



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

**Thursday, June 30, 2015 – Meeting Summary**

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## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Maria Garcia Berry and Terrance Carrol welcomed those in attendance and began the meeting. First-time attendees were asked to introduce themselves.

## **2. NWC Equity Partner Updates**

### **WSSA/National Western Stock Show Association**

Paul Andrews explained the National Western Complex is undergoing several capital improvements at the moment. Preparations for Riot Fest are also underway. The three day music festival will take place from August 28-30 and is estimated to attract 70,000 to 100,000 visitors. Andrews also informed the CAC that the National Western has hired Littleton based Tigris Sponsorship and Marketing to value naming rights for the campus. Tigris has been forging sponsorships and valuing naming rights for over 30 years, both nationally and internationally and will be a strong asset for the Center moving forward. The naming rights valuation process is expected to last approximately 8 months.

### **CSU**

Jocelyn Hittle informed those in attendance CSU has received faculty input for the Water Resource Center. She also explained that she and several Denver Water representatives had the opportunity to visit a similar facility in Milwaukee called The Water Council, which is focused around business incubation for water oriented companies. While the NWC Water Resource Center will have a slightly different focus, it will draw some inspiration from The Water Council.

### **NWC**

Erika Martinez informed members there will be no Executive Oversight Committee meeting in July.

### **Denver Museum of Nature and Science**

Nancy Walsh reminded CAC members that children get free admission to the museum with their My Denver Card and all school and church groups are granted free admission as well.

### Questions and Comments

- John Zapien expressed confidence in Tigris and the WSSA/National Western Stock Show Association to undertake the task of valuing naming rights. He also cautioned against hastily awarding naming rights and cited Sports Authority Field as a poor example.

### **3. Community Representative Reports**

#### **EOC**

Drew Dutcher led the update on the Executive Oversight Committee meeting. He explained the most recent EOC meeting focused primarily on project reporting and project management. Dutcher highlighted the upcoming transportation and parking management study that will be led by Emily Gloeckner and encouraged the community to pay close attention to that project as it progresses. The campus place making RFP will also be released in the coming months and will have a large impact on how the community partnership with the NWC plays out. The place making RFP will be a public realm study and will have a huge impact on how integrated the community is within the campus. It will also set many of the design standards and aesthetics of the campus. CAC members were also informed the NWC is exploring partnerships with rural communities, which will potentially create an opportunity for the GES neighborhoods to learn about rural farming and agriculture.

#### **CoFAS**

No update

#### **EPAS**

AE explained that in coordination with Denver Days, there will be a July 30<sup>th</sup> event in Argo Park where MOU partners will have the opportunity to participate. She then informed members she is working on converting a vacant neighborhood lot into a community garden in association with the NWSS. She emphasized how important it is to generate community involvement with the NWC now in order to establish a sense of partnership.

#### Questions and Comments

- Mickey Zeppelin asked Drew Dutcher whether the place making RFP will have a format or structure that will allow for CAC input. Dutcher suggested the CAC request a role in writing the RFP in order to ensure inclusion of the neighborhoods and the communities. The place making study will last about a year and will require regular public meetings similar to the master planning process.

### **4. CAC Organizational Issues**

Liz Adams continued her review of the CAC Guidelines and Criteria. She noted that all items printed in green on the document had been approved by the committee in prior meetings. The committee began with the membership attendance section and discussed unexcused versus excused absences. It was agreed that absences are bound to happen but failure to report an absence prior to the meeting would be considered unexcused. They agreed that a member would be asked to step down following 3 unexcused absences. The CAC decided there should be no defined limit to the number of members of the committee. The committee also agreed to add to the Meetings section to specify that members should limit comments to what is necessary to the discussion at hand and be as concise as possible. Additional technical changes were made and a final draft will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

#### Questions and Comments

- Heather Lafferty asked for clarification on how unexcused absences are determined for organizations with alternate members. Liz Adams explained as long as one of the representatives is in attendance, the organization will not be considered absent.
- Terrance Carrol suggested the CAC avoid defining a quorum of members who must be present to vote. It is too burdensome to reach consensus when a set amount of members must be present.

## 5. NWC Project Updates

### CSU Water Resource Center Project Update

Jocelyn Hittle led the update on the WRC. She reminded members of the CAC meeting in which member were able to make suggestions to the architect. Since then, the design of the WRC has progressed. One of the major aspects of the WRC will be its riverfront access to the Platte. Another of its greatest assets is its dual connection to urban Denver and the rural aspect of farming and water through the NWC. The WRC is expected to bring together people who don't normally work in the same space to form unique collaborative networks. Some of the partners include Denver Water, CSU, the City and private sector partners. The WRC will also be located near other water oriented facilities such as Metro Wastewater and Denver Water's water recycling plant. Hittle highlighted the fact that water is a very controversial topic especially in the West – "Whiskey is for drinking, water is for fighting" and one goal for the center is that it will bring together people to discuss water from a more amicable standpoint. CSU wants the facility to have community amenities because it is one of the first buildings on campus. Hittle reiterated AE's excitement about holding events at the WRC early on in order to foster community involvement and bring visibility to the NWC.

The building will include community space, innovation and incubation space for water oriented businesses, education space, research and teaching labs, a 250 seat auditorium, a restaurant and café, an outdoor classroom, an amphitheater and an observatory on the top floor. Although the original plans called for the building to be 15,000 sq. ft., it has multiplied to over 150,000 sq. ft. to cater to the myriad community and business needs. The CSU College of Agriculture and One Water Solutions Institute have both expressed interest in obtaining space at the WRC dedicated to ag innovation and new tools and technologies. Additionally private interests with an emphasis on food, water and energy have shown interest in the WRC as a testing and research space.

In order to meet its zero-waste goals for the NWC, the WRC will use new, highly efficient energy technologies. One such example is the heat capture from sewage pipes that will be used to power several of the facilities on campus. Additionally, the center will provide large spaces for water treatment technologies to be developed and its location will allow for testing of river water, storm water, Denver Water recycled water, etc.

Moving forward, the WRC will need to be discussed and planned in more detail. Hittle explained that in the coming months, CSU will solicit more specific suggestions for the building as the planning process accelerates..

### Questions and Comments

- One attendee suggested the WRC include more ways for City of Denver employees to get involved and make use of the building.
- Drew Dutcher put forth the notion the WRC should interact with the river in such a way that demonstrates the vitality and/or history of the river.
- Marina Chotzinoff stated the WRC should be geared toward pre-K as well as K-12. She also suggested the Center collaborate with local horticulture specialists.
- Anne Hayes suggested CSU do outreach research to determine some of the organizations that might be interested in a partnership.
- Maria Garcia Berry suggested Denver Water be invited to an upcoming meeting to discuss their own involvement with the WRC. She also asked how many full time employees the building is expected to house and what sort of parking the building will utilize. Hittle estimated the building will have approximately 100 full-time employees and minimal parking will be provided away from the Platte, with the expectation most employees will utilize the public transportation options available to them.
- AE expressed the hope that in addition to Denver Water, the other partners come to discuss their involvement and interest with the NWC. Hittle explained that each of the partners will come to speak to the CAC as their involvement becomes more defined.

- Mickey Zeppelin felt the WRC is too focused on local water issues when it should be focused on water from an international standpoint.

## 6. NWC Project Updates

Erika Martinez presented on behalf of Kelly Leid. She explained the project reporting RFP was completed just one day prior and will be released shortly. Additionally, the office of the NWC is currently in the process of drafting the Communications RFP and the Brighton to Race Ct. RFP, which will be completed in July and the Programming RFP which will go out in August. Each of the RFPs will be completed and released through the standardized city process.

## 7. NDCC Updates

Anna Jones, the newly appointed Executive Director of the NDCC brought the crowd up to speed on her team's work over the last month. Jones informed the CAC that community members signed a petition to mitigate traffic and pedestrian congestion at the intersection of 47<sup>th</sup> and York. The intersection has a large vehicular right of way and an active train crossing, making it unsafe for the large volume of children who cross the intersection on a regular basis. Jones told the CAC that Barb Frommell found a grant opportunity with a maximum payout and City match of a combined \$10 million. The grant recipient will be announced in September and if awarded to the NDCC, the funds will be available at the beginning of 2017. Jones touted the grant as a huge community effort and thanked those who signed the petition that was submitted as part of the application process. She added that one of her greatest priorities is to leverage projects that are already underway, unify efforts and enforce economic mobility.

Todd Wenskoski presented on the finances and budgeting for the NDCC. He gave a brief rundown of the finances for the upcoming year and projects like the 47<sup>th</sup> and York intersection. Members were shown the criteria required to complete the project with City funds. Some of the projects being planned for 2017 include GES bus stops and sidewalks, the Washington St. design and the RiNo Promenade. Although these projects are being proposed, they may or may not receive the necessary funding.

### Questions and Comments

- Drew Dutcher asked whether railroad tracks require such large overpasses for pedestrian and vehicular crossing. He was concerned the overpass at 47<sup>th</sup> and York would be excessively high but was informed the overpass at that intersection will not need to be as high as others in Denver.
- AE encouraged more public input for the design process for the overpass at the 47<sup>th</sup> and York intersection.
- Councilman Albus Brooks clarified that all the planned projects listed by Wenskoski are only requests to the Mayor's office and have not yet secured funding or approval.
- Maria Garcia Berry emphasized how important it will be to determine who sits on the bond committee to fund these projects.
- John Zapien expressed concern for the Washington St. design project. He felt strongly that the project has not received enough community input and encourage the NDCC to foster a more neighborhood comprehensive outreach effort.
- Mickey Zeppelin was critical of the lack of GES input on projects the City is working on in the neighborhoods. He feels the residents haven't been able to participate.
- Drew Dutcher suggested the residents form a dedicated effort to mobilize around neighborhood projects to advocate for funding and support from the city.

## 8. Attendance

Maria Garcia Berry (Co Facilitator)  
Terrance Carroll (Co-Facilitator)

AE (Globeville)  
Liliana Flores Amaro (Swansea)  
Albus Brooks (Denver Councilman)  
Larry Burgess (ESG Business Association)  
Candi CdeBaca (Swansea)  
Patricia Carmody (Colorado Watershed)  
Drew Dutcher (Elyria-Swansea)  
Jim Garcia (Clinica Tepeyac)  
Nancy Grandby (Globeville)  
Anne Hayes (Westfield)  
Vernon Hill (JJJ Properties)  
Heather Lafferty (Habitat)  
John Olsay (Historic Denver)  
Juan Veloz (Elyria-Swansea)  
Nancy Walsh (DMNS)  
John Zapien (Globeville)  
Mickey Zeppelin (TAXI)