

## Congress Park Neighbors Meeting Minutes February 17 2016

In attendance: Lisa Loranger, Stephen Eppler, Becca Dierschow (Historic Denver) Lorraine Alfani, Carolyn Van Sciever, John Van Sciver, Nama Henderson, Kris Schindler, Joan Gregerson, Leslie Herod, Zach Rothmier, Kimberly Rickards, Carol Wehling, Karen Miller, Vickie Eppler, Myles Tangalin, Maggie Price

Meeting started at 7:05 by Maggie (Tom absent due to illness)

Meeting minutes approved for October and December 2015

Crime report from Steve Eppler. Crime on whole seems to be down in Congress Park. There are crimes of opportunity

Teller Back Pack – Maggie . Looking for new leadership to take over for Sandy and Jim who would like to go on to other things. Need people to volunteer for food bank and donate hours back.

INC – Maggie – INC ZAP committee will host special information meeting on March 4 concerning short term rentals. In March Mary Beth Sussman proposal will go to the Planning Board for approval. INC elections for President and Board will be in March

Election Candidate Presentations-

Leslie Herod candidate for Colorado State House District 8

Helen Morgan candidate for District Attorney

Program

Becca Dierschow History Denver on proposal for further historic designation and update to the master plan. Document is part of the minutes.

Kris Schindler reported on her plans for our heritage walks this summer. She is looking for a space to meet for lectures.

Report on CPN Green Team and Earth Day by Joan Gregerson and Kimberly Rickards.

Earth Day will be held at Capitol Heights Church April 21. Green Team is on going and is exploring a grant offered by the City. Looking to apply for Sustainability status by end of year.

Myles and Lisa gave reports on 9<sup>th</sup> and Colorado and Myles gave short report on Transportation options.

Councilman Wayne New has asked CPN whether CPN neighbors are interested in a BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) stop midway on the E. Colfax corridor between York and Colorado Blvd. Myles explained what that means, similar to 15L. Survey will be taken with results published and given to CM New. Myles will write survey.

Meeting adjourned 8:15



City Park Master Plan Update &  
Design Guidelines  
Project Summary  
February 17, 2016

**BACKGROUND**

In 2001 the City & County of Denver Parks & Recreation Department hosted numerous community meetings, and along with the efforts of a stakeholder group, created the current City Park Master Plan, titled "Revitalizing the Legacy of City Park." The Master Plan included a Preservation Plan and a Circulation Plan, which was later enhanced with a 2010 circulation study. Over the past fourteen years the Department of Parks & Recreation has implemented many of the recommendations of the Master Plan, including restoring sculptures and fountains, improving conditions at Ferril Lake and Duck Lake, and working with the park's institutions to create parking solutions.

Additionally, since the 2001 Master Plan there have been significant changes in the neighborhoods around City Park and across Denver, as population growth creates new demands on the city's historic park system. So while City Park's historic significance is well established, questions remain about what this history means for the park's future.

In July 2014 Historic Denver convened a group of community stakeholders, including Parks & Recreation, to talk about this question. After several months of exploration about historic park management, the group hosted a community meeting in February 2015 and recommended an update to the 2001 Master Plan, including the development of City Park-specific design guidelines. This will allow the community to develop a shared vision for the park that can ease current controversies and provide both consistency and flexibility so that the park evolves to meet current needs while its past is also honored.

**WHY A MASTER PLAN UPDATE & DESIGN GUIDELINES?**

The existing City Park Master Plan includes a lot of really useful information, and while many of the projects identified in the plan have now been completed, the base information about the

**parks, its evolution, the different sub-areas in the park, etc. is still relevant. An update will build on this information, acknowledge what has been achieved, identify needs that still need to be addressed, and identify potential changes that may be necessary or desirable to accommodate community interests.**

Design Guidelines are proposed as part of the project because design guidelines provide more specific details than Master Plan materials. The guidelines will include broad principals, but will be tailored to City Park specifically. The guidelines will include guidance for both the rehabilitation of existing, contributing features as well as establish the criteria with which new features or additions would be evaluated. Examples of the guideline content for additions, modifications or enhancements could include guidance that they respect the park's spatial composition, honor important vistas, be of appropriate mass and scale or reflect the level of material quality found elsewhere in the park.

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## WHAT ARE THE COMPONENTS?

The Master Plan Update & Design Guideline project will include four major tasks:

Community Outreach and Education <i>Includes a steering committee, community meetings, an on-line engagement tool, and work sessions with park institutions.</i>
Inventory and Assessment <i>Includes project mapping, field reconnaissance, updated site assessment and illustrative plans.</i>
Master Plan Update <i>Includes evaluation of program uses and needs, updated plans for spatial organization, circulation and parking, built-assets, and topography and vegetation.</i>
Design Guideline Development <i>Includes guidelines for each of the updated master plan items.</i>

## WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

The project as budgeted will only address the portion of City Park south of 23<sup>rd</sup>, and therefore will not address the City Park Golf Course.

The scope of work for the Master Plan Update & Design Guidelines does not include an application for local historic designation for City Park, which is a separate process that could take place after the Master Plan Update is complete.

## WHAT WILL IT COST?

The Department of Parks & Recreation, with support from Historic Denver, is actively raising funds for the Master Plan Update & Design Guidelines. In August 2015 Historic Denver, in partnership with the Department of Parks & Recreation, was awarded a \$100,000 grant from the State Historical Fund to help cover the costs of the Master Plan Update and Design Guidelines. The City submitted an application to Great Outdoors Colorado in November 2015 for \$75,000, and community members are seeking to raise funds from individuals and organizations and have pledged to raise at least \$12,500, which the City will match, as the total project is estimated to cost \$200,000.

## CONTACTS

East District Park Planner Adrienne Burton will manage the Master Plan Update & Design Guideline project. She can be reached at 720.913.0627 or [adrienne.burton@denvergov.org](mailto:adrienne.burton@denvergov.org). Historic Denver is continuing to provide support on this project, and Annie Levinsky can be reached at 303-534-5288 ext. 1 or [alevinsky@historicdenver.org](mailto:alevinsky@historicdenver.org).