

City Park Neighborhood Advisory Committee

October 18th, 2016

6:00-7:30pm

Denver Zoo, Executive Board Room

Attendees:

- *City Council District 9 Office – Val Hearne*
- *Whittier – Ben Chenard*
- *City Park West – Mary Therese Anstey*
- *Uptown on the Hill - Alison Torvik*
- *PRAB – Andy Sense*

Guest Speakers:

- John Martinez, Parks and Recreation
- Brett Hahnenkamp, Public Works
- Jeru Parikh, Denver Parks and Planning

Agenda:

I. **Carla Madison Rec Center Update**

A. Overview

1. Original plans included: 8 lane lap pool, leisure pool, multi-purpose room, Kid Watch (childcare area), gym, group fitness exercise room, dog park

(1) Pool is below grade, taking advantage of the natural slope of the site

2. Additional features were made possible thru fundraising efforts by Parks and Rec., including the Rooftop Event Space (an interior space combined with a patio)

3. Alternate Features that still need funding: Exterior Climbing Wall (on the east side of the bldg., starting a story above the ground), Site Amenities to be located behind the Sullivan Gateway (game tables, slackline areas, boulders, table tennis)

B. Construction Progress

1. Planned opening: Fall 2017

2. Underway with steel erection and pool construction, pouring concrete floors, interior mechanicals/electrical/plumbing is in progress

3. Scheduled Top-Out (placing of last structural element): December 2016

C. General

1. There is a diving well with two 1-meter boards that is built to college and high-school competition specs. It will be the only diving well in the Parks and Rec system.
 - a) This will be available for East High School swim/diving team practice and meets under a shared-use agreement that will include parking
2. Sullivan Gateway Rehabilitation is part of this project, including restoration of the lion's head fountain
3. Parking availability includes 70 spaces on the East student lot, in addition to 120 planned spaces and additional staff parking in the back. Parking areas will be signed. B-cycle and RTD will be strongly encouraged to minimize parking issues. One lane along Josephine will also be designated for parallel parking once construction is done. The nearby RTD stop will be relocated to a more protected area near the building.
4. Fundraising for currently unfunded amenities is supported by two separate efforts:
 - a) Donor Wall (led by Paul Weiss): helpraisetheroof.org. This is a general fund for as-yet unfunded amenities at this specific rec center.
 - b) Climbing Wall specific effort
5. Event Space is designed for weddings, fitness classes, RNO/community meetings. There is a catering kitchen with warming ovens etc. (Estimated capacity with stadium-type seating layout: 88). There is also a multi-purpose room for smaller events on the first floor (estimated capacity with stadium-type seating layout: 64). These rooms would be scheduled through the Rec Center and eventually online.
6. No retail component is currently planned, though it's not precluded. The space will still be there, it's just a question of finding the right value-add.
7. Public Art Component: there will be an LED light sculpture installed on the exterior of the bldg. that will drive different sequences and colors, hopefully driven by data on how the facility is currently being used by occupants
8. Green Architecture features include:
 - LEED Gold certified, thanks largely to mechanical efficiencies; maximization of daylighting in the gym, weight/cardio area, and natatorium.
 - Planters around the exterior of the building will catch rainwater runoff and filter that thru the plantings before the water enters the stormwater system.
 - There will be a charging station for electric vehicles.
 - The pool filtration will use regenerative media to minimize water use

II. Social Media/Communication Update – Val Hearne

- A. In previous meetings we've discussed how a NextDoor account could complement CPNAC's existing social media outreach (e.g. the NAC Facebook account, the Wordpress blog)
 1. Val envisions approximately two msgs/month: one announcing the agenda and schedule for CPNAC meetings, and one offering an extremely high-level bullet point summary of meeting minutes that directs interested readers to the CPNAC website and FB account

- B. In order to reach all of the neighborhoods in the NAC's domain, we would either need an Agency-level account of our own or piggyback onto a City Agency account (likely Parks and Rec, given the focus of the NAC).
 - 1. The former is preferable, but presents some challenges
- C. Val is working with Brande Micheaux to explore these two options.
- D. Andy has also explored the possibility of getting a corner of the District 9 webpage.

III. PS You Are Here Update Grant Update– Andy Sense;

- A. PS You Are Here grant monies support temporary art exhibits in public spaces
- B. Andy thought such an exhibit could further the idea of Placemaking in City Park – that is, building City Park up as a gathering place and center of community rather than just as a venue
- C. Grant proposal: Quotes from Neil Cassady (Denver literary icon) scattered throughout the park, rendered in water-activated paint. Clues to the location of the quotes would be pushed out on social media. Volunteers could man water stations.
- D. City Park Alliance is the formal sponsor of the proposal
- E. Grant notification: approx. June 1.
- F. Discussion followed about launching a more involved pursuit of this grant next year if this year's is not successful (e.g. engaging neighborhood literary groups, tying in to the existing StoryTrek feature created by Historic Denver)

IV. Museum

- A. New exhibits: Mummies, Extreme Mammals
- B. Free Day: October 24

V. Zoo

- A. Public Art Meeting: good representation at last week's meeting re: public art on the exterior Waste Mgmt bldg. Timeline: 12-18 months for final installation.
- B. Boo at the Zoo and Boo After Dark events involve 20 candy stations for patrons who want to trick-or-treat in a safe fun environment

VI. First Tee

- A. Open Houses supporting the Read and Swing program: Oct 20th, Oct 27th at Whittier Elementary
- B. Luncheon Nov 2nd at Wellshire Golf Course: meet board members and program participants
- C. Reminder that City Park P2PH Golf Course redesign meeting is on Oct. 25th.
- D. Fundraising target: More than just \$, First Tee seeks to recruit volunteers, board members, and ongoing support. They want to serve 10,000 kids by 2020; currently they serve 5000 kids on \$500,000/annually.

E. First Tee improves reading scores (having kids read out loud for 30 mins/week for 30 wks) – with 100% of participants improving at least one grade level, improves student attendance, and helps kids stay out of trouble.

VII. PRAB

A. Special Events Update

1. The CPNAC did not submit a white paper re: a new matrix for evaluating special events, but we still have an opportunity to draft it and submit it. Andy feels this is something we should pursue.
2. Andy did vote in favor of the rules, which were largely esoteric (e.g. actions taken in the event of curfew violation, or noise ordinance violations)
3. Historic priority was retained as a criterion for evaluating special event applications, but it's recognized that it is a complex issue.
 - a) 2 years of good standing gets an event priority status
 - b) AT would like to hear from non-historic event applicants – Andy advises that such applicants were on the stakeholder mtgs and they spoke to the value of such status as helpful in securing sponsorship in the long- and short-term.
 - c) Andy notes also that neighborhood groups want longer timeframes for priority so they have more opportunities to evaluate the applicants' collaboration with the neighborhood.

B. Rest Days (separate issue from Special Events)

1. Those rules stipulate that those are up to the Director, who **may** seek community input

C. Andy advises that the City is working on ideas to activate Commons Park and all the downtown parks in new and creative ways

VIII. Open Discussion

A. There was general consensus that November's meeting should focus on revisiting NAC bylaws in the context of a broader effort to formalize our organization.

1. Bylaws
2. Non-profit tax-exempt ID
3. Logo (M-T A offers John as a potential designer)