



National Western Center Citizens Advisory Committee

Thursday, April 27, 2017 – Meeting Summary

1. Welcome and Introductions

Liz Adams welcomed all in attendance and called the meeting to order. Members were asked to introduce themselves before proceeding with the agenda.

2. NWC Partner Updates

NWCO

Kelly Leid gave a brief presentation on the Mayor's Office of the National Western Center. The CH2M Hill team hired late last year has now been embedded into the NWCO office and is working on translating all the historical documents for the scope, schedule and budget for the program. Leid expects the CH2M team will publish the scope, schedule and budget in late July or early August.

The demolition package for the campus will be released on Friday, April 28th. The goal is to have the demolition team on site by October. Facilities will be torn down early this fall in order to make room for the Brighton Blvd improvements. Demolition will include some interiors of a few of the larger buildings that aren't needed for the NWC. A celebration and demolition will be held on November 7th for the two-year anniversary of the passage of Ballot measure 2C.

Campus Placemaking efforts are underway with Anne Hayes serving as the CAC representative to the selection committee. Seven proposals were received and four finalists have been selected for the shortlist. The finalists will be interviewed May 4th and a firm will be selected thereafter. After a firm has been identified, a contracting process must take place but Leid explained the placemaking schedule will begin this summer.

The 1909 Stadium Arena Assessment will be undertaken in the coming months. The NWC received funding from the State to complete the assessment, which will explore a multitude of uses for the site. Restoration work on the building will begin over the summer.

The outreach process is well underway. Several months ago NWCO sent out letters to 100+ agricultural associations across the country. That process yielded a number of follow-up meetings. Leid explained several agricultural associations have expressed an interest in relocating to the NWC campus and those discussions will continue as the site continues to progress.

Questions and comments

- Dave Oletski asked whether the NWC had acquired Tom Anthony's building. Leid informed the CAC they had acquired his building and it will be vacated at the end of the month. Approximately 63% of the privately-owned parcels have been acquired.
- Lilliana Amaro Flores asked whether the financial information of the acquisition process is publicly available. Leid explained that information will not become available to the public until after the acquisition process is complete.
- AE noted the need for sensitivity to artifacts as the demolition process begins. She also asked for more information regarding the Denver Rock Island negotiations. Leid informed the CAC that DRI had been sent a terms sheet with a requested response by the end of March. The terms sheet return date was extended to April 17th, which DRI ignored. In response NWCO sent a letter to DRI rescinding the terms sheet and has begun the legal proceedings under the Surface Transportation Board in a process that will seek to vacate the riverfront and remove DRI from the area.
- Drew Dutcher noted much of the campus is part of the superfund OU2 site, as such there will be many challenges with the demolition process that is about to be underway. He asked how the superfund site contaminants will be addressed and monitored with special regard for the Coliseum. Leid explained that the Coliseum will not be demolished anytime in the near future. The focus of demolitions will be around bringing the structures down to grade without disturbing the below-grade soil. Subsurface demolition will be an entirely separate process that will not begin until much later in the buildout timeline.

WSSA

Ron Rohr announced the Rodeo All Star event took place the weekend prior. It was a big success and attracted a large turnout of event goers. Moving forward the WSSA is gearing up for the Denver County Fair in July. He invited CAC members and neighborhood residents to get involved in preparations for the Fair, which is being hosted at the NWC for the first time.

Questions and Comments

- Dave Oletski asked why Riot Fest will not be held at the NWC again this year. Rohr informed the CAC that the Denver event planner for Riot Fest passed away so it was not scheduled for 2017 however it will be brought back in 2018.

Denver Museum of Nature and Science

Tanya Breeling presented on behalf of Nancy Walsh and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. She informed the CAC the Vikings exhibit is officially open and will remain open through the summer until August 13th. The DMNS is also hosting Día del Niño on April 30th with planned performances and food. They are expecting a high turnout after having attracted approximately 18,000 attendees the previous year.

3. NDCC Updates

Anna Jones shared the 47th and York video, which was put together with help from Swansea Elementary. The 47th and York pedestrian bridge is a \$12 million project, of which \$3 million has been raised thus far. The video has been created to bolster the support for the bridge, which will hopefully receive the rest of the funding through the GO Bond. Additionally, the NDCC recently attained the services of Wilson, the firm that will bring the bridge design to 30% completion. After the Anna Jones' update, members of the NDCC and NWCO program management teams introduced themselves to the CAC.

Questions and Comments

- Liz Adams requested the video be sent to her to add to the CAC website.
- AE informed the CAC the GO Bond Transportation and Mobility Committee has ranked the 47th and York Bridge as a tier 1 project with a recommendation for \$9 million.

- John Zapien asked whether the 47th and York pedestrian bridge might be competing with similar projects in the GO Bond for that funding. Anna Jones expressed optimism about the status of the bridge. She noted there is a high level of competition for bond funding but she was confident in the level of support and rank it has received thus far in the GO Bond process.
- Anna Jones invited CAC members to the first open house for the Washington Street Corridor Study. It will be held Wednesday, May 3rd at 5:30pm.

4. Discussion of RTD Station Names

After the last meeting, Liz Adams put out a request for naming ideas for the RTD Station. She received two responses, both of which included “Elyria” in the station name as homage to the neighborhood. Kelly Leid requested the CAC name suggestion be finalized and put forth to the city and RTD quickly in order to ensure timelines are not disrupted and additional costs are not incurred.

Questions and Comments

- Dave Oletski informed the CAC Elyria was established in 1886, long before the NWC. There is a great deal of history in the neighborhood and including the name in the station is extremely important to the residents and to the community.
- Candi CdeBaca suggested the station name “National Western Center at Historic Elyria” which would repair some of the harm at being denied historic designation.

5. Brainstorming Session to Advise Anne Hayes on Questions for Placemaking RFP Finalists

Liz informed the staff the campus placemaking RFQ has been released. The RFQ received proposals from seven applicants and the selection committee has narrowed the list of applicants down to four prior to the interview process. As the CAC representative to the selection committee, Anne Hayes formulated a number of sample questions for the applicants and asked for member feedback. Anne Hayes was unable to reveal who the contenders were but she was confident in the four contenders and their ability to provide valuable placemaking work for the campus. Hayes’ focus for the interview process will be on community outreach. She noted that there may be competing needs and wants from each of the stakeholders on the selection committee and explained that during the interview process she would inquire about how each team plans to prioritize any competing interests. Additionally, Hayes stressed the importance of creating the expectation that the selected placemaking team is committed to ongoing engagement and feedback with the community. In each of the update meetings with the selected team, there should be a portion of the agenda devoted to revisiting and discussing community input in order to establish a strong level of communication between the community and the placemaking team. One of the most crucial pieces of the placemaking effort will be to create a sense of community and stakeholder involvement and consensus. Anne explained that her role within the interview process will also be around informing the applicants what the public process should look like.

Questions and Comments

- Candi CdeBaca suggested the questions have a high level of specificity that prevents the applicants from giving generic answers. She recommended Anne’s first question should ask the applicant who the stakeholders are, what they perceive to be the different needs and wants of each stakeholder, and how they would prioritize those needs. CdeBaca suggested the second question ask the applicants what experiences they have had with successful (or unsuccessful) outreach and how they plan to modify that process for the NWC. Applicants should also be asked the difference between public outreach and community building in the third question.

- AE suggested the first question should extend the public outreach component to address citizen engagement in building the city. What could be done better and why is that important? Their answer should address Denver and not just their general experience on all projects.
- Drew Dutcher suggested it might be better to have fresh experience and that there may be a danger in making the questions too Denver-focused especially when outside experiences can be used to inform their work here on the NWC.
- AE noted the value in Dutcher's comment but clarified that the applicant should be asked what they understand about the Denver constituency and its values. She also suggested the third question should really stress the importance of consensus building.
- John Zapien highlighted the need to make community outreach a primary consideration for the placemaking team. Community outreach should be considered an integral part of the effort and the team that is selected must be aware of that from the start.
- Drew Dutcher cited the Master Plan community engagement process as a model for the placemaking effort. There should be a similar process of meetings between the placemaking team and community members to discuss the effort on a continual basis.
- Candi CdeBaca stressed the importance of resource allocation in the community outreach process. There is value in speaking to the community in meetings that are already happening rather than paying for fliers and creating a standalone meeting that people may or may not even know about.
- AE noted that three of the firms being considered are contracting with the same outreach team and expressed concern that there may not be enough diversity in outreach expertise.

6. Community Announcements & Public Comments

- Liz Adams informed the CAC of the Heron Pond Picnic on May 13th from 10:00-1:00pm at Northside Park.
- Michael Samila informed the CAC there would be a fundraiser for the River North Promenade on April 28th at from 4:00-7:00pm at Blue Moon.
- AE requested the NWCO mobility team come to a future meeting to update the CAC on those efforts.

9. Attendance

Terrance Carroll (Facilitator)
 Liz Adams, CRL Associates
 AE (Globeville)
 Carrie Atiyeh (VISIT Denver)
 Larry Burgess (ESG Business Association)
 Candi CdeBaca (Swansea)
 Bettie Cram (Swansea)
 Patricia Carmody (Colorado Watershed)
 Drew Dutcher (Elyria-Swansea)
 Jim Garcia (Clinica Tepeyac)
 Anne Hayes (Westfield)
 Vernon Hill (JJJ Properties)
 Kelly Leid (NDCC)
 Dave Oletski (Goveville)
 Armando Payan (Globeville)
 Michael Symula (Family Environmental)
 Juan Veloz (Elyria-Swansea)
 Tanya Breeling (DMNS)
 John Zapien (Globeville)