



National Western Center Citizens Advisory Committee

Thursday, March 30, 2017 – Meeting Summary

1. Welcome and Introductions

Liz Adams welcomed CAC members and called the meeting to order. Members briefly introduced themselves prior to the NWC partner updates.

2. NWC Partner Updates

NWCO

Kelly Leid informed members that the CH2M Hill project management team is in the process of being integrated into the NWCO office. All of the historical documents of the planning to date are being translated into the scope, schedule and program. That work should come to a close this summer. Additionally, the city received seven proposals for campus placemaking RFQ, which closed on Wednesday, March 29th. Leid reminded the attendees that one CAC member will be selected to serve on the selection committee for the placemaking team. The goal is to issue a notice to proceed in June of this year so they may begin by August.

WSSA

Paul Andrews announced the Rodeo All-Star Weekend will be held on April 14th and 15th. The WSSA is working on final arrangements prior to the show this year. They are also in the midst of preparations for the Denver County Fair July 21-23. The entire programming for the fair is being revamped this year as it is the first year the Fair will be hosted by the WSSA.

CSU

Jocelyn Hittle announced that CSU held a soft launch of their equine assisted therapy program last Friday at the complex. Approximately twenty individuals from Bruce Randolph School participated in the equine assisted therapy session. A grand opening will be held later this spring but Hittle was pleased with the results of the trial run for the program. Hittle thanked NWSS for allowing CSU to begin offering those services at the equine center and is looking forward to the program. Members were also informed CSU will begin the interview process for their project management team who will be working closely with CH2M and other contractors for the NWC in order to help make the plans for the campus a reality. The project management team will be selected sometime after April and will be brought to the CAC shortly thereafter. Hittle also introduced some core members of the CSU team including Rusty Collins (Director of CSU Extension Office), Hannah Staley (Child Leadership Training Institute). CSU is working closely with the NWSS on having an expanded presence at the Denver County Fair this year.

History Colorado

History Colorado recently opened a new exhibit in a joint effort with the Denver Art Museum called Backstory: Western American Art in Context. Additionally, History Colorado is working with NWCO to determine how to document the historic resources. A new team has been hired to handle that process and HC will begin working with them very soon.

Denver Museum of Nature and Science

Liz Davis represented the Museum on behalf of Nancy Walsh who was unable to attend. She informed the CAC that the DMNS has had a large influx of people due to Spring Break and invited members to attend the museum.

Questions and Comments

- AE informed CAC members she attended the DMNS Girls in Science event and was very impressed. She suggested the Girls in Science event is the sort of thing that the NWC should include in its programming.

3. RTD Station Naming Process

The Brighton Boulevard RTD Station is currently being recognized as the National Western Center Station. At the request of Betty Cram, the CAC has begun the process of advocating that the station be renamed to include “Elyria” in the title. Liz Adams introduced Bill Sirois from RTD who came to explain the process for renaming the station. Bill Sirois informed the CAC that the name of an RTD station is typically selected 3-4 years prior to the construction of a station and the name it is given is typically permanent, however there is a process for changing the name of a station. Sirois also noted that this effort is early enough in the process that no major costs will be incurred should the CAC proceed with the renaming process. Sirois explained the stations are named generally so that they identify the location of the stop which is why the Elyria neighborhood name was not originally included. Leid added that whatever name is selected will include “National Western Center” in the title as a part of the placemaking effort.

Questions and Comments

- Armando asked what the name for the station is currently. Bill Sirois responded that the station is being called 49th and Brighton at National Western Center.
- John Zapien asked how the current name for the station was chosen. Sirois explained it selected under discussion with the city in the spring of 2015 when Phillip Washington was still the RTD General Manager.
- Kelly Leid explained that the NWCO is supportive of the neighborhood’s desire to change the name to Elyria Station at National Western Center. Paul Andrews added that the WSSA supports the name change as well. Leid also added the adjoining “Elyria Plaza” will tell the history of the community.
- Armando Payan added that the station should include artwork that is reflective of the community and the cultural significance of the neighborhood. Bill Sirois explained that the RTD has not begun the process of commissioning placemaking artwork for the station quite yet so there is still time to bring the community into that process.
- AE asked what the timeline is on the naming process. Sirois responded that RTD feels the sooner, the better. The next couple of months will be very important for the name change process.
- Patricia Carmody asked how many stations are in the geographical region that is under consideration. Leid explained this is the only one. After leaving Union Station, the Elyria station will be the first stop passengers arrive at.
- Drew Dutcher asked what the community could do to participate in the process. Bill asked that the community members show support through a letter and or signatures in a show of solidarity for the name change effort.

4. Election of Representative to Placemaking RFQ Selection Committee

Members were informed there were two nominees who expressed interest to be the representative to the Placemaking RFQ Selection Committee. Both Anne Hayes and John Olsen were interested in serving as the representative and were each given a chance to speak. Each wrote a letter to the CAC that was sent to members prior to the meeting.

Anne Hayes thanked the CAC and noted she has been grateful to serve as a member to the CAC. Hayes has a background in public realm studies. During her masters program she developed a passion for public realm projects which she spent a year studying. She worked with Hargreaves who was selected as the public realm architect for Denver Union Station. She also served as a member of Denver Union Station Advocates CAC where she was involved in the project all the way until completion. Hayes stressed the importance of interfacing the design team with the public. Additionally, Hayes served on the selection committee for Denver Parks and Rec to select a consultant for the Downtown Parks Master Plan. Hayes explained at this point in the game she looks for team members that the groups bring in to ensure a well-balanced team with strong design experience with visually powerful imagery and sense of space and placemaking. Another key component to the selection process is ensuring the team that is selected incorporates the historical aspect of the site in a meaningful way. They must also have a strong consideration for the surrounding neighborhoods and communities, an understanding of the economics of the public realm and community engagement.

John Olsen introduced himself as the Director of Programs at Historic Denver. He expressed his appreciation for the CAC and for his time on the committee. Olsen worked with Anne on the Union Station Advocates CAC where he also developed an understanding for developing the public realm. As programming director with Historic Denver he has honed a strong set of skills involving placemaking and community engagement. He has been involved in similar processes such as the Emily Griffith School as well. Olsen wanted to use his expertise to help ensure the NWC public realm is as well executed as possible. Olsen is trained as an architect and has worked extensively in the nonprofit sector as well as the private sector which has enabled him to form a unique understanding of programming, planning and the public realm.

Questions and Comments

- Vernon Hill asked for more information regarding the makeup, structure and powers of the selection committee. He and the CAC were informed the selection committee is made up of representatives from the city of Denver, the GES neighborhood, CSU and the WSSA. Each of the committee members will score the applicants on a one hundred point score system. The RFQ applicants that score the highest will make the shortlist out of which one applicant will eventually be chosen after an interview process.
- AE expressed concern for the point system. She requested the CAC be given a voice in helping to shape how the questions directed towards applicants around community engagement. It was explained that the City's score system is relatively simple and whoever is scored highest will make the shortlist. There is still some uncertainty about how large the committee wants to make the shortlist.
- Maria Garcia Berry added that there is some ambiguity around how the CAC representative to the selection committee will relay information back to members particularly when some information will need to remain confidential.
- AE added that the interview process and the questions that are directed at applicants can be a major determinant in setting the expectation that community engagement is a key part of the project.
- Maria Garcia Berry asked what the timeline is for the selection process. It was announced the committee must have a shortlist created by April 18th.
- Anne Hayes suggested the CAC create a list of two or three very specific questions to ask the applicants in order to ensure CAC members are able to shape the nature of the interview and ask questions that will have a meaningful impact on which applicant is eventually chosen.

- Candi CdeBaca asked what each of the Selection Committee nominees think is the most important Neighborhood identity that they want to protect, or what they think the community feels most strongly about.
 - John explained the process is a fluid process. He wants to hear from the committee what they expect out of this process. He recognized that the region is extremely important for transportation networks, sense of community and bolstering the voice of the neighborhood.
 - Anne Hayes recognized that this is a place that is important to the city in general from a historical and geographical perspective. She also noted that the selection process will be long and intensive and that the person selected may have their own opinions but they have a responsibility to represent all different opinions and voices on the CAC committee in order to ensure the selection process is robust and representative of each of the CAC members.

In the selection process MOU partners, equity partners and facilitators were barred from voting.

- Anne Hayes was selected as the CAC representative to the placemaking RFQ selection committee.

5. Parking Management Transportation Study Presentation

Chris Proud, transportation planner with the NDCC reported on the Parking Management Study. The study at its core is built around addressing the myriad parking needs in order to accommodate a multitude of different events on the NWC campus. One of the challenges around planning for parking is that parking needs will likely change over time. It will also address Transportation Demand Management (TDM). TDM is a strategy of influencing travel patterns to, from, and through the NWC campus. Managing parking will also require that some of the parking is off-site in order to create a balance between transportation and travel needs. Proud also gave a brief overview of the project management team which is composed of several offices in the city and the private sector. They have adopted a multifaceted approach that addresses the need for parking while also promoting the use of public transportation options available. The study is about moving people (not just cars). Proud explained the parking study is exploring several different ways to encourage Light Rail use such as including the price of a light rail ticket in NWC event tickets so that campus goes are more likely to make use non-vehicular forms of transportation. At the end of the update, Proud asked CAC members for their own input regarding NWC parking management.

Questions and Comments

- Drew Dutcher asked whether there will be more opportunities for public discussion. Proud explained that as parking needs become clearer, the public will have the ability to contribute more to the discussion.
- Vernon Hill expressed unease about spillover parking into the surrounding neighborhoods. Candi CdeBaca echoed those concerns for the community and the residents.
- AE suggested the city could develop a map of all the parking structures in the city in order to create manage parking more efficiently. She also suggested the NWC have an initiative around enabling neighborhood occupants to participate in Uber or Lyft.

6. Delgany Interceptor Update

Eric Shafran, project manager with NWCO led the update on the development of the riverfront open space to re-engage the river. The master plan calls for the NWC to engage nature and the river. NWCO has outlined some key objectives around water treatment and purification, maintaining the integrity of Heron Pond and having net zero water and energy on campus. The NWC is also dedicated to promoting watershed water resources, education and research. The Delgany Interceptor consists of two above ground pipes that run approximately 17 feet above the surface of the water and pose a significant challenge to river reclamation efforts. The NWC master plan assumes there is not enough money in the budget to move the pipes and

highlights the need for them to be dealt with in a creative manner. They may be concealed with native grasses or the NWC may embrace them and paint the pipes red. The pipes do present an opportunity for heat capture, which would aid in the effort for net zero energy waste and water. The Delgany study however, is examining whether moving the pipes is a viable option. Shafran explained that if the pipes are relocated they must comply with Metro Wastewater Reclamation District needs and provide operational access. Shafran explained the process of sewer heat recovery is relatively simple and could result in significantly reduced costs for the campus heating. The study is about 50% complete and once it has reached completion a recommendation will be made to either move the pipes or keep them in place.

7. NDCC Updates

Anna Jones informed the CAC they are finalizing the selection team for the 30% design process on the 47th and York pedestrian bridge. They are in the process of making capital requests for the bridge with the GO bond Transportation and Mobility Committee and will report back when more information is available.

9. Attendance

Maria Garcia Berry (Co Facilitator)
Terrance Carroll (Co-Facilitator)
Liz Adams (Staff)

Members present:

AE (Globeville)
Candi CdeBaca (Swansea)
Bettie Cram (Swansea)
Patricia Carmody (Colorado Watershed)
Drew Dutcher (Elyria-Swansea)
Anne Hayes (Westfield)
Vernon Hill (JJJ Properties)
Katy McKenna (Habitat)
John Olson (Historic Denver)
Armando Payan (Globeville)
Michael Symula (Family Environmental)
John Zapien (Globeville)

Partners Present:

Paul Andrews (WSSA)
Emily Brown (for Denver Councilman Albus Brooks)
Kelly Leid (NDCC)
Liz Davis (DMNS)
Mark Rodman (History Colorado)
Anna Jones (NDCC)