



National Western Center - Citizens Advisory Committee

Thursday, January 25, 2017 from 5:30 pm – 7:30 PM
Centennial Room – 4655 Humboldt St.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Maria Garcia Berry welcomed all CAC members before beginning the meeting.

2. NDCC Community Report

Tim Sandos discussed the Globeville Stormwater Study general schedule. The Globeville Stormwater Study will address the chronic drainage and flood control issues in the GES neighborhoods. During the first quarter of 2018 the study will be centered on gathering community concerns and developing a comprehensive understanding of existing conditions. Meetings with the Vision Implementation Team (VIT), will continue through March followed by a number of larger community events which will be scheduled shortly thereafter. The Globeville stormwater study will include community driven investigations, planning, and analysis. Concept development and draft recommendations will be drafted in Q4 and delivered in Q1 of 2019. Sandos also informed the CAC that CDOT home mitigations for the I-70 expansion are ahead of schedule. 76% of the homes in the mitigation boundary have been engaged and 50% have had an assessment. Thus far, 25 homes have had emergency repairs completed. Additionally, the NDCC is working to complete the York Street overpass and is collaborating with Denver Arts and Venues on the public art that will be included on site.

Questions and Comments

- Dave Oletski noted CDOT committed to a 20% local hire agreement with neighborhood residents on the construction of the bridge. He asked whether any of the jobs had been filled.
 - Tim Sandos explained that some of the local hire positions have already been filled and announced a more in-depth presentation would be provided at the next NDCC meeting with information on workforce development, and training.
- John Zapien asked whether there would be a tour available for CAC members interested in seeing the Globeville basin area.
 - Tim Sandos announced a tour of the basin will be provided on February 5th so the VIT can examine the basin and Globeville stormwater drainage area. Interested community members will have the opportunity to participate in that tour and a separate tour may be organized for the CAC.

164WiFi Network Name: *NWSS 11*

WiFi Network Password: *4237668512*



3. NWC Partner Updates

NWCO

Gretchen Hollrah, Executive Director of the Office of the National Western Center (NWCO) reported that a press conference was held on January 4th to announce the full slate of nominations for the NWC Authority board. The mayor's nominations will go to City Council on January 29th for confirmation. The CAC will be provided an update on the framework agreement and the Authority at the February monthly meeting. A firm will be hired to conduct a national search to select candidates for President and CEO of the Authority. Additionally, community outreach is being conducted for the placemaking process. Hollrah announced the placemaking survey had already received over 1,100 responses and noted that the community meeting for placemaking will be held February 1st. CAC members were also informed the structural assessment for the 4701 Brighton property is nearly complete. The assessment will determine whether that building can be moved or not. Hollrah also informed the CAC that RTD is unable to rename the stations in the campus and plaza areas. RTD will be invited to an upcoming meeting to follow up and directly address the CAC regarding station naming and other transportation matters. Hollrah noted that although the Elyria RTD station will not be renamed, acknowledging historic Elyria remains an important priority for NWCO.

Marcy Loughran, the Program Communication Director at NWCO, updated the CAC on CDOT closures in the coming week. She also announced early demolition of the 7-11 on Race Court will begin Monday, January 29th, followed by surrounding structures. Marcy announced community members and residents can text the word CONSTRUCTION to 64600 to receive information on construction, road closures, and project updates around the NWC. General questions can also be texted to that number and staff will respond within a reasonable timeframe.

Questions and Comments

- An audience member informed the CAC that a \$200,000 grant was awarded to the 1909 Arena by the board of directors of History Colorado on January 24th.
- AE asked how the appointments to the NWC Authority Board were being determined.
 - Gretchen Hollrah explained that the appointments to the NWC Authority were determined through a process led by the Mayor, his Chief of staff Alan Salazar and Deputy City Attorney Crystal DeHerrera. Hollrah also clarified that NWCO is tasked with building the NWC while the Authority is responsible for operating and maintaining it for 100 years per the framework agreement. Maria Garcia Berry noted that several Authority appointees have expressed an interest in attending CAC meetings and announced that they would be scheduled to attend in the coming months.
- Drew Dutcher asked when the 1909 Stadium Arena advisory group would begin meeting.
 - Gretchen Hollrah reported the first meeting will likely be within the next few months after the contract process has been completed.
- Armando Payan asked if a single point of contact could be established to help coordinate construction and traffic so that public safety is not at risk.
 - Tim Sandos informed the members an RFP has been released to manage and track all the projects in the GES neighborhoods under one office. However, it will take until the second or third quarter until it is up and running.
- AE inquired about the process for determining which buildings are demolished along Brighton Boulevard. She recommended that the historical assessment and campus planning process be more transparent and open to the public. AE also suggested materials from the demolished buildings be repurposed.

- It was explained that the Historic Research Working Group examined all the buildings along Brighton Boulevard. The Working Group includes representatives from Historic Denver, the WSSA and NWCO. Some of the buildings contain hazardous materials that prevents them from being repurposed for safety reasons. The sitewide analysis will be released to the CAC and Gretchen Hollrah emphasized the careful process for determining which buildings are preserved or demolished.

NWSS

Liz Adams stepped in for Paul Andrews to provide the National Western Stock Show update. The 2018 Stock Show brought in 705,000 attendees, which is the second largest turnout in the history of the Stock Show. The NWSS is preparing for the Rodeo All-Star Weekend in April, and the Denver County Fair in July and will continue to work with CSU on the NWC site planning process.

CSU

Jocelyn Hittle of CSU informed the group that the Agricultural Adventure Experience gave CSU an opportunity to survey people on the various educational offerings at the NWC. The survey results confirmed that the Stock Show is a source of entertainment and education and reinforces the educational programming CSU is providing. Hittle also noted CSU will continue to work with Bruce Randolph School in civics and AP geography classes and the new Upward Bound program.

DMNS

Tonya Duffy reported DMNS will soon be adding Creatures of Life, and the Dead Sea Scrolls as temporary exhibits. Additionally, DMNS has begun offering six offsite programs, three of which will be facilitated by an educator that personally visits classrooms and the other three will be offered through an activity box that can be delivered throughout the State. Girls in Science, which features female professionals exhibiting their scientific roles to young women and men, is scheduled for March 3rd. Duffy was also pleased to announce 112 scholarships are being allocated to Elyria-Swansea children to attend summer programming and camps at the DMNS. Sign-up for summer camp is available on the DMNS website.

History Colorado

4701 Brighton Blvd and the 1901 Stadium Arena have been awarded grants from the State Historical Fund. It was also announced the Colorado State Historical Fund has a new director, Tim Stroh, who attended the CAC for the first time and introduced himself to members. CAC members were informed the Steven H. Hart Awards for historic preservation are scheduled for January 31st and will recognize individuals who have engaged in historic preservation projects across the State.

4. CAC Business Items

Liliana Flores Amaro scheduled time on the calendar to discuss the role she and John Zapien will play as members of the NWC Authority. John Zapien emphasized their role in working to establish strong lines of communication between the community and the Authority. He announced he will make himself available to listen to the concerns and viewpoints held by concerned residents. Liliana Flores Amaro added that the experience, and knowledge held by those in the community will be crucial to inform the campus planning process to complete the vision of the NWC. She underscored the importance of community engagement and enhancing the community voice in a period when the City has experienced swift change and gentrification. Flores Amaro also outlined five key questions that will need remain as a part of the discussion throughout the planning and construction process.

1. How is the NWC affecting the community, both positively and negatively?
2. How is the NWC an active participant in gentrification?

3. How can the NWC mitigate the negative impact?
4. How can the NWC strengthen the positive impacts to the neighborhood?
5. How can the NWC contribute and be a partner to the community?

Questions and Comments

- Armando Payan suggested Joe Garcia be invited to an upcoming meeting to hear concerns from the CAC and residents and to provide additional insight as the Chairman of the NWC Authority. Payan also suggested the Community Benefits Agreement signed by the Mayor be used as a supplement for the conversation at that meeting.
 - Maria Garcia Berry announced Joe Garcia has expressed the desire to participate in the CAC and fully intends to come and engage with the committee and the community.
- Maria Garcia Berry informed the CAC that Liliana and John will be given time at each CAC meeting to provide updates on the NWC Authority.

5. Site Alternatives

Eric Anderson (NWCO) and Jay Renkens (MIG) presented the updated site alternatives. They informed members that the two rail configurations have been altered since the prior CAC meeting. In the west realignment, the Denver Rock Island (DRI) rail will run along National Western Drive. If selected, the west realignment would require CSU to relocate the Water Resource Center and would separate it from CSU's animal health facility. Benefits to the west realignment include the potential for active spaces along Betty Cram Drive and public access to the Platte river along National Western Drive. The east realignment would position the DRI so that it runs along the existing BNSF railroad. The east alignment configuration would relocate the parking garage closer to the stock yards, allow both CSU facilities to remain together, and also provide access to the Platte. The DRI Railroad will have 6-8 ft. tall fences on both sides and planners are taking into account how it will affect both the functionality and visual appeal of the campus. MIG has recommended the east rail realignment based on design, however the west realignment has not been ruled out. Eric Anderson explained NWCO has conducted detailed cost estimates, phasing and sequencing and site analysis to ensure neither configuration has a fatal flaw. SteerCom will determine the rail realignment configuration in the following week and the CAC will be informed at the February committee meeting.

Questions and Comments

- Armando Payan suggested that technology be a part of the conversation during the site planning process. He noted that the stock yards could open and close electronically.
 - Eric Anderson explained the site planning team has worked closely with the WSSA and CSU to develop an understanding of the stock yards and other key facilities on the campus.
- Drew Dutcher expressed support for the east rail realignment. He asked whether SteerCom could choose the west realignment even though MIG and others have expressed preference for the east alignment.
 - Gretchen Hollrah explained the two rail realignments and the site planning process are the result of years of input and the team has placed a strong emphasis on access to the river. She noted that site planning is not a creative process; it is the process of creating a map that is feasible and allows all uses of the site to function. The east realignment will require additional cooperation and support from BNSF. Hollrah also noted that she has engaged multiple city departments to help inform the site planning process. The east realignment is estimated to cost an additional \$16M so it would require changes to the scope, schedule and budget. She expressed strong appreciation for the site planning team for their hard work and commitment to the project.

- AE made a motion that the east rail realignment be recognized by the CAC as the most desired configuration for the campus and the surrounding neighborhoods. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously by the CAC.

6. Community Reports and Public Comment

Maria Garcia Berry announced she had been asked by the Mayor's Office to serve on the exploratory committee for the Olympics. She informed the CAC that she previously worked to oppose the Denver Olympics on the 1972 ballot. She expressed the desire to be as transparent as possible and noted she sits on the exploratory committee in her own personal capacity and not as a representative to any entity or body.

Mickey Zeppelin requested that affordable housing and development be placed on the agenda for an upcoming meeting. He expressed concern for housing and the neighborhoods which will be affected as NWCO moves forward with the development of the NWC.

7. Attendance

CAC Members

AE (Globeville)
Liliana Flores Amaro (Swansea)
Larry Burgess (ESG Business Association)
Patricia Carmody (Colorado Watershed)
Bettie Cram (Swansea)
Drew Dutcher (Elyria-Swansea)
Jim Garcia (Clinica Tepeyac)
Nancy Granby (Globeville)
Anne Hayes (Westfield)
Vernon Hill (JJJ Properties)
Dave Oletski (Globeville)
Armando Payan (Globeville)
Juan Veloz (Elyria-Swansea)
John Zapien (Globeville)
Mickey Zeppelin (TAXI)

Also in Attendance

Albus Brooks (Denver Councilman)
Maria Garcia Berry (Co Facilitator)
Liz Adams (Staff)
Gretchen Hollrah (NWCO)
Jocelyn Hittle (CSU)
DMNS
History Colorado