



# ***National Western Center Citizens Advisory Committee***

**Thursday, September 24, 2015 – Meeting Summary**

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## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Maria Garcia Berry and Terrance Carroll welcomed those in attendance before beginning the meeting.

## **2. Committee Community Representative Reports**

Drew Dutcher gave a brief update on the Executive Oversight Committee. He noted that the committee is working on ensuring it has proper representation. Dutcher explained that his concern was for the smaller communities whose voice needs to be heard. He added that he is always approachable and can be reached via phone or email or in person should anyone have any questions or suggestions.

For the Campaign Executive Committee update, John Zapien informed members that the campaign team had begun canvassing the GES neighborhoods in order to garner more community support and create an opportunity for increased community engagement. He also noted he would be meeting with the Denver Democratic Party to discuss potential support for the NWC ballot measure. Jake Martin added that the campaign is now within 40 days of the election and informed CAC members that A Smart Deal for Denver has opened a new office at 38<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut and primarily as a canvassing HQ. Martin explained the campaign canvassing team is knocking on about one thousand doors a day in efforts to reach as many people as possible. The canvassing team has found that an overwhelming amount of residents either have no opinion on the NWC or simply did not know an election will be held this year, which demonstrates just how important door-to-door canvassing efforts are. Martin explained that the canvassers intend to speak to residents before they receive their ballot and again in three weeks after they have received their ballot. Thus far, the campaign has garnered 441 endorsements and is well on its way to receiving its goal of 600. Jake Martin noted the campaign will also release two TV ads in the coming week featuring GES residents John Zapien and Phyllis Mora. One large concern for the campaign is that NWC is the last issue listed on the ballot and its sheer length may put off some voters which is why educating as many voters as possible is so crucial. Maria Garcia Berry stated voters must be able to resonate with ballot question 2C and one thing CAC members must make clear while promoting the campaign is that the ballot tax extension will provide funding to both the NWC and the Convention Center and pump business revenue into other areas of the Colorado economy – this will have a greater impact than just the National Western Center.

### Questions and Comments

- AE outlined some key dates for the upcoming elections: ballots are mailed October 13<sup>th</sup> and drop boxes become active on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

- Carrie Atiyeh noted that on October 8<sup>th</sup> VISIT Denver will hold its annual partnership meeting and reminded CAC members that anyone who would like to attend can register at ([www.denver.org/rsvp/?action=registrationForm&eventid=2073&sessionuuiid=](http://www.denver.org/rsvp/?action=registrationForm&eventid=2073&sessionuuiid=)). She stated that the meeting will be held at the Bellco Theater in the Convention Center and Mayor Hancock will attend as the keynote speaker to give his endorsement for the National Western Center.
- Atiyeh informed CAC members that on the weekend beginning 9/26, the campaign will have a table set up at the Convention Center for the Great American Beer Festival and encouraged members to stop by.

On behalf of CAC community representative Armando Payan, Kelly Leid updated members on the Capital Funding Alignment Subcommittee. Leid reminded members City of Denver CFO Cary Kennedy will chair the CFAS, and added the purpose of the CFAS is to manage the first round of funding for the NWC before a more permanent governing structure can be set up. The first meeting for the CFAS is set for early October. Leid then switched the focus to the Event Programming Advisory Subcommittee, which will be chaired by Ed Nichols and George Sparks. The scope of responsibility for the EPAS will be large so it has taken longer to set up, but the first meeting will take place in mid to late October. The purpose of the EPAS is to determine the kind of events and partnerships for the NWC to enter into to create a sustainable, year-round agenda. Leid stated that each of the five MOU partners is a part of the committee.

#### Questions and Comments

- In order to address some misunderstanding in regard to MOU representation and participation, Kelly Leid stated that the five MOU partners will serve on each of the committees/subcommittees.

### **3. NDCC Updates**

John Olson and Beth Glandon of Historic Denver opened up discussion on the Discover Denver Globeville, Elyria-Swansea Neighborhood Survey. Glandon explained that the neighborhood survey is a process whereby Historic Denver members will document each of the 160,000 buildings within the city of Denver and compile the information in a computer database. Additionally, the Discover Denver team will identify buildings that are architecturally or historically significant. One major aspect of the project is the process of making the data available to the public online. Discover Denver's goal is to educate the public on the rich history and architectural significance of the city's wealth of buildings. Glandon also explained that while Discover Denver identifies historical buildings, they do not designate buildings as historically important. They are currently working on Jefferson Park but will move next to Globeville then Elyria and Swansea neighborhoods. Glandon stated that her team is currently in the process of photographing and analyzing the architectural features of each building and the online database will be created as the project progresses. Discover Denver aims to complete the project in approximately ten years.

#### Questions and Comments

- AE stated her concern for the involvement of the arts in the EPAS and requested that more outreach be done with the arts community to get them involved.
- Anne Hayes asked whether the Historic Denver team would discuss the specifics of each building and grouping the buildings together.
- AE suggested the Westerkamp building be added to the historical registry. She is afraid it will be lost and encouraged people to meet with the Westerkamp family to urge them to keep the building.
- John Zapien suggested Discover Denver include parks and landmarks for the building registry in addition to the 160,000 buildings they intend to document.
- Anne Hayes suggested that in addition to documenting buildings separately, Discover Denver should recognize communities where large ethnic/religious groups settled.

Kelly Leid briefly touched on NDCC project updates. The construction design documents for Brighton Boulevard are nearing completion. Once CH2M Hill completes the design documents, they will hand them off to Kiewit, who will take over the building process. After Kiewit takes over for CH2M Hill this November, a property owner outreach process will begin prior to construction. Leid also stated the design for 33<sup>rd</sup> street is also underway and that a contractor has been selected for the work on RiNo Park. In addition to RiNo Park, the contractor will begin the first component of the RiNo Promenade, a pedestrian-focused mall. Additionally, Leid stated that CDOT has released. In addition to t MGB suggested a link to the RFP be added to the website for CDOT.

#### Questions and Comments

- Drew Dutcher explained that the Army Corps study on the South Platte has been discussed briefly at several CAC meetings but noted that he would like to have more access to current information on the status of that project. Leid responded that a group from the Army Corps engineers will come to present before the CAC as the project progresses.
- Maria Garcia Berry suggested a link be added to either the NDCC website or the NWC-CAC website for both the Army Corps Platte River study and the CDOT RFP.

## **4. NWC Updates**

Jennifer Hillhouse updated members on the Denver Platte to Park Hill Storm Water Systems Project. She presented a depth map indicating the areas at most risk of flooding and noted that those sections are the greatest priority. She highlighted some of those priority early action projects as the Denver Coliseum, Globeville Landing Park, Brighton Boulevard/I-70 and Park Hill. In addition to flood mitigation, a huge focus of her team's work is advanced multimodal connectivity of water and drainage, water quality, the health of the Platte River, and reconnecting the street grid in a practical way. Hillhouse explained that as a part of the planning process, the drainage team is conducting public outreach and stakeholder interviews to ensure the community plays a role in the design and implementation as well. Currently, the drainage project is on schedule and the Globeville portion is set to reach completion by 2017 while the Montclair Basin portion has a completion date set in 2019. For the NWC specifically, the project team will work on the design/construction for the open channel along the Coliseum and is seeking as much public input as possible. Leid added similar to the NWC, the drainage project has a citizen's advisory committee that is providing input that is being taken into account. Hillhouse also explained the drainage project is neither receiving federal funding nor being completed under federal guidelines which has allowed for more flexibility from the city but also means that the drainage team is working with more limited resources.

#### Questions and Comments

- Mickey Zeppelin explained that he wants to see more than just a subcommittee set up to explain how the water drainage system has panned out. He wants to see those with technical expertise discuss how and why the system will work before the project has been completed.
- Vernon Hill expressed concern for the funding of the project and Kelly Leid offered to have the finance team come to explain the various ways the drainage project is being paid for.
- Maria Garcia Berry suggested the drainage systems project be made a standing issue for the NWCAC meetings with an update at each of the monthly meetings.

Kelly Leid discussed the RTA. He noted the presentation for the RTA will be at the Convention Center on October 5<sup>th</sup> and will be presented to the Colorado Economic Development Commission. Leid explained the applicants will present on their own before the third party analyst hired by the state presents their analysis of the applications in question. After the third party analysis is given, the applicants will have the opportunity to dispute any claims made and present one last argument before public comment is opened up. Leid stressed the October presentation is the final chance to present the NWC for the RTA and that the campus cannot be built

without it. Leid added that one of the main points the EDC will be interested in hearing is the NWC's ability to bring in out of state visitors. Individuals who would like to present on behalf of the NWC will be asked to speak with a script in order to hit as many key points as possible, without any repetition. Following the November 3<sup>rd</sup> election, the EDC executive director will make recommendations to the rest of the board and their decision will be made public on November 15. Leid explained that the turnout of the election will play a large role in the EDC's final decision. Erica Martinez added that anyone who is not able to speak during the presentation, but would still like to express support for the NWC, can write a letter that must be submitted prior to October 1<sup>st</sup> if it is to be read at the public hearing. Maria also noted that there will be a great deal of press at the event which can potentially have a negative impact prior to the election if any part of the NWC is misrepresented and reinforces the need for a scripted presentation.

On behalf of Eric Shafran, Kelly Leid discussed the highlights on the EOC projects. The rail consolidation work has begun and the NDCC is in the process of engaging Denver Rock Island. A third party has helped the City and County of Denver acquire the former International Paper building along the rail line which marks the first purchase of a building on the proposed NWC campus. Additionally the city is working with about a dozen other property owners to acquire NWC land. The historic assessment and analysis is underway and its completion will allow the NDCC to apply for grants to begin historic restoration. The NDCC has also begun the process for design and operations of the equestrian building, which will be followed by the livestock building. Additionally the public realm study RFP will go out in October and is set to begin in early 2016.

#### Questions and Comments

- AE expressed support and gratitude for the city having finally begun negotiations with Denver Rock Island.
- One community member attended the meeting to reaffirm the need for a community kitchen at the NWC and asked that kitchen be given priority in the planning and construction process.

### **5. NWC-CAC Membership Criteria Discussion**

Maria Garcia Berry addressed the ongoing issue of committee membership. It was agreed that the issue should be dealt with after November 3<sup>rd</sup> because the election will have a very large impact on the sort of involvement current and potential members will have. The CAC has the potential to become a very different committee after the (successful) election.

### **6. Open Discussion, Announcements & Public Comments**

AE reminded CAC members who may wish to endorse the campaign that no names are posted on the website unless members give their consent. Flossie O'Leary announced that Clinica tepeyac will hold a gala on October 8<sup>th</sup> chaired by Maria Garcia Berry and encouraged any interested CAC members to RSVP.

## 7. Attendance

Maria Garcia Berry (Co-facilitator)  
Terrance Carroll (Co-facilitator)  
Paul Andrews (NWSS)  
Kelly Leid (NDCC)  
Erica Martinez (NDCC)  
Nola Miguel (LiveWell)  
Ed Nichols (History Colorado)  
AE (Globeville)  
John Zapien (Globeville)  
Marina Chotzinoff (Globeville)  
Drew Dutcher (Elyria – Swansea)  
Bette Cram (Elyria – Swansea)  
Juan Veloz (Elyria – Swansea)

Liliana Flores Amaro (Elyria – Swansea)  
Mickey Zeppelin (TAXI)  
David Oletski (GCA)  
Flossie O’Leary (Clinica Tepeyac)  
Tracy Weil (RiNo Art District)  
Anne Hayes (Westfield)  
John Olson (Historic Denver)  
Beth Glandon (Historic Denver)  
Vernon Hill (JJJ Properties)  
Chandler Romero (Blue Silo Studios)  
Reed Weimer (Blue Silo Studios)  
Larry Burgess  
Jake Martin