural Resource Damages Trustees have awarded \$10.15 million in funding for 11 conservation projects in the vicinity of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. Sand Creek Regional Greenway will benefit from \$4.65 million of the settlement. Two land purchases in Commerce City will utilize \$2.6 million, and three land purchases in Aurora on the Sand Creek Regional Greenway and Triple Creek Greenway will utilize \$2 million.

SCRG is also participating in the planning for a refuge-to-refuge trail between Rocky Flats and the Rocky Mountain Arsenal.

Two events coming up are: Family Fun Day and Ducky Derby on Sunday, August 26, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the SCRG.

On September 1, there will be the annual REI Day with great t-shirts, breakfast and lunch and the opportunity to pick up trash and debris and do trail maintenance.

The current VISTA volunteer, Katie Lampe, is leaving, and a new volunteer will be coming on. Katie has been doing outreach to schools along the Greenway.

Because Katie has experience with the African refugee community, the program has expanded to take those kids out to the Greenway once a month.

- **The Urban Farm:** No oral or written report submitted.
- **Johnson & Wales:** No oral or written report.
- **Police Academy/Denver Police District 2:** No written report.
Tech. Amy Esten reported that District Commander Calo was unable to come to speak to this month's CAB, as he was in the middle of an emergency, but he is expected to come to the next CAB meeting.
A Citizens Academy at District 2 is being started up. One night a week, for 10 weeks, community people go and learn about what police officers do and, maybe, why they do the things they do. There is an introduction to the SWAT, canine,

and other areas of the Denver police department. In addition, participants will be allowed to take part in the Range 3000, which is a shoot-don't shoot scenario in which they have to decide for themselves, while holding a weighted weapon, whether to shoot or not. The next academy starts on September 11, on Tuesday evenings. Food will be served. There is an application process which includes a background check. Any interested persons should drop their applications at the HUB or at the District 2 headquarters. They are hoping to get 30 participants for this next class.

Tech. Esten is willing to go talk to interested persons personally to get them the information they need to make a decision.

Tech. Esten is working with Tom Gleason on the construction thefts. With Forest City they are working with the contractors and builders to find ways to decrease the incidents of construction theft.

There were 3 reported burglaries in the last month – 2 in which the doors were left open and the 3rd was somehow related to a domestic violence situation.

- **Others:** Cheryl Cohen-Vader mentioned that she went on the Westerly Creek walk with Brian Hyde, a relatively new PAG member, who was quite knowledgeable and imparted an incredible amount of information. She highly recommends taking the walk with him as your guide.
- **Adjourned:** The meeting was adjourned.
The next meeting of the Citizens Advisory Board will be **September 20, 2012,**
@ 7:30 a.m.