



National Western Center Advisory Committee

Thursday, June 26, 2014 – Regular Business Meeting Summary

1. Welcome and Introductions

Total of 36 people were in attendance (see below).

2. MOU Partner Reports

- Paul Andrews (NW) reported on the continued discussions with RTD concerning commuter rail cutting through the NW site. NW is also busy planning the 2015 Stock Show.
- Amy Parsons (CSU) stated that CSU is very engaged in the Master Planning effort.

3. NWC Master Plan – Programming and Designs

Eric Anderson of the NWC Master Plan team presented on two items: (a) the NWC Principles, Vision and Goals, and (b) the Master Plan programming and design updates. *Both documents were distributed in the Friday Roundup on June 27, 2014.* At the conclusion of his presentation, Eric stated that design concepts will be shown at the next NWCAC meeting in July.

Questions/Comments:

(Related to the NWC Principles and Goals)

- Eric noted that the purpose of the Principles, Vision and Goals document is to test the Master Plan against the document (ie: does it fit?). The document also acts as shared talking points for all stakeholders within the NWC project.
- What about including “academic” learning in these goals? *There is certainly going to be an education focus at the NWC, but “academic” implies higher education, and even though CSU is involved, that may not be the only educational component we pursue at the NWC.*
- There should be a stronger emphasis on cultural diversity – that should not be lost in this. *The Cultural Crossroads goal might address some of that.*
- Engaging the river and parks/open space looks pretty general in this document – we should look to expand that.
 - We’ve been told by Kelly Leid that parks planning is “on hold” in North Denver as these other plans get worked on.
 - Ultimately, these park plans need to be addressed – sooner rather than later.
 - Green space is a vital component for any neighborhood!
 - There has been some good dialogue with the City’s planners concerning this topic, but I’m concerned about Parsons Brinckerhoff’s commitment to this issue within the neighborhoods.
 - There seems to be some confusion about who is taking responsibility for Heron Pond and Northside Park during all of these plans. *Steve Nalley and the CPD staff are definitely including those areas in their neighborhood plans.*
- How are other non-Stock Show events being planned into future facilities? *We’re looking at as many flexible and multi-use facilities as possible to avoid single-use (and limited) event space.*

- Perhaps there is some overlap amongst the various principles and goals.

(Related to the Master Plan Programming and Design)

- Eric noted that the Integrated Facilities Program is meant to figure out key operational relationships for venues, in order to capitalize on as much flex and multi-use space as possible. He reminded the group that single-se facilities are not ideal, unless they are used often.
- This project has got to be about more than just Stock Show, especially if we're going to ask others to pay for it.
- We need to think about some of the other ways to connect the neighborhoods.
- What is the Coors Western Art? *It is a curated art sale that focuses on Western Art. After the artists take their cut, the balance of the proceeds go to the NW's Scholarship Fund. Last year, we raised over \$1 million, with about \$400,000 going into the Scholarship Fund.*
- Are you looking at all of the parks in your plan? *Yes – the parks are within the Secondary Study Area.*
- Are you looking at the ASARCO site in your plan? *No – that is West of Washington, which is outside of the primary and secondary study areas.*
 - This is either where the NW plans and the neighborhood plans come together – or clash.
- Could you talk a little bit about parking? *There are numerous opportunities to put parking underneath some venues, which follows the flexible use criteria that we're trying to follow.*
- There is a health problem in this neighborhood – people need a place to keep fit. You need to do something to tie in health, diet, farming and wellness.
- Could you clarify your use of the term “Exploratorium”? Based upon the Exploratorium in San Francisco, there is a very specific connotation associated with that. *The usage of the term is not meant to be associated with the facility in San Francisco.*
- The Livestock Exchange Building is a grand old building – could that possibly be used for a neighborhood museum space?

4. Denver Public Schools (DPS) Planning

Denver Public Schools' Director of Planning and Research Brian Eschbacher presented to the NWCAC on how the District plans for new schools by studying capacity, with a particular focus on North Denver. *His presentation, along with some supplemental documents, was distributed in the Friday Roundup on June 27, 2014.*

Questions/Comments

- Could you speak to why Garden Place and Swansea Elementary perform so low? *Actually, compared to other North Denver schools, they both perform pretty well. I'll share the School Performance Framework (SPF) results for those two schools.*
- How do you measure “Distinguished” schools? *We have a 100-point scorecard that identifies various measureables. If a school scores at or above 80, they are considered “distinguished”.*
- How can we go about creating new progressive schools that are tailored to the jobs of the future? Can't we invest more money to make that happen?
- The DPS “method” needs to be reactive, but maybe we're suggesting a more proactive approach towards planning that addresses the combination of long-time residents and low-income students with the emerging gentrification and young population?

5. NWCAC Membership & Process

Due to time constraints, the NWCAC membership & process discussion has been tabled until the July meeting. Maria also reminded the Committee that by August, the NWCAC will be a year old.

6. Member and Public Comments

- John Zapien asked about his request to discuss the Mayor's Finance Advisory Group at an Advisory Committee meeting. Maria noted that Kelly Leid would be the best person to speak to that issue, and that NWCAC members can expect some materials about the Finance Advisory Group before the next meeting.

7. In Attendance

Maria Garcia Berry (Co-Facilitator)
Terrance Carroll (Co-Facilitator)
Ron Williams (NW)
Paul Andrews (NW)
Diane Lapierre (Denver Public Library)
Steve Nalley (City of Denver)
Jennifer Hillhouse (City of Denver)
Erika Martinez (City of Denver; NDCC)
Amy Parsons (Colorado State University)
Jin Tsuchiya (CRL Associates)
Judy Montero (Denver City Council)
Benjamin Roldan-Rojas (Office of Judy Montero)
Nola Miguel (Office of Judy Montero)
Susan Aldretti (Office of Debbie Ortega)
David Oletski (Globeville)
AE (Globeville)
John Zapien (Globeville)
Armando Payan (Globeville)
Drew Dutcher (Elyria)

Juan Veloz (Elyria-Swansea)
Patricia Carmody (Riverside Cemetery)*
Tangier Barnes (Groundwork Denver)
Annie Levinsky (Historic Denver)
Coby Gould (The GrowHaus)
Steven Moss (Focus Points)
Mickey Zeppelin (Taxi)
Heather Lafferty (Habitat for Humanity)
Brian Eschbacher (Denver Public Schools)
Eric Anderson (Parsons Brinckerhoff)
Laura Aldrete (Parsons Brinckerhoff)
Beth Vogelsang (Master Plan team)
Jason Newsome (Civitas)*
Robin Reichhardt (guest)
Anne Hayes (guest)
Nohra Medina (Spanish language interpreter)
Jim Kroll (Denver Public Library)*

*= Tour Participant only