

Citizen Advisory Board
Parks Advisory Group (PAG) Meeting
May 13, 2014

Presented by: Lucia Correll

Reporting Period: May 13, 2014

Attendance:

Kate Kramer, Sand Creek Regional Greenway; Bryan Hyde, Westerly Creek Connection/Park Hill resident; Carol Roberts, Front Porch; Ilana Corson, SDC; Amanda Schoultz, City Council District 11 Office; Dennis Piper, Resident; Sean Caffrey, Resident; Paul Frohardt, Stapleton resident; Jim Hannifin, Aurora Resident; Brad Dodson, City and County of Denver; Todd Ahlenius, Resident; Dan Liptzin, Resident; Eric Herbst, Resident/TMA; Angie Malpiede, TMA; Harold Scramstad, Urban Farm; Susan Klopman, Urban Farm; Tia Cavender, Resident; Mark Tabor, Denver Parks; Lyn Kathleen, SUN; Bryan Hyde Park Hill Resident; Lucia Correll, Resident, CAB.

Absent: Chris Story, Bluff Lake; Barbara Neal, Public Art SDC; Charlie Nicola, Forest City; Scott Gilmore, Denver Parks and Recreation; Bob Searns, Resident; Diane Deeter, MCA;

Approval of Minutes: Minutes approved.

Arts and Venue Grant: Tia Cavender

Tia reported that Chase Grants is applying for an \$8000 grant to plan a park at 38th and Holly. Councilman Herndon has agreed to match the grant amount with \$8000 of his council funds. If the grant is obtained, there will be a grassroots effort to determine the characteristics of the park and will likely involve securing other grants for construction costs. PAG agree to endorse this project with a letter of support that Tia and Lucia will write.

Response to Forest City Eastbridge Concept: Lyn Kathleen/Ilana Corson

SUN wanted PAG to know that the DSUN response to the Eastbridge concept is posted on the SUN website. There will be a discussion of the SUN response on Thursday night, May 15th at the Recreation Center, room B at 6:30 for any who want more information or to contribute input.

Westerly Creek North:

PAG supports the following comments to be presented at the community meeting on May 20. Paul will present the first three points and Sean will represent the 4th point and the

consensus document of the residents of the area near the Uplands. I have attached the letter to be presented at the May 20th meeting to the minutes.

1. PAG appreciates and applauds the City's decision to move forward expeditiously with the completion of the long-delayed Westerly Creek North Park. PAG encourages the City to continue its proactive implementation efforts over the coming months so that the critical stream grading work for this project can be completed during the 2014-2015 low water season. We understand that it is necessary for the stream grading work to be completed during the low water winter season in order for the overall project to be completed in 2015.
2. PAG strongly supports the City's commitment that Westerly Creek North Park will be constructed in a manner and quality consistent with the already-completed portions of Westerly Creek. Maintaining consistent quality is essential to the public's long-term enjoyment of this last critical extension of the existing Stapleton trunk open space south of I-70, including a high quality connection to the Sand Creek Regional Greenway. In particular, it is important that irrigation be included as necessary to establish and maintain plantings in this area.
3. PAG is pleased that the Westerly Creek North Park design plans continue to include a wetlands area near the confluence with Sand Creek, to provide multiple aesthetic, water quality and habitat benefits. PAG is aware of other "constructed wetlands" -- including one in Commerce City along Sand Creek -- which were not designed and constructed in a manner that maintains wetlands functions, due to lack of water. It is essentially that the wetlands be constructed with an adequate hydrological connection with the water table so that the area will support vegetation adapted to saturated soil conditions over the long term.
4. PAG supports the creation of short grass prairie landscape for the Uplands area. While we know funding is an issue, we would support the use of land forms, irrigation and plantings in order to create an undulating natural landscape that respects the historic riparian nature of the area and the requests of many residents for a visual and noise buffer from the industrial, railroad, highway and correctional uses to the north.

Section 10 land planning:

ZAP is hosting a meeting today at 4:30 PM in the SDC offices to review and give input to the next iteration of the Forest City Concept for Section 10. Dennis Piper led a process whereby CAB input was developed for Section 10 and PAG will continue to use the goals and objectives from that document to evaluate plans for Section 10.

In addition we need to speak for individual housing solutions to drainage problems as well as the "bathtub"(e.g. large detention basins) kind of ideas that are being talked about. Solutions like rain gardens and porous surfaces rather than hardscapes in housing will be especially relevant in the Section 10 environment.

Funding the GAP:

This work will be done at PAG from now on. We will review the background documents and determine which parks might be amenable to public/private partnerships and the amount of money that might be needed to complete the Stapleton Parks.

Members of the Parks Advisory Group, a sub-committee of the Citizen Advisory Group (CAB), have discussed and approved the following four statements for Westerly Creek North and the Uplands area. These will be presented at the Community Meeting on May 20.

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