



National Western Center Citizens Advisory Committee

Thursday, May 25, 2017 – Meeting Summary

1. Welcome and Introductions

Terrance Carroll asked all individuals to introduce themselves.

2. NWC Partner Updates

WSSA

Paul Andrews announced the WSSA is in the middle of preparations for the Denver County Fair, which will be held July 21-23. The WSSA has made pricing for the fair inexpensive, offering tickets for sale at \$10 for adults and \$3 for kids. There will be 18 amusement park rides and the unlimited ride pass will cost \$10. Hispanic Heritage Day will be on Sunday, July 23 and will include a Lucha Libre show. The tagline for this year's show is "Fairly Weird".

The Stock show planning process is also underway. Andrews informed the CAC that seventy-five out of the one hundred sponsorship agreements have been closed.

NWCO

Gretchen Hollrah reminded the CAC the demolition packages and RFP proposals are under review. Members can expect to see a demolition timeline in the near future, after the RFP has been awarded. On November 7th NWCO will host a celebratory event marking the beginning of the above-grade demolition process and the continued work along Brighton Boulevard. The process for renaming Brighton Boulevard is also well underway. Letters of support have been sent to public works to potentially rename the street. The decision to rename Brighton will ultimately come down to a vote by the property owners along Brighton Blvd.

Questions and Comments

- John Zapien briefly discussed the planning process for Heron Pond and Washington St. He was curious about when decisions will be made regarding the crossings over the river. Gretchen Hollrah noted that 30% of the design/placemaking has been commissioned for utilities, horizontal road and infrastructure. There are some constraints to the design due to the rail and some of the vertical landings for the bridges. Hollrah announced NWCO would follow up with the CAC at the following meeting with more details.

CSU

Maria Garcia Berry announced CSU has selected a company called ICON as the project manager for their three facilities. ICON has been responsible for the construction of numerous buildings within the Denver area including the Pepsi Center and Sports Authority Field. CSU has is also in the process of coordinating a Water Fellows program that is being organized with Michael Sapp and the Denver Office of Economic Development

(OED). The program will pair CSU students with local high school students over the summer in a program that facilitates water research and education.

Questions and Comments

- Vernon Hill asked what high school(s) the Water Fellows program will include. Due to Jocelyn's absence Maria noted that question would be answered at the next CAC meeting.
- Drew Dutcher asked whether ICON is an architectural firm. Maria Garcia Berry explained ICON is not an architectural firm, but a program management firm. They are currently managing the construction of the CSU stadium in Fort Collins. ICON will be working closely with CH2M Hill who is the project manager for the entire NWC campus.

DMNS

Nancy Walsh informed the CAC Dia Del Nino was a big success and attracted 12 – 18 thousand attendees. Walsh also noted that fourteen students from GES elementary schools have been selected to participate in DMNS summer camps through scholarships. The museum will also begin a pilot program for the supplemental nutrition assistance program that will allow people participating in SNAP to bring up to ten people with them for \$1 admission to the museum. The program will begin May 27th and will run through the end of the year.

3. NWC Branding Process and Survey

Ericka Martinez announced the NWC is beginning its branding process. Branding will be centered on creating a distinct look and feel with a logo and color scheme that are recognizable and accurately represent the nature of the NWC. Liz Adams sent a survey to the CAC members prior to the meeting requesting community input for the branding process. Members who had not yet filled out the survey were asked to complete one before the end of the meeting. Additionally, partners and instrumental community leaders will be scheduled for one-on-one interviews to discuss the evolution of the NWC and how to convey the spirit and historical context of the NWC through a revamped brand. After the input process, several logos will be created and brought back to the CAC for review and input. Martinez expects that the branding process will end mid August. A 2.0 version of the website will be released thereafter and will offer more specific information about the campus, involvement opportunities, procurement etc.

Questions and Comments

- AE noted that early on there was a discussion around involving local high schools in the logo design process and asked whether that could still be incorporated into the branding effort. Ericka Martinez explained that idea was given serious consideration however it was scrapped because the branding process goes beyond the design of a logo. There was a strong discussion around how to include local high school students in the process while also providing structure and cohesion with all stakeholders and partners. As a result, NWCO elected to go the route of engaging the community, releasing the surveys and conducting interviews because it allows for more conclusive decision making about the design, look and feel for the NWC brand. The survey was sent to Bruce Randolph School where students will have the opportunity to participate in the branding process.

4. Campus Placemaking RFQ/P Selection

Gretchen Hollrah noted that the campus placemaking process is centered on the goal of refining and improving upon the master plan with greater detail. A firm called MIG was selected through a competitive procurement process that involved seven different applicants. Interviews were conducted in a combined team that included representatives from the city, CSU, WSSA, and Anne Hayes who represented the CAC. Gretchen Hollrah highlighted the competitive nature of the process and was really pleased with the outcome. The key elements in the contract scope include program refinement for phase 1 and 2 facilities, the Campus Public Realm Study,

campus and building design standards and 30% infrastructure design which will help accelerate the construction schedule. NWCO is hoping for a notice to proceed from the city by the end of July although it may take a little longer due to the city's lengthy contract approval process. The contract capacity is \$5M and task orders will be identified and submitted individually to allow for review and approval prior to implementation. Contracts under \$5M will continue to be reviewed by Kelly Leid and Stephanie Reed who is a project manager with the public works department. At an upcoming CAC meeting Eric Anderson (CH2M Hill) and Eric Shafran will present on the contracting process and collect feedback in order to ensure the project moves forward.

Hollrah retouched on the preliminary outreach process with the ag community and agribusiness. In July of 2016 Kelly Leid sent letters to 81 different agricultural associations announcing that funding had been approved by voters for the implementation the NWC Master Plan. The 81 agricultural associations collectively represent hundreds of thousands of farmers, ranchers and businesses involved in food production, many of whom have been actively involved throughout NWC history. No formal agreements have been made, as the letter was intended to spread information about the NWC and to garner potential interest. To date, fifteen different organizations have contacted either the Mayor's office or the Office of the National Western Center and expressed an early interest in opening offices at the NWC. There will be a follow-up round of letters released to ag-based associations again this summer and CAC members will be informed when that occurs.

Questions and Comments

- John Zapien asked for more information on the Washington Street Bridge and suggested info on that project be brought to Lisa Zoeller who is the consultant for that project.
- AE noted that although part of the placemaking process will have a commercial component, she urged NWCO to approach the effort holistically and keep in mind the local agricultural economy. Hollrah explained there will be a separate discussion around additional programming that may be able to fit specific community-based uses.
- Maria Garcia Berry informed the CAC that stakeholders had engaged former Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack who spoke at a NWC board meeting about the role of agriculture within the economy. She suggested Jocelyn Hittle present on the specifics of the outreach process and the engagement process with Vilsack at an upcoming meeting.

5. NDCC Updates

Todd Wenskoski, Deputy Director of the NDCC presented a brief update. He reminded CAC members the NDCC is currently working simultaneously on Washington Street and Heron Pond. The first Washington St and Heron Pond public meetings were held in early May and attracted a large community turnout. He encouraged members to stay involved in the public process and invited them to attend the next round of public meetings which will take place in July or early August. Wenskoski also announced \$1.6M has been awarded to Washington Street for the preliminary design process, and \$800K will go towards early action utility relocation prior to the 47th and York pedestrian bridge construction process.

Questions and Comments

- Councilman Albus Brooks noted that the John Zapien and other community members had called for the NDCC to perform a more thorough outreach process. Wenskoski informed CAC members that the NDCC will send out meeting announcements through the mail and will conduct a door-to-door outreach process to ensure the community is aware outreach meetings are taking place.

6. GO Bond Update

Councilman Albus Brooks gave a brief update on the status of the GO Bond. He announced the GO Bond capacity is between \$800-900M. The five subcommittees had officially made their recommendations to the GO executive committee ranking each project by priority in tiers 1-3. The Elyria-Swansea projects ranked in tier 1 include the 47th and York pedestrian bridge and pedestrian and bike connection improvements. The Washington Street corridor was ranked in tier 2 for transportation and mobility and 4400 Lincoln was ranked in the lower end of the second tier. Brooks was disappointed not all of the neighborhood projects received higher levels of support but announced he and councilwoman Debbie Ortega were exploring other ways to fund crucial neighborhood projects. City council will have the opportunity to amend the bond package before it goes to the voters in November. Brooks invited CAC members to attend the final executive committee meetings for the GO Bond.

Questions and Comments

- Carrie Atiyeh asked whether the subcommittee recommendations are available to the public. Albus informed the CAC they are available at the www.Denvergov.org GO bond site.

6. Delgany Interceptor Follow-up

Eric Shafran, joined by Curt Thompson from AECOM and Mark Naylor from Civitas came to present on the Delgany Interceptor. Their efforts were focused on gathering feedback around the possible relocation of the Delgany. Shafran outlined several alternative plans for the riverfront and the Delgany. He explained the Master Plan did not fully address the Delgany Interceptor pipes and left room for the issue to be dealt with as the project progresses but by default calls for the interceptor to be covered over by dirt. The goal of the Delgany Interceptor Study was to examine the technical and financial feasibility of installing a heat recovery system along the interceptor, assess the technical and financial feasibility of relocating the interceptor pipes, and assess the impact of the potential realignment on the ability to redevelop the riverfront. The exercise was not aimed at creating programming, design or feel of the riverfront, but determining where/how to relocate the pipes. Shafran noted that if the pipes are relocated, it that project will must be one of the first developments on the campus as it will affect where buildings, parks and open spaces can be located. The AECOM and Civitas teams proposed five different realignments for the pipes with one being the current configuration and four additional options that require relocation of the pipes. The five alignments are as follows:

- a) Leave the pipes in their current position
- b) Move the pipes to open the space between the river and National Western Drive
- c) Move the pipes under National Western Drive
- d) Run the pipes through the future stockyards
- e) Run the pipes adjacent to the future consolidated railroad

The experts determined that alignments d) and e) are infeasible. They also found that covering over the pipes with dirt is infeasible because of landscape grading that is not viable for the riverfront. The analysis included factors such as cost, habitat restoration, safety, water quality, odor mitigation, conformance with the Master Plan and access to the pipes for technical and maintenance purposes. CAC members were asked to rank their priorities based on ease of access, ability to touch the river, restoration of habitat, and lawn space versus natural areas. Members were informed the activity would be sent electronically to those unable to participate.

9. Community Announcements and Public Comments

Leesley Leon announced the NDCC will host a June 10 ice cream social at the park beside the Swansea rec center. The NDCC will begin hosting monthly community meetings in the neighborhood as a means of bolstering their outreach efforts and increasing accessibility with the community.

Maria Garcia Berry informed the CAC the WSSA will receive a set of formal, legal documents over the coming days regarding the framework agreement with the city. The framework agreement includes issues such as the transfer of lands, capital funding agreements, establishing an authority structure and campus naming rights. That process will be discussed more thoroughly at the June 29th CAC meeting.

9. Attendance

Maria Garcia Berry (Facilitator)
Terrance Carroll (Facilitator)
Matt Zitzman (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 (Globeville)
Armando Payan (Globeville)
Juan Veloz (Elyria-Swansea)
Nancy Walsh (DMNS)
John Zapien (Globeville)