

**Citizen Advisory Board**  
**Parks Advisory Group (PAG) Meeting**  
**August 12, 2014**

**Approved September 9, 2014**

**Presented by: Lucia Correll**

**Attendance:**

Carol Roberts, Front Porch; Tammi Holloway, SDC; Amanda Schoultz, City Council District 11 Office; Dennis Piper, Resident; Barbara Neal, Public Art Consultant; Jim Hannifin, Aurora Resident; Brad Dodson, City and County of Denver; Charlie Nicola, Forest City; Eric Herbst, Resident/TMA; Michael Nicks, Urban Farm; Jessie Livingston, TMA; Ilana Corson, SDC; Bryan Hyde, Park Hill resident; Lucia Correll, Stapleton Resident.

Absent: Scott Gilmore, Denver Parks and Recreation; Diane Deeter, MCA; Kate Kramer, SCRGP;

**Approval of Minutes:** July Minutes approved.

**Update on Section 10 GDP Process**

Denver has submitted its comments on the GDP to Forest City. There were 54 pages of comments but most of them related to formatting changes and some comments pertaining to road widths. There were no major changes to the land use map. Forest City will now respond to Denver's comments. Charlie was not sure of the time line and we did not find it specified on our information about the GDP process.

**Sports Complex:**

The major part of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of the sports complex. Currently 2 baseball fields and a football field are planned in conjunction with the high school. There is an additional 46.75 acres next to the High School, which is for the sports complex. Dennis Piper developed a draft plan and believes that the area can accommodate 6 soccer fields, 4 baseball fields, and a play area. This is short of the Master Plan recommendation. If 7/5 acres were removed from the residential filing 47, there would be space for a total sports complex adjacent to the high school and south of 56th Ave, but Charlie says that filing 47 is already underway and that is not a possibility. This means that any additional fields will likely be built north of 56<sup>th</sup> Ave.

The information from the Master Plan would indicate a need for more fields. However, there is no funding available for building those fields and there is also little money for maintenance of additional fields. Nevertheless, it is important to assess the need and perhaps plan for, identify and save land for a future sports complex if it is needed.

The following information and needs assessment is from the Parks Master plan.

**A 2001 needs assessment recommended one athletic/multi-use complex, that would include multiple facilities:**

- Ten full-sized soccer/football/multi-use lighted fields with moveable goals designed for conversion to smaller fields when necessary. The fields could be

- programmed for other sports, including grass volleyball, rugby, lacrosse, Frisbee® golf, etc., and designed to accommodate festivals or large events (approximately 26 acres);
- Hard surface pads on the perimeter of specific fields for bleachers, temporary staging or temporary restrooms for festivals, with utilities;
  - Six skinned and lighted softball/youth fields (approximately 12 acres);
  - Two lighted, baseball/softball multi-use fields with moveable backlines (approximately four acres);
  - One outdoor 85' x 185' in-line hockey rink (approximately two acres);
  - One outdoor 12-14,000 sq. foot skate park (approximately two acres);
  - Two regulation-sized, lighted, sand volleyball courts (approximately 8,000 sq. ft.);
  - One large children's play area (approximately .85 acre);
  - An enclosed pavilion, possibly including an 300-1,200 seat auditorium for sports presentations, cultural programming and/or a banquet hall; and:
  - A centrally located concessions building,
  - A game room,
  - Locker rooms and restrooms including showers and a family locker room,
  - Offices and storage space and
  - Parking.

**Total Space required: approximately 60 – 80 acres**

With the sports fields and amenities that are currently planned and can fit near the high school, we would be short of the following fields recommended in the Master Plan:

- 4 full-sized soccer/football/multi-use lighted fields with moveable goals designed for conversion to smaller fields when necessary. The fields could be programmed for other sports, including grass volleyball, rugby, lacrosse, Frisbee® golf, etc., and designed to accommodate festivals or large events;
- Hard surface pads on the perimeter of specific fields for bleachers, temporary staging or temporary restrooms for festivals, with utilities;
- Two lighted, baseball/softball multi-use fields with moveable backlines
- One outdoor 85' x 185' in-line hockey rink
- One outdoor 12-14,000 sq. foot skate park
- Two regulation-sized, lighted, sand volleyball courts
- An enclosed pavilion, possibly including an 300-1,200 seat auditorium for sports presentations, cultural programming and/or a banquet hall; and:
- A centrally located concessions building,
- A game room,
- Locker rooms and restrooms including showers and a family locker room,
- Offices and storage space

The group discussion suggested surveying the surrounding communities to ascertain their needs and to update the 2001 needs assessment. It was suggested that sports clubs be contacted because they probably know the unmet need and that Denver also examine its

rate of turning down requests for field usage. The assessment did not need to be a costly complete assessment but rather an update of the one in the Master Plan so that fields built since 2001 could be considered in the mix. The consensus recommendation was to enlist the Denver Parks Department to update the assessment in the Master Plan and to do so in a timely manner so that development could move forward. PAG asked Amanda to seek Councilman Herndon's help in this regard.

### **Westerly Creek North and the Uplands**

Forest City has obtained 40% drawings for the Westerly Creek North and the estimated cost is coming in at \$18M> The current budget is \$9M (TIF funding). The overage is in part due to the Uplands and Wetlands being included in the costs and because of irrigation. Irrigation is adding a large amount to the cost and there needs to be more discussion about how much needs to be irrigated and by which type of infrastructure.

The good news is that things are moving forward on schedule. Denver will own this land to ensure that insurance will cover any finding of environmental hazards.

### **26th Ave park update: Charlie**

Charlie reported that DIA is has completed the remediation work in the area in front of Stanley Aviation west of from Fulton nearWesterly Creek. PCMD will be able to build the path around the future park area once land transfers from DIA. PCMD is also building a prairie dog barrier to protect the new playground area.

Charlie said that there is a demand for residential east of Fulton but that DIA needs to obtain a NFA on that area before land can be transferred. There was a previous NFA but additional contamination was discovered. Once that has been obtained, FC will take down land west of Moline for residential and retail development, clearing the way for the final design of the park.

### **Funding the GAP meeting**

Tammi and Dennis reported on the meeting with the Stapleton Foundation focusing on funding the GAP. The group recommended exploring funding for a bike loop and bike parks.

This was a surprise since the PAG had identified the sports complex as the priority for which to identify funding.

### **Other Updates:**

- Public Art: Barbara Neal reported that the committee had recommended a particular piece of art, but that there were questions regarding Americans with Disabilities access. The committee will reconvene on Aug 19 to discuss the pressing issues.
- District 11: Amanda thanked everyone who had participated in the Denver Days bike ride. There were 120 participants.
- Brian Hyde reported that the City of Aurora & Urban Drainage project to install a bridge over Westerly Creek on Montview Boulevard is moving forward. They

engineering documents are in final review, after which they can move forward with construction. When that construction has been completed (fall 2015), the creek segment from 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue to Montview will have channel meanders (with some corresponding changes to the existing trail, the trail will continue south along the creek under the new bridge and enter Montview Park, which extends from Montview to 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, with the Westerly Creek as one of its primary features. Brian will keep us updated regarding the ridge project and the subsequent Montview Park project by Aurora Parks.

**10:00 am: Meeting adjourned.**