5:45 Project and Existing Conditions Presentation (Dig Studios and Cinceré Eades) with Q&A

Gretchen Wilson reviewed the project goals and objectives. She discussed the visioning and planning process for the park. Cinceré reviewed the reality of managing contaminants to make parks safe for people. The meeting was adjourned and staff remained for individual questions and answers.

Questions and Answers following the presentation on the project given by Cinceré Eades, Project Manager with Denver Parks & Recreation; Gretchen Wilson, consultant with Dig Studio; and Dave Erikson from Denver Dept. of Environmental Health

CE: Cinceré Eades – Denver Parks and Recreation
GW: Gretchen Wilson – Dig Studio
DPD: Bob Anderson – Denver Police Department, Community Resource Officer

Q: There is a junkyard near the master plan site that is unsightly and smells. There is always trash blowing into the park.

A (CE): Until the use changes, there is nothing we can do for private property. Depending on how the site is designed, we could work with the topography and plantings to screen the junkyard.

Mickey Zeppelin: This is a huge opportunity for north Denver. As a community, we should look at ALL the opportunities that this master plan offers. This can be much more than a nature preserve, we should look at opportunities for a community center, housing or a recreation center. Think about that when you fill out the survey. Look at the broadest possible solutions for this site.

AE: Seconded Mickey Zeppelin’s statement. Encouraged attendees to think about outdoor education, horseback trails, and other community amenities that are not listed on the survey. Noted that she does not like image in presentation of hardscaped steps on the river bank.

Q: Is there going to be a bridge across the S. Platte to activate the area?

A (CE): Yes, the 51st Ave. vehicular bridge is in Phase 1 of the National Western Implementation Strategy.

Q: Can you highlight the ‘natural area’ versus park space on the map of the master plan site?
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A (CE): There is a conservation easement on Heron Pond and a deed restriction on Heller open space. Northside Park is a designated park. Both Heron Pond and Heller have a ‘natural area’ designation which is an administrative designation that preserves the natural values of these spaces. The other DPR designated ‘natural areas’ in Denver are: Inspiration Point Park, Parkfield, Hentzell, and Camp Rollandet.

Vernon Hill: Please think of the needs of the community when you answer the survey. What would benefit children, our safety, our health? What options do we have to make the pond an environmentally safe amenity?

A (DEH): We would have to excavate the sediment in the pond to make it safe.

Vernon Hill: We need a reasonable understanding of the environmental risks and cleanup costs.

A (CE): We are working on putting together such a document to present to the Heron Pond Steering Committee.

Q: GES has no amenities in the November bond package. We don’t have a regional recreation center in this area. We should take advantage of this planning process to talk broadly about what we want for the area.

Q: The Globeville Goons disc golf group has had to move from Globeville Landing Park (currently under construction) to Northside Park. How can we make Northside Park safe today?

A (DPD): Everyday use and activity in the park is what pushes out unsavory activity. We don’t want sleeping/camping in the park. But, we must also be compassionate and direct the homeless and people in crisis to the right services. We are partnering with the park rangers, and need citizens to call us so we can end misuse of the park.

John Zapien: Thank you for being here. We have waited 20 years for this planning process. I see new faces, we need new ideas. All ideas are good ideas.

Q: What happened to getting new amenities in Argo Park?

A (Gordon Robertson): Denver Parks and Rec has installed a new playground. We are now developing a new trail system for Argo Park. While we lost federal funding to upgrade the trail system, DPR is now working with NDCC on funding the construction of new trails – construction could begin this summer.

6:30 Open House Portion

Six printed presentation boards were available to review and ask questions directing from the Project Management Team. The following boards were available to view:

1. Project study area boundary
2. Globeville Neighborhood plan – Park Section
3. Existing Conditions – Land Use Controls
4. Existing Conditions – Site Context and Adjacent Properties
Public Meeting #1 Notes

5. Existing Conditions – Existing Area Circulation & Parks; Existing Park Program
6. Existing Conditions – Park Visibility and Topography

7:15 Wrap up