Steering Committee Meeting Notes

Date: 1/17/17

To: Cincere Eades, Denver Parks and Recreation

From: Gretchen Wilson, Dig Studio

Subject: Heron Pond Master Plan Steering Committee Meeting #1 Notes

Attendees: DPR – Cincere Eades, Project Manager; Dig Studio – Gretchen Wilson, Laurel Raines, Zoeller Consulting – Lisa Zoeller, Nora Neureiter; NDCC – Michael Sapp Jr., Celia Vanderloop; Biohabitats – Claudia Browne; Matrix Design Group – Matt Buster

Steering Committee Members:
Community Members: John Zapien, AE, Armando Payan (absent), Katie McKenna (absent), Kristin Cardenas, Vernon Hill, Maria Duran, Yessica Gonzales, Rosa Gaytan, Ray Ruppert
Greenway Foundation: Jeff Shoemaker (absent)
EarthForce: Donny Rousch
Audubon Society of Greater Denver: Polly Reetz
The Nature Conservancy: Suzanne White
Adams County: Shannon McDowell
Western Stock Show Association: Liz Adams (CRL Associates)
CSU: Jocelyn Hittle
Right to Live Well/Focus Points: Nola Miguel, Maria Campos

Meeting Place: Stapleton Recreation Center – 5090 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216

Date/Time: January 17, 2017/5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

The following are my understanding of the discussion today per individual speaker. These are paraphrased, not quoted word for word.

1. Cincere introduced the City and Consultant team members and discussed the collaboration of DPR and NDCC to make this project happen.

2. Cincere restated the goals of the project and the purpose of the Steering Committee:
   a. A community-based process to unite and reimagine the over 80 acres of open spaces that include Heron Pond, Northside Park and Heller Open Space as well as the Denver Wastewater Enterprise acreage.
   b. The goal of the Steering Committee is: To provide input on the open space design and amenities, as well as serve as a critical conduit between the project team and neighborhood.

3. Cincere presented the scope of the project on the overall plan and presented the project timeline for 2017. She presented the types of Community Outreach the project will be incorporating as well as asked the Steering Committee to share their ideas on Community Outreach.

4. Cincere discussed the date and agenda of the first Public Meeting scheduled for Feb. 22 at Garden Place Elementary School and asked the Steering Committee members to provide input as well.

5. Cincere presented the previous project plans timeline and asked the Steering committee for input on it as well as the other information in the Steering Committee folders.
6. John Zapien asked that Ray Ruppert be added to the Steering Committee as a member. Cincere agreed and there were no objections.

7. AE brought up her concern that the Steering Committee should sign a charter, but that the City does not have a similar charter for its commitment to the project. She expressed that previous efforts by the Community to help with the design and programming of the park seem to have been lost and would like for the City to find the previous notes and drawings from the effort that occurred in 2014 and may have been led by Nicole Stahly.

8. Ray Ruppert, an adjacent land owner, mentioned that there have always been zoning issues that have predicated what could be done to the park itself. The Public Works owned land was of particular interest.

9. John Zapien said that he is very excited about getting this project started and all the opportunities that exist for this place. He is concerned however, about the environmental issues on the site and is a ‘stickler’ on the contamination issue especially around the pond. He is extremely glad that Celia Vanderloop from NDCC is on the project to have oversight on the environmental issues. He feels that regardless of any previous planning done, that nothing is set in stone for making a new plan, but is concerned about the Public Works parcel and what can be proposed there.

10. AE reminded the group that we should coordinate with the National Western side of the River so that the whole area will function as one overall amenity for the community. Cincere responded that our team is in NDCC coordination meetings with the planners for that project and that we will be coordinating with the design team on program and connectivity.

11. John Z. asked about how the Army Corps of Engineers study for the South Platte River will affect this plan. Cincere responded that she is on that committee and that we will be coordinating closely with that project which is at a much broader scale of planning than this project and has a much longer funding schedule as it requires approval from the US Congress. Our group will need to move ahead and inform the USACE study with what the community preferred direction is.

12. John Z. said that the community group needs to be aware of the possibility of another flood in the area. And wants everyone to be simply aware of the drainage changes at Globeville Landing Park. He mentioned the upcoming meeting with the Mayor on the drainage issues. Michael Sapp also added that the City will be holding area meetings on the drainage topic alone so that the community can understand the overall picture of drainage in the City. Cincere will share the drainage meeting information with the Steering Committee.

13. Polly Reetz mentioned that the Audubon Society may have a nearby area bird count at Riverside Cemetery and she will try to find that.

14. AE would like to have the Heron Pond Natural Area designation document. Cincere will upload that to the website or email to the Steering Committee. AE also noted that it would be good if we could find some documentation of the Northside Park poetry process. Her concern is that good prior work seems to have been lost. She asked Nola Miguel if she remembers a project meeting a few years ago on Heron Pond with emphasis on the natural area enhancements. Nola confirmed and said the Parks PM was a woman and might have been Nicole Stahly. During Judy Montero’s 2nd term in Council. Also, how will the work we do now be saved in perpetuity? She also wants the group to be very up front about the constraints on the project including budget. As well as wants the group to be creative in finding up front funding opportunities that can be a part of the process, not just a result of the process. Thinks that we need a financial strategy for the project.

15. Cincere mentioned that she will share all the Deed Restriction documents, as well as the Northside Park Conversion Plan with the Committee.

16. Vernon stressed the importance of keeping people engaged in the whole process and making sure we are creative in our engagement methods to involve all ages and interests.

17. John Z shared that there is an effort to rename Northside Park as Sal Carpio/Sanguinetti Park. 500 signatures must be gathered first followed by City Council approval.

18. Cincere asked about what days and times do not work for anyone on the Committee.
Steering Committee Meeting Notes

a. Vernon – last two days of the month are bad
b. Kristin – PTO meetings the 2nd Tuesday of the month
c. Celia – 3rd Tuesday of the month is bad
d. NDCC CAC meets last Thursday of the month
e. 5:30-7 seems to work for everyone, but the meeting will need to start right on time at 5:30 to be respectful of everyone’s evening time. Next Meeting: March 201