

**Citizen Advisory Board
Parks Advisory Group Meeting**

March 8, 2016

Approved April 12

Present: Paul Frohardt, John Fernandez, Kate Kramer, Sean Caffrey, Adrienne Barton, Rachel Ellis Adams, Charlie Oldaker, Eric Herbst, Diane Deeter, Chris Ricciardiello, Charlie Nicola, Brad Dodson

Sean opened the meeting. The attendees introduced themselves. Sean noted that the minutes of the last meeting had some changes – Paul Frohardt’s name was misspelled.

With the change, Paul moved and Kate seconded it, and the minutes were approved with changes.

Kate gave a report on the upcoming season for the Neighborhood Partners Environmental Team (NPET). SCRG, Bluff Lake Nature Center, and Stapleton neighbors come together the first Saturday of each month from April to November to do work in parks at Stapleton. Please come on Saturday, April 2, starting at 9:00 am to 11:00 am to the SCRG Smith Road trailhead to help with trash pickup, graffiti removal, and tree protection. Kate will look into posting the event on Nextdoor.com post info on NPET. Sean will get Kate contact for Stapleton Boy Scouts. NPET can also be posted on Stapleton United Neighbors Facebook page and Sean will do that.

At the last PAG meeting, a resident from the Willow Park neighborhood in north Stapleton brought a list of questions to the PAG that her neighbors had compiled. Charlie started answering the questions at this PAG meeting.

Report from Charlie Nicola: Connections between north and south have always been a major focus. Central Park Blvd (CPB) provides the main connection with good pedestrian/bicycle protected sidewalks on the bridges. Other PAG members commented that the sidewalk along Quebec at 270 is not as good, but there is a connection with a pedestrian bridge over Sand Creek. No other connections are planned now at this time.

The next set of lanes for the CPB Bridge over Sand Creek will be built sometime in the next few years. Forest City is working with the City on timing and funding for this second Phase 2 of this bridge.

Maintenance operations were observed by a resident on one of the outfalls in the Prairie Basin/P8 Park. The resident is concerned about mosquitos.

Here is a link to the MCA site that discusses their mosquito program.

“Our mosquito control information and historical reports are located on our website under “What we Do / Community Maintenance” <http://www.stapletoncommunity.com/what-we-do/community-maintenance>

Our program typically commences in late May and will continue through September.



-- Keven A. Burnett
Executive Director, Stapleton MCA

Charlie noted there were some concerns about pedestrian access to the RMANWR with the closing of the Commerce City connector trail. The trail closed because of construction activities in that area of the new CPB which will be extended north of 56th. CPB will be constructed in the next 18 – 24 months. Charlie will get map of detour.

The neighbors are concerned about pedestrian connectivity to Post Office. There is one pedestrian crossing on the south but no crossing farther north and there is no sidewalk on west side of Spruce.

More parks are being built in north Stapleton –P-A was just bid and is scheduled to start construction this summer. An earthen berm is the main feature of Prairie Meadows Park..

Park Creek Metro District is advancing the installation of a sidewalk across Prairie Meadows Park along the west side of Verbena from 51st to Prairie Meadows Drive to provide pedestrian access. The sports complex south of the high school still needs partners for funding to advance.

There are concerns about 47th, 46th and connectivity. The neighbors would like 4-way stops on Prairie Meadows Drive at a couple of intersections in some intersections. The City needs to be consulted in order for any changes in traffic control too be considered

A PAG member asked about the storm water pond on SCRG trail, west of CPB. As soon as any of the remaining properties are developed along 40th Ave, , the stormwater pond will be built. A box culver is currently being built under 40th a

At CPB/

Kate gave report on the SCRG trail under Smith Road. Denver Transit Partners have agreed to build a paved trail under the railroad track bridges and Smith Road. The new trail should be done this spring. Kate passed out maps. This new trail will provide excellent, safe connections to the new Central Park Station. Eric will do report on Central Park station and the NETC map showing bike/ped connections to the new station at the next PAG meeting.

The neighbors stated that few bike/ped people use Quebec because it does not seem safe because there are people living in tents. People do not feel safe on the sidewalk that goes over I-270 especially after snow when the sidewalk is piled with snow and debris. People asked for better lighting in that whole area. When SCRG is paved and more people are using the trail, it will be safer, hopefully.

Rachel asked if they could use the bridge over Sand Creek near Quebec as an art project – paint the concrete band with high school. Kate initially thought it was a good idea, but she thought that Rachel was talking about the SCRG ped bridge over Sand Creek under I-70.

Kate discussed a potential trail from the SCRG near I-70 to the hotels south of I-70 and east of Quebec. Denver Public Work and Parks & Rec are looking into this possible trail. Paul raised the issue of good connectivity though the neighbor around the hotels. Kate said that sidewalks under I-70 around the Quebec interchange will always be problematic for walkers because of the on-off ramps.

Charlie noted that dirt is being moved in Filing 49 (Section 10). In addition to the residential development, there will be ultimately be commercial along 56th Ave, in –tract parks in the filing and a splash park feature. Forest City hopes to sell the first residential lots by the end of the summer.

Grading for the homes and parks along 26th Avenue in Aurora is beginning very soon. PCMD will cut down the Siberian Elm trees with the grading. Kate discussed the important removal of invasive trees such as Russian olive and Siberian Elm trees, in order to plant native and urban-adapted trees for the next 50 years. At his request, Charlie will get plans to Jim Hannifin of the proposed development for his use. Several questions were asked

about lighting along the park trail and at Stanley Marketplace. The PAG will reach out to the Stanley developers to see where they are in design and construction.

Brad Dodson noted that DURA will come to the next CAB to talk about funding on Thursday, March 17 from 7:30 to 7:50.

Eric reported that that will be no cycletrack along 26th. Forest City and the City of Denver favor traditional bike lanes on 26th avenue.

Eric from NETC report that the Central Park Station and East Corridor FasTracks opening is on April 23, 2016 from 10:00 to 2:00. It is called Central Park Takes Flight street party. Sponsorship opportunities are still available.

Charlie Oldaker said that the application for the NE Denver Leadership week is open and please recommend 10th or 11th graders for the session in June.

Adrienne Barton from Denver parks and Rec gave the following report:

Sand Creek Regional Greenway Trail – Master Plan Update:

- Stream Design is currently working on finalizing the preferred alternatives based on the findings and feedback from the public meetings. We will be working to finalize the document later this spring.
- We are developing a scope to begin working on construction documents for implementation of several of the trail segments. Funding will determine the full scope we will be able to move forward with. We currently have funding to complete CD's for a portion of the trail in Denver, but not all of the preferred alignments or connections identified in the plan update.

Westerly Creek North and Uplands Prairie

- Scope: Confluence of Westerly & Sand Creek in Stapleton. The project includes re-alignment of westerly creek channel, repair of channel banks, restoration of riparian areas and upland grassland; creation wetland areas; a section of sand creek regional trail from Havana to Boston Street, pedestrian / bike bridge crossing and secondary trails and connections to the surrounding neighborhood. *Design and Construction contracted through Park Creek Metro District. Mortensen is the CM/GC.*
- Status: 80% of all construction activities are complete on site including all concrete trails and new pedestrian bridge over westerly creek. Irrigation, seeding and planting is complete in Uplands East and east of the creek. Irrigation mainline is complete in Uplands west and west of the creek. Irrigation laterals, crusher fines path, fine grading and seeding in uplands west and west of the creek will be completed by summer 2016. Concrete trail punch list in progress as weather permits.
- *Mortensen is working towards being able to open the project's Sand Creek Regional Trail section (from Havana west to existing bridge over sand creek) and the eastern portions of the project on June 1st. This schedule is **weather dependent**.*

The next PAG meeting is Tuesday, April 12 from 8:30 to 10:00 Room 200, 7350 E. 29th Ave.

At the next meeting Eric will do a report on connectivity to Central Park Station.

Someone will ask for a report from Stanley on connectivity.

Jay Henke will do report on SCRG Master Plan at the next PAG meeting.

Agenda Tuesday, March 8, 2016

Parks Advisory Group Meeting at 8:30-10 AM 8:30 – 10:00 am

8:30 Introductions and **February Minutes Approval**

8:40 Neighborhood Partners Environmental Team: Lucia

8:50 Willow Park: Neighborhood Concerns: Rachel Ellis Adams /Charlie Nicola

- Connection to Stapleton on the south. Neighbors want neighborhood to be pedestrian friendly and connected to Stapleton on the south of I70. Want pedestrian access to Post Office.
- Intersection at 47th and CPB is not pedestrian friendly
- Construction in park on Uinta and Prairie Meadows.

9:10: Update Filing 49 and Aurora parcel: Charlie Nicola

9:15: SCRG trail underpass at Smith Road Bridge over Sand Creek: Kate Kramer

9: 30: Financial Report : TBD

9:35: Update on Bicycle Lanes along 26th Avenue: Eric Herbst

Other Updates:

Stapleton MCA: Diane Deeter
Denver District 11: Charlie Oldaker
Denver: Scott Gilmore
Bluff Lake Nature Center: Jeff Lamontagne
Urban Farm: Mike Nick
Sand Creek Regional Greenway: Kate Kramer
Public Art: Barbara Neal
Denver Finance: Brad Dodson