

**CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

May 16, 2013

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

7350 E. 29th Ave., Suite 300

Present: René Bullock, Bar Chadwick, Lucia Correll, Laura Edler, John Fernandez, Scott Gilmore, Khadija Haynes, Chris Herndon, Alice Kelly, Damon Knop, Jeff LaMontagne, Steve Larson, David Lucas, Barbara Neal, David Netz, Dan Oltersdorf, Farrah Peek, Dennis Piper, Carol Roberts, Michael Sennett, Joshua Solis, Jim Wagenlander, **FC:** Tom Gleason, **SCRGP:** Kate Kramer, **SF:** Bev Haddon, **SDC:**

Call to Order: David Netz called the meeting to order. Those present were asked to introduce themselves for the new members, Rene Bullock and David Lucas.
The April 18, 2013, minutes were approved unanimously.

Co-Chair Report:

Partner Cities Updates:

City of Denver: No written report.

Bar Chadwick reported that the meeting, regarding the portion of Westerly Creek that has already been constructed by Denver, between Aurora staff and herself was very fruitful. There will be a stakeholders meeting in June.

City of Aurora: No written report.

John Fernandez stated that the building of the bridge over Westerly Creek at Montview Blvd. will take several properties out of the flood plain.

Denver is the lead on the Colfax Corridor Connections project, looking at ways to improve transit from Auraria campus to Fitzsimons. The technologies have been narrowed down to: enhanced buses, bus rapid transit and street cars. The process is down to working out how the design implications will affect Colfax. There should be public meetings rather soon as the final announcement is expected to be made in July.

The light rail project has hit a snag regarding electromagnetic interference and vibrations and its impact on the various research operations on the Fitzsimons campus. The only apparent solution at the present time is to divert the light rail from Montview Blvd to the Fitzsimons Parkway. If it were relocated from the Montview corridor, a new environmental review process would have to be reopened and the project would be delayed.

Committee Reports:

- **Communications:** No report.

- **Design Review:** No written report.
 Laura Edler asked to be kept in the loop regarding the construction of the bridge over Westerly Creek at Montview Blvd. because it affects the East Montclair neighborhood. John Fernandez will send a link to the website, that keeps current information on that construction, to Pennie Goodman to be distributed to the entire group.
 All of the Design Review meetings for the last couple of months have been with DPS. Even though DPS does not have to go through the design process, they have been following it.
- **Housing Diversity:** No report.
- **Membership:** Written report submitted
 Lucia Correll presented a list of acronyms, used by the committee on a regular basis, for new members and others.
 Also, she suggested a mentorship program that would pair new CAB members with more seasoned. Nadine Caldwell will be the mentor for René Bullock of Commerce City, and Kate Kramer will mentor David Lucas of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal.
 Lucia asked permission, with potential resident members, to have the membership committee review them and accept them so that it doesn't take two months to get them on board. So, if it met with CAB's approval, the membership committee could review their credentials and make a decision, which would speed things up. David Netz asked if there were any CAB members who disagreed with this and there were none. The committee has an orientation process that they would like new members to go through as soon as they are approved for membership.
- **Parks Advisory Group:** Written report submitted.
 Lucia Correll stated that Scott Gilmore will head a sub-committee to develop a survey, that will run through the SUN survey process, to determine the community's likes and dislikes about the current parks.
 About 50 members of the neighborhood partners environmental team worked on the first Friday of May at Bluff Lake and Sand Creek, upstream of the resident beavers who do a good job of collecting debris in their dams and stop it from going downstream. About 18 people hours were used to clean up the debris.
 The UCD landscaping class looked at an area from Peoria to Westerly Creek and from 25th to 26th Avenues. Broken up into smaller groups, they each took a portion of the area and developed a plan and called a community meeting to look at their plan. It is hoped that they will develop a composite plan to present in the fall.
 What happens after P8 and P9?
 Scott Gilmore reported that Denver Parks and Rec installed raptor poles east of Bill Roberts School and in Northfield in the hopes of controlling the prairie dog population and to keep them out of the drainage. And they are installing a barrier

between the current and future Westerly Creek Parks. Any prairie dogs found on the south side of that area will be “removed”.

- **Zoning & Planning:** No written report.
David Netz reported that Lee Ferguson presented on Phase II of the Aster Town Center Apartments which are immediately north of the current Aster apartments. There would no longer be on street access to the apartments, which will accept pets, and which will have 81 – 1 bedroom, and 54 – 2 bedroom apartments on 4.3 acres.
Forest City is considering building apartments to the north of the Village Green at Town Center. If a decision is made to build these apartments then they will delay the building of Aster Phase II.
- **Transportation:** Written report submitted.
Joshua Solis of Denver Transit Partners (DTP) reported on the construction occurring as a result of the light rail at grade crossings at Havana and Smith Road – which is expected to take about 6 weeks from May 17. DTP is providing signage for The Urban Farm, Bluff Lake Nature Center and Sand Creek Regional Greenway Project. There will be signage off of I-70 also. A public meeting was scheduled for the evening of May 16 at SDC.
Another closing of Havana is expected in the early fall – September or October – which will not affect Smith Road. Discussion regarding access in and out of the jail at Smith Road and Havana followed.

SDC Update: No report.

Forest City Update: No written report.

Tom Gleason reported that it is necessary to put forth the message that Stapleton is one, unified community so that one side of I-70 is not pitted against the other. The topic of greatest interest, at the SUN/CAB forum, was schools, particularly the high school. Kathy Epperson gave an update on recent meetings with Tom Boasberg, superintendent of DPS, who indicated that any Stapleton resident who wanted to go to a Stapleton school will be able to do so.

At 26th Avenue Park, the street connections are well underway and should be completed by September 1.

The 2-acre park should be completed by the end of the year.

Forest City is working with MCA on the cultural center – what it should be, where it should be, should it be completed in phases or not, etc.

In the development of Conservatory Green, with its appealing organic nature, there will be events at the Visitors Center that The Urban Farm is going to be invited to along with some of their educational programs.

Barbara Neal reported that the conservation and regular maintenance on the *Prairie Reef* sculpture, located just north of Montview on Central Park Blvd., and the minor repairs on the steel portion on the *Eye on the Horizon* sculpture on 29th and Xenia Street have been completed.

Jim Wagenlander suggested that there should be some sort of celebration held when the connections are completed in the fall. Bev Haddon stated that the TMA

and the Stapleton Foundation are working on an event and would welcome CAB's participation in the planning, etc. Jim volunteered to work on the planning committee.

Stapleton Foundation Update: Written report submitted.

Bev Haddon reported that there were very few CAB members at the SUN/CAB forum on May 2 and stated that it is important that CAB members attend the 2 forums each year.

Bev distributed 3 concept drawings of proposed schools – Northfield High School, the school at Conservatory Green, and the “Isabella Byrd” community school which will serve the population of the Eastbridge neighborhood.

Discussion on the proposed schools followed.

The school board was scheduled to vote on whether to move the McAuliffe School to the Smiley Middle School building that same evening, May 16.

There was a meeting May 15 on diversity in the schools that was extremely well attended by both Park Hill and Stapleton parents. The purpose of the meeting was to develop understanding of different cultures and groups and to build bridges between differing groups. They have decided to have another meeting. In addition, they would like to develop a northeast diversity/ inclusivity group to begin to build those bridges and bring people together.

Stapleton Partner Updates:

- **Police Academy/Denver Police District 2:** No report.
- **Stapleton United Neighbors:** No written report.
Damon Knop reported on the SUN/CAB forum. The hot button items were schools and the RTD 89 line.
David Netz announced that one of the discussions being held between SUN and CAB is a joint SUN/CAB board meeting this summer, revisiting the green book, to get a sense of Stapleton as it goes through the transition from a fully planned community to a community of 10,000 residents.
- **Master Community Association:** No report.
- **Bluff Lake Nature Center:** No written report.
Jeff LaMontagne reported that *the Race for Open Space* on April 20 had 600 people.
The summer camps are getting ready to start. Fireside chats start May 16.
John Fielder's workshop was the weekend of May 11-12.
- **Sand Creek Regional Greenway:** Written report submitted.

- **The Urban Farm:** No written report.
Khadija Haynes reported that summer program at TUF begins the first of June. The light rail construction will have a large impact on the farm. CDOT signs will point to the farm, Bluff Lake and Sand Creek.
- **Rocky Mountain Arsenal:** Written report submitted.
David Lucas reported that SDC will receive a letter to be a cooperating agency on the arsenal's Master Plan.
Only recycled water will be used at the arsenal – 300 million gallons will be available in the potable water line. It will eventually go out to DIA and elsewhere.
The City of Denver submitted grant applications for FLAP (Federal Land Access Program), co-sponsored by the arsenal. The grant would provide \$4 to \$5 million for the 56th Avenue expansion and trails along it.
The arsenal is working with Forest City on the community work day.
- **Adjourned:**
The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the Citizens Advisory Board will be **June 20, 2013 @ 7:30 a.m.**