



National Western Center Citizens Advisory Committee

Thursday, January 26, 2017 – Meeting Summary

1. Welcome and Introductions

Maria Garcia Berry welcomed everyone in attendance and asked all committee and audience members to introduce themselves before beginning the meeting.

2. NWC Partner Updates

NWCO

Kelly Leid announced 2017 will be a very big year for the NWC. In the prior year land acquisition was a major focus and it will continue to be a major focus although NWCO will increase its project implementation efforts across the board. This year will be a major procurement year – almost every major project will be going through the procurement process with the city. He also informed the committee that NWCO offices recently moved from the 6th floor to the 9th floor of the Webb Building in order to accommodate new staff and CH2M who has been brought on to oversee the project.

WSSA

Ron Rohr informed the committee the 2017 Stock Show attracted its third highest attendance and the Association will continue efforts to raise attendance in the coming years. He was optimistic about the positive energy and turnout of this year's show and is looking forward to the next one.

CSU

Liz Adams informed members Jocelyn Hittle was unable to attend but presented a brief CSU update on her behalf. The CSU facilities department has issued an RFP for program management for the three CSU facilities on the NWC campus. This will include the Water Resources Center to refine the existing program and work with CH2M to deliver the buildings. Additionally, the internal CSU sustainability team launched a preliminary analysis of existing resource use based in part on data collected during the most recent National Western Stock Show. CSU's Temple Grandin Equine Center is working with the Western Stock Show Association to host the first exceptional rodeo. The Temple Grandin Equine Center will also host assistive therapy at the NWSS once CSU and the stock show finalize the lease agreement.

DMNS

Nancy Walsh informed the CAC the Denver Museum of Nature and Science will be hosting a Girls and Science event on Saturday, March 4th from 9am to 6pm.

3. Executive Oversight Committee (EOC) Community Rep Report

The previous EOC meeting was held in December and did not meet in January 17' so Drew Dutcher informed the committee there was little to report. Kelly Leid added the December EOC meeting focused on land acquisition. There are 38 private parcels the NWC needs to acquire and has begun that process with 17 parcels thus far. He was optimistic about the acquisition process, which only began in April of 16'. He also informed the CAC the conversation with Denver Rock Island has been a long and arduous process. Leid also explained the NWC site is such that it must work with four different railroads: Burlington Northern, RTD, Union Pacific and Denver Rock Island. The engagement process with the first three has been a fairly simple however negotiations with DRI have slowed some momentum in the land acquisition process. Leid was happy to report DRI relations have improved slightly since their last meeting. There will probably not be an EOC meeting in February.

4. Review and Approve CAC Letter to Rock Island Railroad

Maria Garcia Berry informed the CAC two members from the committee (Carrie Atiyeh and AE) submitted comments regarding the letter. Carrie was unable to attend the CAC meeting but AE discussed some of her changes briefly. The CAC adopted the proposed changes to the letter. All members present at the meeting agreed to be included in the letter, which will be sent to the Mars family who owns Denver Rock Island. (**Note:** Later in the meeting committee member, Candi CdeBaca, asked to have her name removed from the correspondence)

5. 2016 Work Plan Review and 2017 Work Plan Preview

2016 Review

The NWC project is moving into a more formal process of reporting, especially in the coming year. Kelly Leid explained the NWC revamp is based around ensuring the site exists and remains relevant for another one hundred years. The modernization of the site will be suited for year round events, education and experiential learning, growing tourism and culture and including the adjoining GES neighborhoods. Leid stated the NWCO team consistently references the NWC master plan to ensure the original plan and nature of the effort they have undertaken is not lost. The focus right now is on phases one and two of the plan with an emphasis on site acquisition, the Platte River and the basic infrastructure needs (e.g. Betty Cram Drive). He briefly outlined several of the accomplishments achieved in 2016 such as historical site designation of the 1909 stadium arena, key land acquisitions, NWCO team building etc. Leid also introduced the CAC to a few of the CH2M members who have been brought on to assist in project management who will ultimately be responsible for the delivery of the program.

Leid gave a brief update on a few of the 2016 studies that are currently still in progress. In 2016, 30% of the Brighton Blvd design was advanced with 100% of the design to be advanced in 2017. Additionally, the NDCC is working on the Washington Street Study and Heron Pond/Heller Open space. Both aforementioned projects are being considered with connectivity to the NWC and the surrounding GES neighborhoods with collaborative input from Denver Public Works and Parks & Rec. The Delgany Interceptor study awarded to AECOM is also currently underway with the ultimate goal of moving some of the pipes along the riverbank with the potential for heat capture from those pipes as an energy saving solution. Several of the pipes block access to the river so diverting them is a high priority at the moment. The Parking Management Study is underway. It will ultimately be used to determine how much parking to provide, where it will be located and how it will be structured on the NWC campus. It will also take into consideration non-vehicular transit options such as light rail, walking and biking in order to ensure a sufficient amount of parking is provided in a thoughtful way. Two Fast Lane Grant applications have been submitted. The first one was denied however the second of the two is still

under review. If awarded to the NWC, it will be used to fund some of the rail relocation on site. Finally, Leid informed the committee a website for the center has been created and is now online (<http://www.nationalwesterncenter.com>).

2017 Preview

Leid informed the CAC land acquisition will remain a major focus in the coming year. Optimistically, the NWC will negotiate alternative rail design options with Denver Rock Island. An RFQ will be issued for a campus place making team. A master site survey will be established and will reveal the grading and geospatial characteristics of the site prior to development. The Brighton Blvd segment 3 design work will be advanced with a goal to begin construction from 47th to Race Ct. in 2018 probably after the next year's stock show. Campus place making has been organized into four buckets. 1) The city is obligated under the State to deliver progress on the RTA components such as the stockyards, the livestock center and the equestrian center. Programming for those buildings will be currently being refined. 2) The public realm study will focus on the outdoor spaces with a strong emphasis on look and feel of the area and the pedestrian experience. 3) Campus design standards and guidelines will examine how buildings on the campus will look and complement one another. 4) Connecting back to the community through multimodal road connections. Betty Cram Dr. and the bridge running over the Platte that connects Washington St. are just a few examples of place making with respect to the community. Leid explained CH2M will receive a notice to proceed within the next two weeks after which they have a 90 day period to translate all the historical documentation of the work completed thus far which will then be organized into three main sections 1) scope: what they will deliver in detail 2) schedule: how tasks and goals will be ordered strategically on a timeline 3) Budget: all funding estimates and revenue streams will be organized and used to plan scheduling. Once that process has been completed, the full schedule will be solidified for the first year work plan and all major milestones that need to be accomplished going into the next year.

Questions and Comments

- AE asked Leid for what formal process the Capital and Operating Funding Alignment Subcommittee (CoFAS) will report through. Leid explained there is no official role for CoFAS reporting although it will produce publicly available reports for the CAC.
- AE asked what role DURA will play with the NWC. Leid answered that DURA is tied to the Regional Tourism Act (RTA), a state legislative bill passed several years ago in which unique projects receive funding in order to generate tourism-based revenue.
- John Zapien asked whether the new presidential administration might have an effect on the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers study of the Platte. Leid said it was too early to tell but the city of Denver will continue to focus on the river regardless.
- John Zapien asked how much the railroad lines and the Delgany might affect crossings over the Platte. Kelly Leid explained there will be at-grade crossings with protections and safety guards in place. There will be a robust conversation around the Platte River bridges prior to their construction.
- AE asked whether Kelly Leid would be able to create an outline or guide for the process with CH2M and perhaps the next EOC meeting so that committee members have a better idea of the 2017 timeline prior to the next meeting.
- Candi CdeBaca asked what the timeline will be for creating the authority that will govern the NWC. Leid explained city attorneys are working through a framing document that will describe the structure for the governing entity. The goal is to have all the necessary measures for a governing body in place this upcoming summer. The governance structure will be designed as a long-term sustainable entity that meets the interest of all parties and operates separate from the city.
- Candi CdeBaca stated her discontent the CAC will have no role in structuring the governing body of the NWC or its role within the community. She asked not to be listed on letters submitted by CAC because of the disconnect between the CAC, the community, and the eventual NWC governing body.

- Vernon Hill agreed with Candi. He felt that the community and the CAC were somewhat disenfranchised from the NWC effort and hoped for stronger emphasis on their role in pushing the NWC effort through.
- AE suggested the process used to develop the authority for the Denver Botanical Gardens could be used as a model for the NWC governing authority. She also noted that with Denver's 2C should be able to create a measurable increase in the quality of life for the surrounding community and GES neighborhoods.
- Maria Garcia Berry clarified that the NWC authority will go through a vetting and approval process and Mayor Hancock will not have total control over its enactment. It will require a strong dialogue with City Council and each of the stakeholders. She informed the CAC she will ensure that there is an internal discussion around the discontent stemming from the lack of legitimate community input.

6. NDCC Updates

Community Affairs Director of the NDCC, Michael Sapp introduced himself before giving a brief update on the NDCC. He gave shout out to Anne Hayes, Mickey Zeppelin and the RiNo Arts District for advocating for the community. He briefly discussed new developments with Brighton Blvd. Traffic has switched to one lane between 29th and 31st St., pedestrian access has moved to the east side of the road and temporary traffic signals have been installed at the 38th street intersection. The construction on Brighton is currently only covering segments one and two from 29th to 44th street.

Community input is currently being gathered for Heron Pond. Sapp explained the master plan for Heron Pond was intended to reimagine the 80 acres with extensive community input and thoughtfulness. On January 17th at the Stapleton Rec Center the city held a steering committee that attracted CAC members AE, Vernon Hill and Dave Oletski. A second steering committee meeting will be held on February 15th at the Stapleton Rec Center and a public meeting for Heron Pond will be held at Garden Place Elementary School on February 22nd. Sapp encouraged all CAC members to attend and to bring others from the neighborhood to attend. The meetings will be structured so as to allow Q and A during the main presentation and then small breakout groups afterwards so that all questions and concerns can be addressed.

The Washington Street corridor project is running slightly behind however NDCC hopes to set up the first public meeting in April.

Questions and Comments

- John Zapien asked for an update on the gas line impact on Washington Street. Sapp clarified it was an Xcel energy gas line running from Adams County designed to run through Globeville however due to the high density of people in and out of the NWC the pipeline has created public safety issue. As a result three alternatives have been proposed to divert the gas line through Pennsylvania St, Cherokee St or Washington St. The NDCC work to persuade Xcel to divert the line through Washington St. to leverage additional funding.
- Betty Cram suggested the RTD line in Elyria be hyphenated as the "National Western-Elyria" stop in recognition of the neighborhood. Maria Garcia Berry floated the idea that RTD would be invited to the next committee meeting for further discussion on the issue.

7. Community Announcements & Public Comments

A resolution has been proposed to convert the DPS bus lot across the street from the NWC into a retail location, which is viewed as a welcome alternative after approximately 45 years. Kelly Leid added the NWC would love to see that site be converted to retail use and is exploring options to see that happen however regardless of who

buys that land it will require substantial cleanup. Additionally the Colorado Trust completed a study in January which found the children in the GES neighborhoods are five times more likely to suffer from lead poisoning than anywhere else in Denver. This is due in large part to the fact that the neighborhood exists in a superfund site that was exposed to industrial contaminants for many years. It was suggested that the NWC and some of the funding devoted to achieving its vision should be dedicated to remediating the area so that it is a healthier place to live.

8. Attendance

Maria Garcia Berry (Co Facilitator)

Terrance Carroll (Co-Facilitator)

Liz Adams (Staff)

AE (Globeville)

Albus Brooks (Denver Councilman)

Larry Burgess (ESG Business Association)

Candi CdeBaca (Swansea)

Bettie Cram (Swansea)

Patricia Carmody (Colorado Watershed)

Drew Dutcher (Elyria-Swansea)

Nancy Granby (Globeville)

Anne Hayes (Westfield)

Vernon Hill (JJJ Properties)

Kelly Leid (NDCC)

Armando Payan (Globeville)

Juan Veloz (Elyria-Swansea)

Nancy Walsh (DMNS)

John Zapien (Globeville)

Mickey Zeppelin (TAXI)