

**CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

April 18, 2013

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

7350 E. 29th Ave., Suite 300

Present: Nadine Caldwell, Bar Chadwick, Lucia Correll, Diane Deeter, Jennifer Dunn, Phil Flores, Donna Garnett, Scott Gilmore, Khadija Haynes, Chris Herndon, Shannon Jones, Damon Knop, Steve Larson, Krista Lewis, David Lucas, Barbara Neal, David Netz, Dennis Piper, Carol Roberts, **FC:** Tom Gleason, **SF:** Angie Malpiede, **SDC:** Cheryl Cohen-Vader, Rick Gonzales

Call to Order: David Netz called the meeting to order. The March 21, 2013, meeting minutes were unanimously approved with one correction. Nadine Caldwell stated that under the heading of “City of Aurora”, paragraph 3, which read “There is a committee in Aurora working to reduce the fees – but it will only be about \$6,000 to \$8,000.” needs to be changed to read “There is a committee in Aurora working to reduce the fees – but it will only be about \$6,000 to \$8,000 *less.*”

Co-Chair Report:

Partner Cities Updates:

1. **City of Denver:** No written report.

Councilman Chris Herndon reported that the last two libraries scheduled for increased hours are beginning their new hours this month – the Sam Gary branch went from 36 to 52 hours beginning April 15 and the Green Valley branch on April 29.

Mayor Hancock spoke to the committee as a whole and made some recommendations regarding Amendment 64. Two of them are: a two year moratorium on allowing medical marijuana dispensaries to transition to adult use and no smoking ban within the city and county of Denver. They are waiting to see what the legislative response to Amendment 64 will be.

Sarah Craft is no longer a part of the District 11 team, but Amanda Schultz has come on as Councilman Herndon’s new aide.

Bar Chadwick reported on the remediation on Westerly Creek North. Forest City and DIA are working with the contractors toward the removal of concrete and other debris that DIA is not responsible for removing. It must be cleaned up before construction of the park is begun.

DPS and The Parks Department are holding discussions regarding the sports fields at the new high school – how much land is needed, etc. There are differences in standards between schools and parks in regards to sports fields which will need to be addressed – minor modifications will be needed.

Scott Gilmore reported that Denver Parks will be designating Central, Greenway and Linear Parks as official Denver parks. Their use will conform with all regulations governing the rest of the Denver park system.

Parks & Rec will rebuild the equestrian/nature trail along Westerly Creek, which has degraded over time, and, upon manager's approval, it will become a designated equestrian trail. At the present time there are no horses allowed in Denver parks, unless ridden by police officers, although there is documentation of waivers allowing horses in the Stapleton network of trails..

City Loop is a new playground which will be built in City Park. The whole triangle, across from the tennis courts, which at the current time houses the Justin Redd playground will be a play area for the entire metro area to include a playground, picnic areas, fitness zones, a trail around the triangle, a spray park, etc. The city is spending about \$0.5 million and will do fundraising for the rest of the \$5 million cost.

2. **City of Aurora:** No written report.

Nadine Caldwell reported that with light rail being put in place there are new businesses along East Colfax. Specifically two new hotels and conference centers have been proposed across from Fitzsimons.

It appears to be true that people have been displaced from their apartments along Peoria and Paris streets as a result of developers' purchasing properties for student housing. Community Enhancement, a company owned by Donald Hogoboom, purchased 3 apartment buildings on 16th and Paris Street, containing 73 apartments, for \$4.5 million.

Committee Reports:

- **Communications:** No report.
- **Design Review:** No report.
- **Housing Diversity:** No report.

- **Membership:** Written report submitted

Lucia Correll introduced David Lucas, acting refuge manager at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA), as the newest member of the CAB.

David Lucas reported that the Arsenal cleanup has been completed. The vast majority of the lands at the RMA have been turned over to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. (Of the 16,000 acres, only 100 acres will be retained by the U.S. Army.) There will be a revised master plan which will include the RMA's connection to the communities around it. The plans are up for public comment and people can go to the website to register their comment.

RMA has lost \$145,000 and 25% of their staff due to sequestration. Fishing opened on April 13. They had more than 80 eagles this winter and right now there are one or two baby eagles. There are 70 bison and 18 babies are expected soon. More than 300,000 visitors are expected this year.

Kate Kramer promoted tours at the RMA and entered a request for volunteers to work with Fish & Wildlife to help the RMA.

A question regarding DIA's continued funding of SDC was raised. Cheryl responded that funding will continue until all of the land is taken down. Lucia Correll asked the CAB members to check the updated membership list to make sure that their information is correct, including the type of membership. The membership is heavy with people in the organizational classification. An increase in the numbers of residents, from the different Stapleton neighborhoods and people from the surrounding communities, is needed to balance out the CAB membership. Lucia also asked the group to suggest specific skill sets the group might like to have.

A motion, *to increase the numbers of at-large members, seeking geographic diversity, and to seek a Partner Cities representative from Commerce City*, was made by Lucia and seconded by Damon Knop, was unanimously approved. Khadija Haynes has asked to be relieved of her duties as co-chair of CAB and a replacement is being sought. One person has offered to take the position. Other possible candidates are being sought. Anyone who might be interested is asked to contact Lucia or David Netz.

Some questions needed to be addressed. 1) Workforce and Business Opportunity Committee representative – Do we drop as a committee at this time? Bev Haddon will be asked to address this issue. 2) Transportation within CAB – Do we want a true transportation committee or do we want to leave it divided up among ZAP, TMA and the SUN transportation committee? 3) Should SUN and CAB have the same or similar committees? Lucia will meet with Mark Mehringer to discuss this issue.

- **Parks Advisory Group:** Written report submitted.
Lucia Correll stated that Forest City is trying to make sure there is no contamination at Westerly Creek North and other parks. Getting the parks going forward will take a little longer than planned because of that. Contaminants were found in the 26th Avenue Park between Emporia Street and Westerly Creek – not in the playground area. Construction of that park is being delayed until DIA cleans it up.
Construction of the park north of I-70 is being slowed down because of the working out of issues with Denver Water.
Construction of the connector streets is going well.
- **Zoning & Planning:** No meeting this month
- **Transportation:** Written report submitted.
There will be a large community walking event on August 24, 2013.
Angie Malpiede reported that August 24 will be the first annual Northeast Pedfest – a walking program for northeast Park Hill, Stapleton, and Montclair neighborhoods. TMA has been working with councilmen Brooks, Susman and Herndon to get people walking in their neighborhoods.
Next month the bicycle library will be launched at the HUB.

SDC Update: Written report submitted.

Forest City Update: No written report.

Tom Gleason reported that the Astor/Conservatory Green apartments are framing up very quickly and it is hoped that they will be opening up in late summer or early fall.

There is a lot of excitement around KB Homes. Some people have purchased, based on the plans alone, without seeing a model home. Over 200 people attended the KB open house.

Forest City will be holding classes on home gardening with the idea of a sustainable environment. A partnership with The Urban Farm is being investigated.

It is anticipated that there will be no problem meeting the September 1 deadline for the street connections.

Barbara Neal reported that Conor Hollis, of Silo Workshop, will be doing conservation on Prairie Reef, weather permitting. There is some litigation that needs to be handled.

Stapleton Foundation Update: No report.

Stapleton Partner Updates:

- **Police Academy/Denver Police District 2:** Written report.

Officer Reyes Trujillo reported that there has been an increase in burglaries and thefts from motor vehicles in the neighborhood. Neighbors don't seem to understand when to call 911. If there is a crime in progress, that's a 911 call. A suspicious person in the area is a non-emergency call, however the caller will be asked for pertinent details. People need to be sure to lock house doors and garages. The police non-emergency number is 720-913-2000. Reporting a drug house in the neighborhood: a person could call Officer Trujillo or their police station.

It appears that the transition of Stapleton from District 2 to District 5 will happen in July. District 2 partners intend to remain partners. The boundaries of District 5 are roughly: Stapleton, Northfield, Montbello and Green Valley Ranch.

There will be Shred-a-thon at channel 9 for the Denver metro area on May 18th. And April 27th is National Prescription Take-Back Day where expired and leftover prescription medicines will be accepted.

- **Stapleton United Neighbors:** Written report submitted.

Damon Knop reported on the SUN/CAB forum which is being held on May 2 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Discussion regarding CAB's not being mentioned on the agenda followed. It was determined that with a slight reorganization of the presentations, CAB would be on the agenda presenting an overview of who CAB is, the green book, etc. Diane Deeter was to update the agenda and send to Pennie Goodman to distribute to the CAB members.

- **Master Community Association:** No written report.
 Diane Deeter reported on a delegate meeting held on April 17 to discuss the presentation of offerings of spaces for the community art center. The lease offering on the tower would not include a theater space, which is the key component of what is desired. The second space is in Filing 7 where MCA would buy the land. The third space, a lease, is the *Circuit City* space in Northfield. The fourth space, a purchase, would be adjacent to *Knowledge Beginnings* in Eastbridge. However it is within 500 feet of a school and a liquor license would be desired for the arts facility. And the last site is the former *CarMax* land site which is directly east of JC Penney in Northfield. These options will be presented to the delegates on April 24 for their input.
 David Netz suggested another option to consider might be a site north of Smith Road where the light rail station is.
- **Bluff Lake Nature Center:** No written report.
 Krista Lewis reported that *the Race for Open Space* on April 20 has 200 registered participants and another several hundred for the Earth Day events. The next free guided tour is April 27. There are nesting owls on site which has been attracting traffic to see the baby owls.
 Acclaimed Colorado photographer, John Fielder, is offering a workshop on May 11. It has a very limited class size. The price is \$250.
- **Sand Creek Regional Greenway:** Written report submitted.
 Lucia Correll reported on a volunteer group on the first Saturday of April who planted wildflowers at the rec center, Sand Creek and the 26th avenue greenway.
- **The Urban Farm:** No written report.
 Donna Garnett reported that more than 300 people attended their first annual barn dance held on April 13 and a good time was had by all.
 There are people who want to have chickens in Stapleton, however there is considerable confusion regarding chicken ownership. Education regarding the owning of chickens in an urban setting is necessary.
 There are very few openings left in their summer classes.
 The Urban Farm offers therapeutic riding for people with physical or emotional challenges. Right now TUF is working with adults who have developmental disabilities.
 Khadija Haynes reported that there are some legal issues that have to be worked through regarding the solar panels. The solar panels will be on the roof of the arena and TUF will receive no electricity from them.
 Discussion regarding TIF funding for the widening of Smith Road followed. The Urban Farm is in favor of as much delay as possible in order to protect the children and horses from speeding traffic.
- **Adjourned:**
 The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the Citizens Advisory Board will be **May 16, 2013 @ 7:30 a.m.**

