

**Citizen Advisory Board**  
**Parks Advisory Group (PAG) Meeting**  
**June 10, 2014**

*Presented by: Lucia Correll*

*Reporting Period: June 10, 2014*

**Attendance:**

Charlie Nicola, Forest City; Kate Kramer, Sand Creek Regional Greenway; Chris Story, Bluff Lake; Ilana Corson, SDC;; Dennis Piper, Resident; Paul Frohardt, Stapleton resident; Jim Hannifin, Aurora Resident; Dana Prince, Resident; Todd Ahlenius, Resident; Bar Chadwick, City and County of Denver; Eric Herbst, Resident/TMA; Harold Scramstad, Urban Farm; Tia Cavender, Resident; Jim Hannifin, Aurora Resident; Barbara Neal, Public Art SDC; Lucia Correll, Resident, CAB.

Absent: Amanda Schoultz, City Council District 11 Office; Mark Tabor, Denver Parks; Lyn Kathleen, SUN; Angie Malpiede, TMA; Dan Liptzin, Resident; Brad Dodson, City and County of Denver; Sean Caffrey, Resident; Bryan Hyde, Westerly Creek Connection/Park Hill resident; Scott Gilmore, Denver Parks and Recreation; Bob Searns, Resident; Diane Deeter, MCA;

**Approval of May Minutes:**

Minutes approved.

**General Development Plan:**

Public meeting is on June 26 at 5:30 PM. Denver is providing its comments to Forest City and hopefully the plan presented on June 26<sup>th</sup> will encompass those recommendations. Some of the planning suggestions may suggest moving the future ball fields to the west. CAB/PAG had advocated for that as well. Dennis reported that only the map is on the website and there should be complete GDP documents. Bar was going to check and make sure that complete GDP documents were on the website prior to the meeting.

**Westerly Creek North (WCN) and the Uplands:**

The public meeting was well attended and the project is slated to begin next fall. Charlie reported that 40% drawings would be available at the end of June and tentative costs may be figured at that time. Costs will be refined at 80% drawings. The design will focus first on WCN to enable estimating but will ultimately include the Uplands as well. Jeru Parikh will be the project manager for Denver on this project. She will attend the next PAG meeting.

Memorial Bench Program: Denver has a program, which allows citizens to purchase a bench for special placement in parks.

Todd remarked that it would be easier to get the jail and women's assessment center to control lighting than to attempt to block the same with trees. Bar mentioned that this involves both City and State, which owns different parts of the facility. We need a plan of action regarding this idea.

**26th Ave Park:**

Charlie reports that the playground at Fulton and 26<sup>th</sup> is complete. He believes that sod has been laid and that there may be some time required for the sod to root before the park is open to the public.

### **Youth Program**

Tia Cavender and Chase Grants is launching a youth program organized in partnership with Bluff Lake. The information is attached to these minutes.

### **Filling the Gap discussion:**

There has been a known gap in funding from the onset of the Stapleton project. As we look forward we see that there is a lack of funding for several of the remaining parks. PAG reviewed the parks, which remain to be built. These are the parks in Section 10 and the South Sports Complex and Community Park.

Stapleton Foundation may provide a consultant to develop a strategic funding plan with a goal of completing the Stapleton parks. The group consensus was to focus on the South Sports Complex and Community Park. The plan has always been to find some funding from others for this park. It meets some of the criteria that we seek in that it is adjacent to other fields and has good access from other parts of Denver through Dallas St to qualify as a regional facility.

Lucia will follow up with Beverly Haddon regarding how to proceed.

### **Bluff Lake:**

- Bluff Lake has received some funding from MCA for mosquito control and they are applying larvacide.
- Bluff Lake is experimenting with a prairie dog management and they are finding some success.
- June 11 is the Bluff Lake wine and cheese party at 6 PM.

### **Urban Farm:**

Mike Nicks is the new Executive Director.

### **Sand Creek Regional Greenway:**

- The trail is closed in Commerce City. Kate is working to get it opened for morning commuters and weekend users.
- There is a meeting planned to discuss the Sand Creek Park at Fitzsimmons Pkwy and Peoria. It is time to re-think what that park should be.
- Sand Creek Regional Greenway had a NPET program with 200 volunteers on June 7.

### **TMA, Eric Herbst**

Bike to work day is June 25th. There have been weekly planned bike rides on Wednesdays leading up to Bike to Work Day.



## Chase Park – Cadet Program Summer 2014

This summer, Chase Park Grants is launching a new environmental education program for local youth (ages 7-11). The Chase Park Cadet Program was created to teach kids about water quality issues, and to engage youth in the public process related to parks planning in Stapleton.

Educational sessions will be held from 3:30 to 5:30 on Tues, Wed, and Thurs. The program will start on 6/17/14 and will end on 7/24/14. (See schedule on page 2 for specific topics).

Sessions are facilitated by educators from a local elementary school, environmental educators from Bluff Lake Nature Center, research staff from Chase Park Grants, and local professionals (i.e., a hydraulic engineer, landscape architects, a professional photographer).

**On Tuesdays, the Cadets will meet at Bluff Lake Nature Center (BLNC) to take water quality samples,** and work with BLNC educators to collect, record, and analyze changes in water quality. Cadets will learn about and monitor weekly changes in water quality indicators such as: pH level, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, temperature, and bacteria.

While at Bluff Lake, Cadets will also participate in: hiking, investigating storm drain grates, journaling, discussing pollution control, picking up trash, learning about the history of Bluff Lake, discussing watersheds, and discussing books of interest.

**On Wednesdays, Cadets will participate in “field work adventures.”**

Activities will be conducted at the Westerly Creek Park and Trail (near 25<sup>th</sup> & Beeler). Field work will focus on water quality at Westerly Creek, and parks planning and design. Cadets will apply concepts they’ve learned at Bluff Lake to the Westerly Creek area, and will research ideas for local park improvements.



Bluff Lake Nature Center

**On Thursdays, Cadets will meet at the baseball field at Westerly Creek Elementary.** The cadets will conduct research, and prepare their ideas to present to local stakeholders. Cadets and educators will prepare a list of field repairs and ballpark improvements, and will consult with landscape professionals to prepare conceptual drawings and an estimate budget for repairs. Cadets will assemble a public presentation, and will attend 1-2 public meetings to present results and their conceptual ideas.

*(Of course, we’ll have **plenty of time to play baseball** on the Thursdays, too!)*

Other details about the program:

- The investment for the 6-week program is \$300 per Cadet. Fees will cover the costs of educators, supplies and water quality testing materials.

- The curriculum was designed to be cumulative, so we ask Cadets to commit to the entire summer program, if possible (rather than picking and choosing a few weeks at a time).
- Only 15 spaces are available, so registration is available on a first come, first serve basis.
- Cadets must be registered by June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014.
- To register or ask questions, please contact: Tia Cavender ([tia@chaseparkgrants.com](mailto:tia@chaseparkgrants.com) or 720-785-4155) OR Brad Cavender ([brad@chaseparkgrants.com](mailto:brad@chaseparkgrants.com)) or 720.785.4144.

**SCHEDULE FOR CHASE PARK CADET PROGRAM  
JUNE 17, 2014 TO JULY 24, 2014**

Week 1: Water's Incredible Journey — We'll play an interactive game showing where water exists in the world and how it travels around. We'll observe patterns from a global perspective, and discuss ways to conserve locally.

June 17, 2014 – Tuesday: Bluff Lake Nature Center

June 18, 2014 – Wednesday: Westerly Creek Trail

June 19, 2014 – Thursday: Westerly Creek Baseball Field

Week 2: Important Parts of a Wetland — We'll investigate cattails and wetland soil and discuss how they help clean and filter water. We'll also study a model that demonstrates how wetland soil cleans and filters water.

June 24, 2014 – Tuesday: Bluff Lake Nature Center

June 25, 2014 – Wednesday: Westerly Creek Trail

June 26, 2014 – Thursday: Westerly Creek Baseball Field

Week 3: Macro-Invertebrate Sampling — We'll analyze the creek soil to discover this habitat for small, aquatic animals. Our discoveries will help understand the "health" of Bluff Lake and Westerly Creek.

July 1, 2014 – Tuesday: Bluff Lake Nature Center

July 2, 2014 – Wednesday: Westerly Creek Trail

July 3, 2014 – Thursday: Westerly Creek Baseball Field

Week 4: Water Olympics — We'll uncover the properties of water through challenging, hands-on activities.

July 8, 2014 – Tuesday: Bluff Lake Nature Center

July 9, 2014 – Wednesday: Westerly Creek Trail

July 10, 2014 – Thursday: Westerly Creek Baseball Field

Week 5: Hydro Power — We'll investigate the power of water through hands-on activities, and discover unique places to incorporate hydro power.

July 15, 2014 – Tuesday: Bluff Lake Nature Center

July 16, 2014 – Wednesday: Westerly Creek Trail

July 17, 2014 – Thursday: Field trip to Water World (88<sup>th</sup> & Pecos)

Week 6: Data Collection — We'll explore local issues such as: What is happening around the Bluff Lake neighborhood? How might it impact the quality of the water in Bluff Lake and in Sand Creek?

July 22, 2014 – Tuesday: Bluff Lake Nature Center

July 23, 2014 – Wednesday: Westerly Creek Trail

July 24, 2014 – Westerly Creek Baseball Field