

Citizen Advisory Board
Parks Advisory Group (PAG) Meeting
July 8, 2014

Draft

Presented by: Kate Kramer

Reporting Period: July 8, 2014

Attendance:

Dana Prince, Resident; Steve Larson and Carol Roberts, Front Porch; Tammi Holloway, SDC; Amanda Schoultz, City Council District 11 Office; Dennis Piper, Resident; Barbara Neal, Public Art SDC; Paul Frohardt, Stapleton resident; Jim Hannifin, Aurora Resident; Brad Dodson, City and County of Denver; Charlie Nicola, Forest City; Scott Gilmore, Denver Parks and Recreation; Eric Herbst, Resident/TMA; Michael Nicks, Urban Farm; Diane Deeter, MCA; Kate Kramer, SCRGP; Ilana Corson, SDC; Khadija Haynes, PAG.

Absent: Lucia Correll, Stapleton Resident;

Approval of Minutes: Minutes approved.

Update on Section 10 GDP public meeting

Scott Gilmore attended the public meeting. He stated that DPR realizes the need for more sports fields and that the lighted sports fields will be moved south of 56th Avenue where the impacts on homes will be decreased. Scott recommended moving the fields right before the public meeting, so there was not much time to tell all the stakeholders about the change. DPR is looking at more informal playing fields north of 56th Ave, since there will be 60 acres of stormwater detention in Section 10, which is not compatible with formal, lighted sports fields. Scott said that a private fundraising campaign will be needed to pay for the new sports fields.

Dennis asked about how many acres of land for sports fields is available south of 56th, since plans show that it will be about half the number of acres planned for north of 56th. Scott said that the design of what and where the sports fields will be located has not been determined.

Dennis noted that the sports fields north of 56th included several other elements and had never included a regional disc golf course. Dennis felt that the public input process had been compromised because changes were made just before the public hearing, so the public did not have a chance to study the new proposals.

Khadija asked if bluegrass parks cost more than native grasses. Scott said that the whole cost of a bluegrass park was about three times more than a native grass park. Khadija asked if all the stakeholders, such as Commerce City, have been involved in the discussions if the area is to be a regional park.

Charlie noted that there is currently no money for the sports complex. He said it did not make sense to try to design park improvements prior to having a budget. Charlie noted that construction of Filing 47, which is adjacent to the proposed sports complex south of 56th Ave, will begin this fall. He noted that it would be a good idea to have Civitas look at the park plan for Filing 47.

Brad noted that Stapleton residents are afforded many opportunities for input, and many of them take advantage of the opportunities more than other residents from other neighborhoods. The deadline for public comments on the GDP is July 10. Tammi noted that “the usual suspects” attended the GDP meeting. Brad noted that the GDP process would be complete in the fall of 2014.

Section 10 land planning:

Charlie said that this year, utility encumbrances just north of 56th Ave. in Section 10 will be relocated. He said the current schedule to begin grading of the first filing is approximately March of 2015 with initial lot completion fall of 2015.

26th Ave park update: Charlie

Charlie reported that DIA is currently performing remediation along the future 26th Avenue park. He did not know of a timeframe for the cleanup, but he noted that the area previously received a NFA from the State and that DIA needs to receive a final NFA (No Further Action) from CDPHE. The area is planned to have mixed density housing, in-tract parks surrounding a drainage area. He said that development of the park will come with housing development. Charlie clarified that minor improvements to the proposed park west of Fulton will proceed in advance of residential development once an NFA is received.

Jim Hannifin asked if multi-family housing could be built on the “teeth” north of 25th. Charlie said interested developers should approach City or Aurora and Forest City.

Charlie listed the following steps regarding the park. 1. DIA clean up; 2. No Further Action declared by CDPHE; 3. Land transfer from DIA to Forest City; 4. Interim design and final design when homes are built east of Fulton;

Westerly Creek North/Uplands status

Kate reported that there is still the good possibility for grant money of \$2M for the Prairie Uplands Park (PUP) East and Westerly Creek North Park (WCNP) and that the final decision date has been moved to the end of September rather than the end of July. Kate recommended that at the September PAG meeting, an overview of the plans for WCNP and PUP be presented to the PAG.

Other Updates:

Khadija discussed the diversity at Stapleton article in the July Front Porch and said that it was excellent. She said that the NAACP, Colorado Black Ministerial Alliance, the Colorado Black Women for Political Action and other groups were looking closely at the issue.

Carol Roberts thanks Khadija and said that a dialogue has started on the Front Porch web site: <http://frontporchstapleton.com/article/isnt-stapleton-diverse/#comments>

- Urban Farm: Michael Nicks introduced himself as the new Executive Director of the Urban Farm. He said that his commitment is to continue strong inner city recruitment for their program, especially Embracing Horses and Escuela.
- Public Art: Barbara Neal No new updates.
- Diane Deeter MCA: There is a mosquito meeting at 10:00 today
- TMA: Eric Herbst noted that there is a meeting about Quebec from 5:30 to 7:30 at Colorado Free Univ. tonight.
- SCRGP: No additional updates from Kate
- District 11: No additional updates from Amanda
- Brad Dodson, Denver: No additional updates
- Scott Gilmore, Denver: Scott has been researching the fountain at Central Park.

9:50 am: Meeting adjourned.