

**Citizen Advisory Board**  
**Parks Advisory Group Meeting**

*October 13, 2015 DRAFT*

***Present: Charlie Nicola, Paul Frohardt, John Fernandez, Dennis Piper, Bryan Hyde, Carol Roberts, Steve Larson, Kate Kramer Lucia Correll, Charlie Oldaker, Ilana Corson, Khadija Haynes, Tony Perdue, Kaia Nesbitt, Jeff Hottle, Scott Jordon, Trevor Greco, Laurel Raines, Diane Deeter***

Charlie and his landscape architecture team organized an excellent tour of parks north of I-70 at Stapleton. The landscape architects talked about three key elements to the parks in north Stapleton - natural prairie, riparian cottonwood, and engineered systems.

The first stop was at 50th and Valentia, the Performance Green and plaza space. The landscape architects talked about the feel of the wind and water across the prairie as a major theme of this in tract park space. It was a very popular event space for the summer blues concerts. The plaza space has a fountain which has been very popular with children all summer.

The next stop was the Northfield Linear Park which is trunk open space. This area has active areas with picnic tables and green spaces. It has a large box culvert running underground and draining into The West Detention Pond area. This area is currently irrigated with potable water but will be changed to the Denver Water non-potable source in two years or so.

The group continued up Valentia to look at Prairie Basin Park, which is the major open drainage way for north Stapleton and trunk open space. Trees and shrubs are being planted in the drainage. Much of the area was filled with water this summer after big rain events. A PAG member asked if the regional trail from the Sand Creek Regional Greenway to the RMANWR was under construction. Charlie said that the trail has been completed from Northfield Parkway to the Sandhill Prairie Park. It will be extended through Sandhill and other parks to the high school in the next few years. The trail has been connected at the high school to the underpass at E 56th Avenue. There will also be a sidewalk along Spruce Street and Spruce Way (past the dog park) to E. 56th Ave. The group drove by Prairie Meadow Park which has the large dirt mounds. That park is slated to go under construction in 2017.

The PAG visited the swimming pool, Maverick Pool. The design of the building and the unusual shape of the pool were discussed in the context of "midcentury modern" architecture. The park around the pool (outside the fence) allows space for neighbors year round, including a small play structure and a gathering space near the post boxes.

The last stop was the Harvest in-tract park. The other in-tract parks in this area are the pizza park with an outdoor pizza oven and the quilted garden with landscaping that

reminds the user of a changing quilt. Harvest Park has pumpkins growing and has hills for kids and dogs to run up and down.

Everyone was very impressed with the new parks. Khadija suggested that the PAG invite the landscape architects to the next PAG meeting to talk about the parks, since this presentation was so interesting. Because of the need for the PAG to review the new SCRGP Master Plan in a timely manner, the presentations will be scheduled for a future PAG meeting.

The next PAG meeting will be Tuesday, November 10, in Room 200, at 7350 East 29th Avenue, Denver, CO.