

Citizen Advisory Board
Parks Advisory Group (PAG) Meeting
March 11, 2014

Presented by: Kate Kramer

Reporting Period: March 11, 2014

Attendance:

Kate Kramer, Sand Creek Regional Greenway; Dana Prince, Resident; Chris Story, Bluff Lake; Bryan Hyde, Westerly Creek Connection/Park Hill resident; Madeline Schroeder, Front Porch; Tammi Holloway, SDC; Amanda Schoultz, City Council District 11 Office; Dennis Piper, Resident; Barbara Neal, Public Art SDC; Sean Caffrey, Resident; Paul Frohardt, Stapleton resident; Jim Hannifin, Stapleton resident; Brad Dodson, City and County of Denver; Deirdre Oss, CPB-CCD; David Netz, CAB & ZAP; Phil Flores, CAB & ZAP.

Approval of Minutes: Kate forgot to approve the minutes from the prior meeting.

PAG Agenda, March 11, 2014

- 1. Update on status of the Parks Design and Development Consultant: Dennis Piper, Kate Kramer*
- 2. Section 10 land planning: Dennis Piper*
Review and input to the Forest City preferred option
- 3. 26th Ave park Update: Charlie*
 - Fence removal update for both sides of the Aurora land
 - Information on grading to Westerly Creek
 - Information on path connection to Westerly Creek
 - Correcting flooding problems near Fulton
- 4. Westerly Creek North/Uplands status (Charlie/Kate/Sean)*
 - Design
 - Funding
 - Community meetings
- 5. Other Updates:*
Bluff Lake: Chris Story
Sand Creek Regional Greenway: Kate Kramer
Urban Farm:
Denver: Scott Gilmore
Public Art: Barbara Neal
Denver District 11: Amanda Schoultz

Update on status of the Parks Design and Development Consultant

Dennis reported on his employment status. His last day was Friday, March 7, 2014. There has been no formal response to the letter that PAG and CAB wrote to the SDC board regarding the park consultant. A community member has graciously offered to pay for 4 months of the consultant's salary to give SDC more time to look for a funding mechanism. David noted that several SDC board members wish to call a special meeting to discuss the offer. If there is no special meeting, the issue may be discussed at the next SDC meeting on March 27.

Section 10 PAG Review of Forest City Proposed Land Plan Report (draft March 2014)

At the last CAB meeting on February 20, Forest City presented a preliminary land use plan for Section 10. Since then, members of several CAB committees and the community met to evaluate how effectively the FC plan achieves land use goals set forth in the “Green Book” and the Stapleton Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The participants felt that a thorough review was necessary to fulfill CAB’s oversight role—to monitor redevelopment progress in achieving the Stapleton vision. A Review Report has been drafted for the PAG and a motion was approved to accept the report and recommend it to the full CAB.

Dennis Piper gave an overview of the report that identified 11 Issue Topics that the FC land use plan (or alternatives to it) needed to address. Each Issue Topic included a Goal Statement and specific Objectives for that goal.

The Goal Statements from the plan are:

Section 10 Land Use Goals: Statements that describe the desired future conditions against which proposed plans are measured.

1. **Storm-water Management** - Use trunk open space to manage storm water while maximizing the prairie environment and community use of multi-purpose open space.
2. **Parks and Recreation Program Requirements** - Provide adequate land to comfortably fit the prescribed recreation program components from the Parks Master Plan within a broader prairie landscape, adequately buffered from the adjacent residential development.
3. **Central Park Boulevard north of 56th Ave. / Prairie Parkway extension** - Connect Section 10 neighborhoods with south Stapleton by bike and by efficient automobile access to section 10.
4. **Havana Street north of 56th Avenue** – It would be desirable to have the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service re-open the Havana Street entry and Havana Street for a short distance (past the Havana lateral drainage channel) and create a trailhead to establish public access from the south and east.
5. **Noise, light pollution, and traffic impacts of Kroenke sports facilities and future Stapleton Sports Complex** - Protect residential areas from the undesirable effects of adjacent land uses including Kroenke sports and concert facilities, the Stapleton Sports Complex, and 56th Avenue.
6. **National Wildlife Refuge/Stapleton Boundary** - Establish boundary conditions that both safely enclose the site and its wildlife and prevent intrusion except at designated access points, and in no way interferes with the national wildlife refuge mission. Assure that wildfires can be prevented from spreading from either side of the boundary to the other.
7. **Trails and Bikeway Connectivity** - Connect Section 10 to Stapleton in the south and to the regional trail way system.
8. **Housing Mix** - Provide population diversity and housing for all income levels.
9. **Panoramic Views** - Capture and protect distant panoramic views of the city skyline and the Front Range Mountains.
10. **Sustainable Design** - Plan Section 10 with attention to sustainability and environmental conservation.

11. **Wildlife Management** - Trunk Open Space in Section 10 provides adequate food sources, vegetative cover and accessible water to support wildlife (primarily smaller mammals, local and migrating birds).

Section 10 Report, Related discussion by PAG:

David Netz, and Kate Kramer noted that David Lucas from the RMANWR does not want homes on the border with the Refuge because of prescribed burn/fire issues. It would also be a shame if the views to the Refuge to the north were blocked by private homes, rather than the views being available to everyone.

David noted that the CAB housing committee was meeting this afternoon to discuss Section 10 and will have recommendations also.

Since Heidi Majerik stated at the CAB meeting that the current FC plan is subject to more changes, Dennis Piper presented some alternative land use concepts that were prepared in response to the goals and objectives in the PAG review. The hope is that these (and other ideas) can be shared with the Forest City planning team (including Peter Calthorpe) to develop a shared vision for Section 10. Ideally this would occur before FC submits their proposal for the City GDP process.

PAG members are concerned that even with this very thoughtful paper, few of its ideas will be integrated into the final plan. They asked “what is next with this report, so the ideas will become part of the process and not just criticism of forgone conclusions.”

Deirdre Voss and Brad Dodson discussed the city’s GDP process. Brad noted that the city has welcomed many more public meetings than are normally part of a GDP process already. He assumed the high level of engagement would continue. There is a City/Forest City meeting on Section 10 on March 17 and Brad said it was a presubmission meeting.

Paul moved and David seconded, the following motion. The PAG endorses the Stapleton Section 10, Forest City Proposed Land Plan, PAG Review, draft March 2014, and urges that it actively be considered as part of the long-term planning. The motion was passed unanimously.

Phil asked how the ZAP should be involved since the ZAP devoted a meeting to discussion of Section 10. David noted that few if any of the ZAP suggestions were reflected in the current design, and that he and Phil should discuss how to proceed with ZAP offline.

26th Ave. Information:

Charlie wrote brief answers to the questions regarding the 26th Avenue Park because he could not attend the meeting. The following are his responses in bold.

6. 26th Ave park Update: Charlie, Charlie’s comments in bold

- Fence removal update for both sides of the Aurora land
DIA will not permit until they complete remediation
- Information on grading to Westerly Creek
In process – topo survey under way to determine requirements (stat)
- Information on path connection to Westerly Creek
- Correcting flooding problems near Fulton
Started construction this week

Several follow up questions were asked. What is the status of remediation? Who shall we ask? DIA/Greg Holt? What is preventing the remediation from being completed?

Regarding the confluence with Westerly Creek near Stanley Aviation, what additional steps are being taken to address flooding? Is the work the Urban Drainage is doing on Westerly Creek going to have an impact on the confluence of 26th Ave Park and Westerly Creek Park?

At the last PAG meeting, Diane Deeter asked if 26th Avenue can be a bike park? Paul moved the following motion which was seconded by Dana; PAG shall encourage the MCA to further explore the possibility of a bike park in the 26th Ave park. It passed unanimously.

Westerly Creek North/Uplands

Westerly Creek North/Uplands status (Charlie/Kate/Sean) Charlie's comments in bold

- Design

Second meeting upcoming

- Funding
- Community meetings

At a point in design development a public meeting is planned

Brad said that the public process will be discussed at the next design meeting tomorrow. Sean stated that the neighbors would like to see early design drawings so their input might have some impact.

Brad said the total budget for Westerly Creek North Park, the Prairie Uplands to the east and the Uplands to the west is \$9.5M or \$9.6M. If the city gets the \$2M in grants, the budget may be reallocated to other park projects. Kate noted that Paul moved the NGC Recovery Fund forward last week and received unanimous approval from the Natural Resource Damage Trustees for 2 proposals. The PAG thanked Paul.

Brian noted that he is putting together a presentation on Westerly Creek for the CAB in April. Kate asked if he wanted to also present to the PAG in April. David and Brian will confer about the presentation.

Kate thanked Bar and the City for moving Westerly Creek North and the Prairie Uplands Park forward after many years of languishing.

Partner Reports

Bluff Lake Nature Center, Chris Story noted that they are working intensively on prairie dog management, trying to prevent the spread of the prairie dogs. They will take a break in a few weeks, to allow the pups to grow.

Barbara Neal told us that the pyramid art project near Spruce Way and Northfield Blvd has been defunded. There were many problems with the art that was selected including maintenance and building costs. The funds will be used on a new art project in the Northhill Upland Park. There is a very fast turn around on that project since the park construction is underway.

Paul moved and Dana seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 am.