

Far Northeast Area Plan Steering Committee Meeting #12



Date and Time: Thursday, May 30, 2018, 6:00 - 7:45 p.m.
Location: Montbello Library

Attendees

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS (PRESENT)

Katie McKenna	Blanca Madrid
Charlie Foster	Frank Tagader
Ann White	John Foote
George Merritt	Terry Liggins
Rose Thomas	Rick Wells

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS (ABSENT)

Loretta Pineda	Angie Rivera-Malpiede
Brian Smith	Rich Barrows
Earleen Brown	Tim Camarillo
Turner Wyatt	Susan Stanton
Shelli Brown	LaToya Petty

ELECTED OFFICIALS/COUNCIL DISTRICT AIDES

Chris Herndon, District 8	Stacie Gilmore, District 11
	Melissa Sotelo, District 11

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT STAFF

Eugene Howard	Lilly Djanants
Valerie Herrera	Courtland Hyser

VISITORS/GUESTS

Gretchen Armijo	Jay Renkins
Bob Luna	

Meeting Summary

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Co-Chair John Foote welcomed the attendees and led the meeting.

2. MEETING NOTES APPROVAL

The April 26, 2018 meeting notes were reviewed and approved. There were no changes.

3. PARKS & RECREATION

Mark Tabor provided an overview of the *Game Plan*, the citywide Parks and Recreation plan that is currently being updated as part of Denveright. The Game Plan has four guiding principles that form the foundation for its draft recommendations:

- Every Drop- Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR) will provide leadership to be a more resilient and environmentally-sustainable city.
- Every Person- DPR will ensure equity in the distribution of resources and access to our services. DPR will provide programs, places and facilities that promote healthy lifestyle options for all residents.
- Every Dollar- Denver Parks and Recreation will model best practices in fiscal and resource management to ensure the long-term economic and operational health of the system.
- Uniquely Denver- Denver Parks and Recreation will provide high-quality parks, facilities and programs that reflect Denver's community and cultural identity.

The Far Northeast Area Plan will build on the *Game Plan* by providing parks and recreation recommendations that are consistent with citywide policies, but customized for Far Northeast. Mark reviewed public input collected to-date as part of the Far Northeast planning process and suggested the following ideas for plan recommendations:

- Stream Corridors / Restored Channels
- Tree Cover / Parkways / Xeriscape
- Safe Routes to Parks / Playgrounds
- Wellness Walks and Programming
- Event Spaces and Ethnic Markets
- Improve Facilities
- After School Programs
- GVR Operations Facility
- Prairie / Mountain Views
- Trail Connections / Parkways
- Public Art

The steering committee expressed general agreement with this list of ideas. Themes from the Q&A and discussion are summarized below :

- The national standard for park access is 10 acres per 1000 residents. Denver as a whole has approximately 9 acres per 1000 residents, and Far Northeast is close to that number. Access decreases as an area grows if new park land is not provided.
- Denver doesn't have a citywide acquisition fund for new parks, but portions of the Gateway area do have a fee for this purpose. This provides a possible model, but the formula is such that the fees collected are relatively low.
- More tree canopy is needed and desired, but this won't be successful without the following components: proper irrigation and maintenance by the city for trees on public

land, education for property owners on how to select and care for trees, improved inspections/enforcement.

4. AIA DESIGN CHARRETTE RESULTS

Lilly Djanants presented a summary of the results of the Far Northeast design charrette that was held with the Colorado chapter of the American institute of Architects (AIA) on May 10th. The steering committee reviewed and discussed six of the ten areas before running out of time. Themes from the discussion are summarized below. The remaining four areas will be discussed at the June 28 steering committee meeting.

- Areas 1 & 2 (Peoria)
 - Concepts for this area should consider how to cross Peoria and challenges presented by the amount of freight traffic.
 - Solving broader connectivity issues on Peoria requires coordination with Aurora.
 - Consider emphasizing pedestrian and bike connectivity on parallel routes rather than on Peoria itself.
- Areas 3 & 4 (Commercial areas on Chambers)
 - Need to address transportation issues in this area, including Chambers being a very wide street. Improve pedestrian crossings and transit access.
 - Do more to direct people to the middle of these sites and use infill development to fill in the voids.
 - Amenities are present but are underutilized because they lack visibility.
 - These could be good locations for affordable housing and senior housing because of proximity to retail and employment.
- Areas 5 & 6 (Undeveloped land east of Pena and the GVR Blvd/Tower Rd Intersection)
 - Need more parks in this area, especially as more land gets developed.
 - Connect the street grid through undeveloped land in this area.
 - The King Soopers is undersized and should be larger.
 - Look for ways to improve ingress/egress, particularly near the GVR Town Center.
 - Need better access between the Evie Garret Dennis campus and the GVR Rec Center.
 - Could be a good location for public art, possibly inspired by the former Tower Nursery sign.