



National Western Center Citizens Advisory Committee

Thursday, July 30, 2015 – Meeting Summary

1. Welcome and Introductions

Roger Sherman and Terrance Carroll greeted those in attendance before beginning the meeting. Paul Andrews updated members about Riot Fest, a three day music festival that is going to be held at the National Western Complex, beginning August 28th. He explained it has the potential to be the second largest event hosted at the National Western complex. He then introduced Michael Barsch, a local partner with Riot Fest, who gave a brief history and provided information on the upcoming event. He noted approximately 90 bands will be on the line-up and the bulk of the festival will be held outdoors. Barsch also explained the event organizers are working with the police, fire and medical professionals to ensure the festival is carried out in a safe and responsible manner.

Questions and Comments

- John Zapien acknowledged the concerns some community members may have about Riot Fest but expressed support for the event and the business and people it will bring to the area.
- Erica Martinez added for those concerned about safety, event goers are only granted entry once and must stay within the premises until they leave.

2. NWC Updates

Celia Vanderloop presented on the early action drainage project and coliseum drainage update. She explained the National Western Master Plan originally included an open water drainage system which would run through the coliseum site and enter the river. She explained that the city is looking at improving the drainage of the area around I-70 and the existing NWC site where the drainage will need to meet CDOT's needs as well. She discussed the constraints to the planning process due to existing sewage infrastructure in the area with the Delgany Interceptor and the metro wastewater sewage line which runs across the east side of the National Western Center and through Globeville Landing Park. Depending on where the drainage channel goes on the property, it will affect the way the property ultimately is designed. In order to factor in all the constraints and the needs of different entities, the city is currently exploring several different drainage options and cost models. Vanderloop stated she intends to be back at the August or September CAC meeting with more concrete plans for the drainage infrastructure and NWC site topography. She noted water drainage systems are inherently difficult due to the fact water must run downhill. The drainage system cannot run through just any portion of the land as it is very expensive to create a downhill channel in an area where it otherwise would not exist. She explained she is not currently in a position to say what the channel will look like but the feasibility study is considering the visual appeal of the drainage system as well. Vanderloop then went on to discuss the drainage projects CDOT is currently working on in order to curb flooding in the northern Denver area. The Two Basins

Drainage Project is currently underway and will curb the flooding along I-70 and the North Denver neighborhoods. Denver Auditor Tim O'Brien is considering an intergovernmental agreement to help fund about 40% of the project. It was noted CDOT also contributed some funding to the NWC drainage system because they will make use of the onsite drainage as well. The vast majority of the water that will be drained through the channel will come from the Montclair Drainage Basin which accounts for about 20% of the storm water from Denver.

Additionally, Vanderloop explained the process of testing for contaminants in the area. She stated that her team has looked at the entire NWC Master Plan site using insurance records to determine what sort of activity has taken place in the area and then tested in places of particular interest. Soil, groundwater and vapor sampling have been done to determine what contaminants exist on site and whether contaminant levels are safe. To date, Vanderloop's team has found lower levels of contaminants than they had predicted. The Denver Environmental Quality Division is not finished conducting tests in the area however they will continue to keep the CAC updated throughout the year as they develop a more comprehensive understanding of the environmental quality of the area. A more detailed report will be given in August or September.

Kelly Leid briefly gave an update on the Regional Tourism Act application. He noted the NWC application presentation and public hearing to the Denver Economic Development Commission will be held on October 5th and reminded CAC members to mark that date on their calendars. He also stated Lotti will attend an upcoming CAC meeting to give members a more thorough presentation on the RTA application.

After discussing the RTA, Leid explained the NWC Historic Resources Work Plan. One main focus for the NWC development is integrating the history of the site in a way that tells a story and maintains some of the historical aspects. Barbara Frommell is spearheading the historical integration process with History Colorado and Historic Denver.

Drew Dutcher and Kelly Leid updated CAC members on the most recent EOC meeting. Dutcher explained the meeting was primarily an introduction to NWC planning and implementation efforts. He highlighted the economic study on agri-business as a center point of the EOC discussion. Maria Garcia Berry added EOC meetings are open to the public and the date and location of future meetings will be shared with CAC members who would like to attend. Leid also re-emphasized the relation of the EPAS and the CFAS to the EOC; the two subcommittees report to the EOC which is the interim governing body for the NWC planning and development process.

Questions and Comments

- Drew Dutcher noted the importance of making the water and drainage system an amenity to the NWC so it plays both a practical and aesthetic role. He suggested the drainage team consider adding a pedestrian friendly trail along the channel.
- Denver Councilman Albus Brooks stated Denver Auditor Tim O'Brien is currently speaking with all Denver councilmembers and considering the IGA. He explained that O'Brien cannot veto or decline the contract because of a subjective disagreement with it – the contract can only be declined by O'Brien if it contains a technical error.
- Mickey Zeppelin stated to Vanderloop it is important the Globeville Elyria, Swansea neighborhoods are not a drainage dumping ground for other parts of the city in such a way the community is negatively affected by it.
- John Zapien voiced his concern for the cleanliness and sanitation of the increased water flow through the area. He suggested a group be formed to monitor the increased water flow in addition to how clean it is and where it goes.

3. NDCC Updates and Discussion

Kelly Leid briefly discussed the economic study and gave a branding RFP update. He explained he originally planned to issue a branding RFP for the National Western site, however the branding process will now be postponed until after the campaign and election. Eventually when the branding process does begin, it will be contracted out in a competitive process to determine the most suitable contractor.

Leid went on to add an RFP has been issued for an economic study to address the agri-business and agri-science opportunities and the huge potential for job creation. Leid stated 13-15 RFPs had been sent out to various firms for the economic study with the expectation that a few will enter with a high level of interest and enthusiasm for the project. If Leid's team doesn't receive the kind of input they are looking for they will redraft the RFP and reissue it. The ultimate goal of the economic study is to determine opportunities and the impact the NWC can make both locally and globally. Leid also informed members of an agri-business forum planned for the upcoming fall. The forum is intended for state business and civic leaders to discuss and refine the goal to build the existing agri-business industry and attract more business to the new campus in an effort to position Colorado as a global center in the agriculture industry.

Next, Leid provided an update on the MOU/Letter drafting. He found that the translation process a little more difficult than originally planned. He handed out the Neighborhood implementation work plan with version 1.0 and version 2.0. which categorize each aspect of the original plan and its varying levels of completion, priority, and time frame. Leid also explained that version 2.0 is a "living" document and will be continually updated and amended as the NWC project progresses.

Questions and Comments

- John Zapien expressed strong opposition to the categorization of the parks and recreation portion of the neighborhood implementation document as a tier 3 (out of ten tiers; tier 10 being the highest priority) and noted it should be a tier 10. He stated given the large amount of money sought for the construction of the NWC, the parks and recreation portion of the implementation plan should demand more funding.
- AE thanked Steve Nalley and Barbara Frommell for their help and explained the tier system can also be used as a way to determine how and in what order certain projects are funded according to the budget.
- Albus Brooks thanked Kelly Leid for the work that had been done to create the neighborhood implementation work plan and added that a prioritization of neighborhood projects is something he hasn't seen done anywhere in Denver and would like to expand its use to all 17 neighborhoods of District 9. He also suggested Leid have a larger community outreach process for the neighborhood implementation plan.

4. Tourism Tax Update

John Zapien briefly reported on the Campaign Executive Committee meeting. It was noted the election team is running under the name "A Smart Deal for Denver" (<http://www.smartdealfordenver.com/>) and has begun full operations. AE added how important it will be to garner support from the GES neighborhoods.

Jake Martin provided an update on the campaign and discussed the progress the campaign has gained thus far. Martin noted that ASDFD has gained endorsements from past and present elected officials in addition to several business and community leaders who have expressed support for the campaign. Members were also notified that AE has begun working with ASDFD and will be calling CAC members and community leaders in the coming weeks to request campaign endorsements.

5. NWC-CAC Membership and Member Expectations

Maria Garcia Berry informed CAC members she and Terrance had contacted the five members whose commitment was in question to ask whether they would like to remain on the committee. Responses were received from each of the five members with the exception of Tony Curcio who was subsequently removed from the CAC membership roster. Tracy Weil, Steven Moss and Coby Gould expressed interest in remaining on the committee. Tangier Barnes notified Maria that her current schedule does not allow her to attend NWCAC meetings but stated she would like Groundwork Denver nominate another member in her place. Tangier Barnes' and Lilliana Flores Amaro's membership were also a point of discussion due to the fact that some members were under the impression they represent the neighborhood while others believed they represent organizations. It was noted the neighborhood to business membership ratio should be even in order to ensure equal representation.

Questions and Comments

- Maria Garcia Berry stated the process for recruiting neighborhood/community members will need to be executed by the existing community members.
- Lilliana's membership will be determined at the next meeting she attends in person.

6. Open Discussion, Announcements & Public Comments

Paul Andrews of updated the CAC about an ongoing NWSS negotiation for a land acquisition. Due to RTD expansion, the city of Denver acquired 7 acres of NWSS owned land under eminent domain, diminishing a vital piece of land used to stall cattle. Andrews explained he was recently contacted by a landowner in the area who is selling about 8 acres and prefers the land go to the NWSS rather than any of the Marijuana shops that had expressed interest. He added the NWSS had successfully negotiated a deal with the landowner and the property is currently under contract. Andrews added the NWC does not have a parking plan and the new space will be taken into consideration in the planning process. Maria Garcia Berry added, in the short term, there are no plans to rezone the land currently under contract.

On behalf of GrowHaus Denver, John Zapien informed CAC members GrowHaus would be hosting an event on Saturday, August 8th to celebrate fun, food, and healthy living at their location off 47th and York.

Questions and Comments

- Drew Dutcher emphasized the importance of transit oriented development which needs to be a focal point in the NWC planning process.
- Maria Garcia Berry announced members will be notified where the next CAC meeting will be on August 27th because the National Western Center will be occupied by Riot Fest.

7. Attendance

Maria Garcia Berry (Co-facilitator)	Drew Dutcher (Elyria)
Terrance Carroll (Co-facilitator)	Bette Cram (Elyria – Swansea)
Ron Williams (NWSS)	Juan Veloz (Elyria – Swansea)
Albus Brooks (Denver City Council)	Mickey Zeppelin (TAXI)
Kelly Leid (NDCC)	Anne Hayes (Westfield)
Erica Martinez (NDCC)	Heather Lafferty (Habitat for Humanity)
Celia Vanderloop (NDCC)	Coby Gould (GrowHaus)
Susan Aldretti (Office of Debbie Ortega)	Sandra Morales (GrowHaus, LiveWell)
Jocelyn Hittle (CSU)	Nola Miguel (FocusPts, GrowHaus, Livewell)
AE (Globeville)	Maria Campos (FocusPts, GrowHaus, Livewell)
John Zapien (Globeville)	Cliff Carney (Denver Police)
Armando Payan (Globeville)	Jake Martin (A Smart Deal for Denver)
Marina Chotzinoff (Globeville)	Michael Barsch (Riot Fest)
Loren Snyder (Globeville)	Monica Rivera (Spanish Lang. Interpreter)