

**Citizen Advisory Board**  
**Parks Advisory Group Meeting**  
**January 8, 2013**  
**Approved February 12, 2013**

| *Presented by: Lucia Correll*

*Reporting Period: January, 2012*

*Attendance:* Dennis Piper, Charlie Nicola, Carol Roberts, Diane Deeter, Bob Searns, Chris Story, Kate Kramer, Donny Roush, Nancy Weil, David Marquardt, Michele Fuerst, Barbara Neal, Rick Gonzales, Alan Pettis, Bryan Hyde, Paul Frohardt, Lucia Correll

Approval of Minutes: December minutes were approved.

*Stapleton North of I70*

- The IFDA-p8 is not yet signed because Denver City has asked for some language changes. SDC would like to be informed of the suggested changes.
- In filing 36, there has been grading but no park construction will begin until the IFDA-p8 is signed. Input for TOS (trunk open space) in that area has been garnered and design includes that input. Construction for the Astor Apartments with 350 units has begun in Northfield. Charlie can present or arrange a presentation of the park plans for IFDA-P8 for PAG.
- A new filing, 42, is being initiated east of the present filing with Matrix as the engineer. IFDA-P9 will also be submitted to continue the linear park. 40% drawings should be done soon Charlie can present or arrange a presentation of the park plans for IFDA-P9 for PAG. The design for P-9 is included in the concept design package which was presented in 2 public meetings last year. Construction will begin next May for 150 homes. Two pools will also be constructed in that area. In keeping with its commitment to communicate better with the wider community, PAG would like early notice of any park planning so that there is ample time to make the community aware of meetings and allow for input to the design of the parks.

*Westerly Creek North:*

DIA has not begun the remediation yet because they have not received the flood plain approvals. It is expected to begin soon.

**The good news is that Mayor Michael Hancock announced that once the remediation is complete and approvals obtained, Westerly Creek North park will be constructed. Previously TIF finds were going to be used to complete the park and**

**they would not have been generated until 2015 at the earliest.** Now the park will be completed at an earlier date. SDC qualified the announcement with the caveat that after remediation is complete, re-design and construction would follow immediately barring unreasonable funding conditions.

***It is important to note that not all of WCN falls under this announcement.***

- The proposed funding for WCN may not include the design or the construction costs of the parkland in the Uplands area along Florence Way and the area west of WCN, adjacent to RK Mechanical. The “Uplands” is a separate project from WCN P2 and currently there are no funds for design. The PAG has long recommended that the design of the Uplands areas along Florence Way and the area west of WCN, adjacent to RK Mechanical be done in conjunction with the re-design of Westerly Creek North. We note that construction of those two other areas may require separate funding.
- A section including the wetlands area and south bank of Sand Creek has not been included in the construction drawings. The constructed wetlands area originally proposed near the confluence with Sand Creek were eliminated and the drop structure at the south bank of Sand Creek was relocated further upstream from Sand Creek in the 2008 80% construction drawings. According to the PCMD Consultant, Dennis Piper, there was an engineering problem and so that area was omitted. There may also have been a cost factor involved in those decisions.
- The bottom line is that the wetlands concept needs to be addressed. Since a 404 permit has already been submitted and several experts thought that there is usually not much flexibility after a 404 permit is issued, this is an urgent matter. PAG convened a sub-committee to work on this problem and to be involved with Matrix in the design of WCN park. Paul Frohardt, Kate Kramer and Lucia Correll and others TBD will be on the subcommittee.
- The Arsenal Fund may be contributing \$2M to the Westerly Creek North wetlands area and the Uplands area, east of Westerly Creek North Park. Kate Kramer (SCRG) is working to get early access to the funds. Currently the costs of the Lawsuit that won this award were to be repaid before any award money was accessed. Kate is working on some legislation that would free this award sooner.

### ***Election Impact on Stapleton Financial Situation***

Even with the excellent news about funding of approximately \$5.4 M for partial completion of WCN, there still may be a shortfall to complete the parks. Councilman Herndon’s committee was waiting to see the results of the election and to determine what financial help is still needed. A PAG member asked if there was \$5.4M to build the park and Rick noted that the final cost estimate will not be known until the design is further developed.

PAG recommended that Rick Gonzales update his previous, excellent, presentation on funding in Stapleton to show how election results, especially 2a, 3a etc., have impacted the financial situation and to help PAG determine the amount of shortfall that is now anticipated.

### ***26th Ave. and parks***

- The comment period for 26<sup>th</sup> Ave park is over. Aurora PROS (Parks Recreation and Open Spaces) has approved the Forest City plan. Forest City has been asked to answer some questions raised by the community etc. before the Administrative approval is made.
- Donny Roush did some research on availability of planning grants for the 26<sup>th</sup> Ave park Area.
- Kate Kramer raised some issues regarding asking Aurora to take on any financial responsibility for the park. She noted that Park Creek Metro District and Forest City own the land, designed the park, will fund and construct the park and will maintain the park forever, and that the role of Aurora PROS is limited based on the ownership.
- PAG wanted to pursue taking a broader look at the area between Westerly Creek at 26<sup>th</sup> Ave and Peoria, and a subcommittee including Bob Searns, Bryan Hyde, Curt Bish, Kate Kramer and Lucia Correll will meet to sort out the possibilities.

### ***Prairie Dog Management***

Dennis reported that Dr. Patricia Olsen would be meeting with a group of scientific experts to ascertain whether a 20-acre prairie dog reserve would be viable. Dennis advised against having such a preserve in the 26<sup>th</sup> Ave park, and recommended an area between Bluff lake and Peoria, already slated to be a prairie dog reserve. The Denver Policy issue has still not been resolved. Denver will apparently accept a park with prairie dogs with certain conditions.

### ***Performance Standards & Action Plan.***

The draft 5 items were discussed and revised as below. Two other items were suggested and need to be approved by PAG.

- Any proposed changes to approved plans or land use maps shall include the last approved plan/map with proposed changes and deviations from the Green Book principals cited.
- A knowledgeable FC representative shall be present at CAB and PAG meetings.
- Do no park construction beyond the current approvals in Stapleton north of I70 until parks south of I70 are completed or have commitments for specific funding and timelines.
- Provide for early PAG and CAB involvement in the planning and design of parks to allow for meaningful citizen input—at conceptual and design development stages.
- FC shall annually (at a minimum) present CAB and SDC their recommendations for the sequence of development of remaining trunk park and open space projects for review, and approval.

### ***Denver: David Marquardt***

Denver is working on stabilization and drainage issues between 26<sup>th</sup> Ave and MLK. He will report in more detail at the February PAG meeting.

The playground near the restrooms has had continuous problems with flooding and equipment washed away. Denver Parks will be looking to move this playground to a different area or up hill and plans to do this in March.

***PAG Role –***

This discussion was tabled for this meeting except to state that FC, SUN and PAG will be discussing a process for getting input. Lucia and Mark Mehringer met to discuss roles in getting input on parks and agreed that one of the big issues was getting information to the community in a timely manner. We agreed to work on this and to ensure better coordination between PAG and SUN.

***Meeting adjourned: 9:10 AM***

***Tentative February Agenda Items Identified***

Mark Donelson : FEMA grant/ Channel improvements planned for Westerly Creek between 17th & 23.

Charlie Nicola has been asked to make a presentation of the IFDA-p-8 and p9 parks detail presentation

***Tentative March Agenda Items***

David Marquardt/Denver Parks: Stabilization of Westerly Creek from 26<sup>th</sup> to MLK\_.

Rick Gonzales: Financial Update