Meeting Date: 5/23/2017

Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Location: Garden Place Elementary Library, 4425 Lincoln St., Denver

Subject: Meeting Four Notes

Steering Committee Meeting Attendees:

Community Members: John Zapien, A.E., Armando Payan, Katie McKenna (absent), Vernon Hill, Maria Duran (absent), Yessika Gonzales (absent), Rosa Gaytan (absent), Ray Ruppert, Maria Campos, Nola Miguel
Greenway Foundation: Jeff Shoemaker (absent) and Rachel Steel
Audubon Society of Greater Denver: Polly Reetz (absent)
The Nature Conservancy: Suzanne White (absent)
Adams County: Shannon McDowell (absent)
National Western Center: Liz Adams (CRL Associates) (absent)
CSU: Jocelyn Hittle
Mickey Zeppelin
City of Denver: Denver Parks and Recreation (Cincere Eades – Project Manager)
North Denver Cornerstone Collaborative (Michael Sapp (absent), Celia Vanderloop)
Consultant Team: Dig Studio (Gretchen Wilson, Laurel Raines, Ryan Sotirakis); Zoeller Consulting (Lisa Zoeller, Nora Neureiter); Biohabitats (Claudia Brown)
Matrix Design (Drew Beck)

Meeting started late at around 5:45 or 5:50. Please arrive at 5:30 at future meetings so that we can cover the planned information and end the meeting at an earlier time.

1. Welcome and Results from May 13th Event in the Park (full survey results forthcoming) –
   Gretchen presented percentages of people who put dots on boards in which areas.
   a. Several people asked about additional sticky notes added onto the boards with additional suggestions. These were included in the percentages.

2. Water Quality Presentation – Drew Beck presented the background on what a water quality pond is and how this water quality area is being sized. Gretchen presented water quality precedent projects and the flexibility of the size of the pond and use areas within it.

   Questions:
   a. From AE: The facility is for a 2-year storm event? But is the water being cleaned in the event of a 100-year storm? **Drew explained that the first flush is what is captured and cleaned in a water quality facility and this amount is always the dirtiest in a larger storm as well, so that it is cleaned in any size event.**
   b. From John: Everything here is subject to funding. Can more improvements happen later? **Cincere and Drew explained that more improvements could be made as**
funding becomes available. That is what the master plan is for – to identify the needed funding and how improvements could be phased.

c. From Mickey: Could the water quality area be smaller and therefore deeper? He is concerned about the size of the leftover development parcel not being big enough.
   Drew and Cincere answered yes, but it would mean steep embankments and less usable area throughout. Depth is also limited by the presence of groundwater which cannot be exposed. Groundwater is found 5 ft. deep.

d. From John: Could this area be like Harvard Gulch? Drew: Harvard Gulch is a stream that flows constantly. This area would be wet only during storms and for a brief period after the storm.

e. John: The concrete channel that is there - could it be repurposed? Cincere and Sarah: The City and County of Denver wants to move away from concrete channels so the water quality can function for cleaning the water rather than just moving it into Heron Pond.

f. Ray: There are a lot of pollutants in the 12-acre site. How is the area cleaned out once it is dirty from doing its job of cleaning stormwater? Drew: Typical water quality features need to be cleaned out about every 10 years, and revegetated every 50 years.

g. AE: Do plants take up pollutants and what happens after they do? Celia: the main pollutant in stormwater tends to be nitrogen from fertilizers. Plants take in nitrogen and use it to grow. Sarah Anderson: Public Works will also be doing long term monitoring of the water quality area.

3. Water Quality Pond Sizing Exercise as large group – Drew demonstrated how much or little flexibility is involved in the shaping of the water quality pond and what the fixed points are along its edges.

4. Refined Vision & Goals / Objectives Discussion Kickoff – Gretchen presented the in-progress refinements to the vision statement as well as the goals and objectives and then asked the group to help write objectives for each goal.

5. Objectives Generation & Programming Planning Exercise in 3 small groups
   a. Generate 2-3 Planning Objectives per Goal (2 goals per group)
   b. Create a site program and access diagram. Include program/activities in preferred locations, access points, important connections, views, existing site features to preserve.

6. Discussion of Each Team’s Plans and Objectives
   a. Group 1
      i. Chose ‘Connectivity’ as their goal to discuss
         1. Connection to community is missing
         2. What do you connect to?
      ii. Discussed ‘Promote and Activate’ – how?
         1. The park needs a “center” where lots of different needs can be met
         2. A place where people can gather so people don’t need to borrow churches and schools to meet
      iii. Access
1. 53rd and Franklin – plan for future connection
2. Connect to the neighborhood from 51st
3. 50th seemed like the better connection to this group. *Why was 51st picked to connect to the NWC?*
4. Create a loop path through the water quality area where one could ride horses, walk, run
   b. Group 2 (the main theme was creating 360-degree access—meaning that there is no main entrance, it is a place that people can naturally access from all sides of the space.
      i. Primarily discussed Connectivity as a goal
      ii. Solar Enhancements – all the lighting or electrical should be solar powered
      iii. Make this a destination like Confluence Park
      iv. Create a river walk from 52nd into downtown
   c. Group 3
      i. Discussed a central location for a plaza/Mercado to facilitate interaction
      ii. Equestrian use
      iii. Year round use
      iv. Solar power for the whole park
      v. Amphitheater in Northside park
   d. ** Small base plan needs to be sent to whole Steering committee **
   e. John added that we need a list of priorities and that the water quality should be our top priority and Cincere responded that the intent of the process is to create a priority phased master plan by November.

7. Schedule/Next Steps – Our next meeting will be June 20th, 2017 at Garden Place Library. Cincere will send an updated appointment.
The meeting topics will be three draft alternatives for discussion as well as the topic of the development parcel uses to be led by Jason Whitlock.

8. End of Meeting

Image Attachments: Group lists and diagrams of the park area.
Group 1

Element of Time?
- Are we prioritizing action items re: connections
- How are $ allocated later

*Activation* - Places to gather, education
Create a "Center" - Multi-purpose
Nature/Rec/Education/Health
Multi-generational

*Connect - Specific Items?*

- 51st - Primary Multi-Modal Connection
- Where is bridge - 50th or 51st ??
- Exciting connection from N.W.C.
Group 2
Louise

360° access no back of the park

Aesthetic + mobility access

Value all sides

Accessibility + along Emerson to adjacent neighborhood

54th concern access = parking = less park space

57th important - Riverwalk

Access via bike path

Activate center gathering spaces throughout the park especially along 54th

Entire park is an outdoor education classroom

Science facility natural ecology

"Continuum of habitats" = natural rage

Destination/gathering like REI

Stopping points by restrooms, BBQ, picnic

Trees but in not "forced" or not organically placed (i.e. not in rows)
Group 3

Enhance

- Strong identity
- USE - encourage by community. Unique/dynamic spaces
  - Amphitheatre
  - Music Festivals
- Innovative, unique, cutting edge spaces.
- Environmentally safe - mosquitoes in particular. Repellent dispensers.
- Buffalo herd? (3-4) Goats
- Stables/CSU. Community Fish
- A space that is unique in Denver. Promote enhancements to NWC Themes
  - Tie in NWC to Park. Ad work with schools too
  - Enviro Ed/learning trail that starts in NWC
  - Indoor sports facility. Winter use.

Promote

- Promote by encourage many outings/touches