

District 5 Community Cabinet Meeting
Hosted by Amanda Sawyer, City Councilwoman for District 5
Tuesday, February 6, 2024, Noon-1:10 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Councilmember Amanda Sawyer (Council District 5), Nicole Aviles (District 5), Owen Brigner (District 5), Logan Fry (District 5), Ben Rickenbacker (Office of City Forester) Jim Myer (Office of City Forester) Ira Frosch (Candlewyck Condos), Ashely Denault (Denver Water), Besty Rubner (Driving Park HD), Hillary Estner, Mickey Greenberg (WDCA), David Halterman (WDCA), JD Chism (Denver Fire), Chy Montoya (Denver Fire), Norman Chandler (South Hilltop), Lou Raders (CCNNA), Meredith Levy (PRAB), Judy Baxter (Historic Montclair), Cari O'Shea (Historic Montclair), Lisa Voss (CCN), Alice Sanaberg (CCHN), Kathy Head (LUN), Christie Mochoruk (DPD3), Officer Matt Grimsley (DPD3), Officer Mike Borquez (DPD2)

*Others may have joined during the meeting

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

CW Sawyer welcomed everyone, led introductions, and then introduced guest speakers: Ben Rickenbacker and Jim Myer, Office of City Forester

GUEST SPEAKER: Office of the Independent Monitor

Ben Rickenbacker & Jim Myer (Presentation Attached)

Contact information: James.myer@denvergov.org , Benjamin.Rickenbacker@denvergov.org

The Office of Forestry is responsible for:

- Safety, health, and well-being of the Urban Forest
 - Public tree maintenance and management
 - Risk reduction, diversity, insect and disease issues, construction impacts, contracted maintenance, etc.
 - Private tree management (code compliance)
- Safety of the Public and those performing tree work
 - Public; poor workmanship and bad business practices
 - Tree service contractors; abide by safety standards, good arboricultural practices (BMPs) through licensing and permit approval
 - Internal employees; health and welfare, training, adherence to safety standards

There are three crews that cover the whole city

- Urban Forestry Planning
- Citywide Forestry planning (i.e., UFSP, Nbhd Initiatives)

- Represent OCF in significant projects such as comprehensive, area and other multidisciplinary plans
- Regulations
 - Programs; tree planting and establishment, education
 - Regulatory; code enforcement, risk management,
 - monitoring the urban forest
 - Plan Review: review plans for impacts to existing landscape and proposed landscape installations, monitor on-going projects

What does OCF do?

- OCF performs many of the same activities that property owners should be doing to promote healthy trees
- Research what you have or want to plant
- Budget for future maintenance of right-of-way and private property trees
- Know what you have; maintenance can be species specific
- Know what to do when (seasons matter)
- Establishment and maintenance
- Watering
- Mulch
- Aeration
- Structure pruning
- Pruning cycles; maintenance, safety
- Insect and disease management
- Know what is out there
- Removal and replacement (when it's time)
-
- 70% of trees are on private property

Treekeeper is a Public facing city tree inventory system, it's a great resource that will let you know about the public trees – diamond are row trees and circles are tree that the City maintains

Link here: <https://denverco.treekeepersoftware.com>

Office of City Forester website: <https://denvergov.org/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Agencies-Departments-Offices-Directory/Parks-Recreation/Trees-Natural-Resources/Office-of-the-City-Forester>

Various web links, some of which are in the presentation shared:

- [Trees and Natural Resources](#)
- [Office of the City Forester website](#)

- [Contact the Forestry Team](#)
- [Be A Smart Ash](#)
- [TreeKeeper](#) (City public tree inventory)
- [Approved Street Tree List](#)
- Spacing information (included on the Street Tree List)
 - 35 feet between shade trees (also dependent on mature canopy size)
 - 25 feet between ornamental trees (also dependent on mature canopy size)
 - 30 feet from perpendicular curb at intersections
 - 20 feet from streetlights and stop signs
 - 10 feet from alleys, driveways & fire hydrants
 - 7 feet from attached sidewalks
 - 5 feet from water meters
- Clearance Heights
 - 8 feet over sidewalks
 - 13.5 feet over the street starting at curb line and alleys

Q&A

Q: Norman chandler asked if people can call forestry and to come out to look and tell residents if the trees are ok.

A: Right of Way trees – yes, but Forestry does not check the ones on private property. Private tree contractors can do free estimate, suggested to call 2-3 companies to compare.

Q: Judy asked about Monaco trees being taken out.

A: The Monaco trees are all the same kind - Honey Locusts. We have lost many of these trees to canker - an incurable disease that stresses out trees, they have been removing infected trees and replanting to diversify the species of trees.

Q: Judy asked about clearances required for property owners and if it was on the website.

A: Yes, it's located at : <https://denvergov.org/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Agencies-Departments-Offices-Directory/Parks-Recreation/Trees-Natural-Resources/Office-of-the-City-Forester>

Q: Cari O'Shea asked about emerald ash borer and if that is in Denver? Asked if they should treat trees?

A: It's very close to the border, but not in Denver. The only way to stop it is to treat each tree, and info can be found on website. Way to treat trees include trunk injection, soil drench etc.

Q: Kathy Head stated that water with saline stresses the trees out and asked what is being done?

A: Denver Water has been reusing water for many parks/parkway areas. Higher salt content. They have been trying new things to deionize the salt particles out of the water.

Q: Libby Smith asked about updates about the planned renovations of the highline park trail. Asked about budget cuts and when we'll know more.

A: The design is complete but not sure if construction will be pushed further back. The purpose is to create larger/better walkways for the highline canal users. In April we'll likely know more about whether construction will move forward in 2024.

Q: David Halterman asked about the traffic study measure for Leetsdale.

A: The purpose of the first community meeting is to introduce the project and get the information to the traffic engineering firm. They will then collect data, and design and price out potential solutions that work within the data, and provide them to DOTI to fund and build.

Q: Mickey Greenburg asked about the difference between Ch 59 and 2010 zoning.

A: Denver has two zoning codes. In 2010 most of Denver was rezoned but some parcels (about 20% of the city) remained in the old zoning code. Most of the items that exist in Ch 59 are very specific (custom zoning) if someone wants to build something different, they can't do it because it wasn't originally listed in the site plan. We want to move old properties that have very specific plans into similar zoning in the 2010 zoning code. D5 is the pilot project for this work; Community Planning and Development will be doing this for the entire city as a whole over the next two years.

PARTNER UPDATES

Denver Parks and Recreation, Meredith Levy, meredithprab@gmail.com

- Crestmoor Park public outreach should be kicking off this season:
- <https://denvergov.org/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Agencies-Departments-Offices-Directory/Parks-Recreation/Planning-Community-Engagement/Park-Facility-Projects/Crestmoor-Park>
- Mayfair Park – design is underway to have improvements done
- Learn more about current and planned DPR projects here:
<https://denvergov.org/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Agencies->

[Departments-Offices-Directory/Parks-Recreation/Planning-Community-Engagement/Park-Facility-Projects](#)

- Next PRAB meeting is: February 14 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Learn more here: <https://www.denvergov.org/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Agencies-Departments-Offices-Directory/Parks-Recreation/Planning-Community-Engagement/Parks-and-Recreation-Advisory-Board-PRAB#:~:text=Regularly%20scheduled%20meetings%20are%20open,,gilkinson%40denvergov.org>.
- Free after school resources available with the MyDenver card program

Denver Water, Ashley Denault, Ashley.Denault@denvergov.org

- They are addressing several main breaks due to weather and mud has been an issue. Crews have been out regularly cleaning up.
- East Colfax main program has wrapped up for now and there is 1 current project in the district (Hilltop lead reduction)
- A new project will be happening next week, starting in Montclair neighborhood, should take about a month weather dependent (replacing vaults)
- For more information, contact Denver Water Customer Care at 303-893-2444, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., or visit denverwater.org/Pipes
- Links to information about the Lead Reduction Program:
 - General info: <https://www.denverwater.org/your-water/water-quality/lead>
 - See if you have a known or suspected lead service line (the line from the main in the street to the house): <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ef02d8aa213c471c81ed834be3f0d056/>
 - Community meeting information and recordings of past meetings: <https://www.denverwater.org/your-water/water-quality/lead/events-outreach>
 - As a reminder, folks who received a water filter should use their filter for drinking, cooking foods where water is absorbed into the food or is a base ingredient, and when preparing infant formula, and should continue to use the filter for *six months* after their LSL replacement.

Q&A:

- Judy asked what is starting in Montclair?
 - A: Yes, A project to replace underground vaults

DPD District 3: Officer Grimsley, Matthew.Grimley@denvergov.org
Christie Mochoruk, Christie.Mochoruk@denvergov.org

- CAB meeting tomorrow with Commander Bell
- Neighborhood watch will be on the 20th in Lowry

DPD District 2: Officer Borquez, Mike.Borquez@denvergov.org

- Hosting a meeting at DPD 2 for neighborhood watch, launching business watch – if you'd like to get involved, please reach out to Officer Borquez.
- DPD 2CAB meeting tomorrow at 6:00 p.m. located at 3921 N Holly Street, Denver, CO, 80207.
- DOTI is not allowing folks to purchase their own digital speed signs if you have questions reach out to them.
- CW Sawyer stated that flock cameras will be coming to the whole city. We had the pilot in our district, it is a license plate reader that connects to a databank on the back end and then the police are made aware right away. They have reduced instances of car theft.

Denver Fire Department, Captain JD Chism, John.Chism@denvergov.org

- Moving forward with summer camp with dates for summer camp, registration will open up around spring break
- The next Denver Fire recruit class just started. There will be two Recruit classes in 2024 with 24 recruits in each class.
- Iso certification is happening. DFD has been conducting ice rescue training, have been receiving calls for ppl and dogs - reminder that the ice is not safe, just because it looks thick doesn't mean it's safe.

Joe Levi, DOTI Advisory Board, jlevi@ozarch.com

- Concentrating on vision zero, you'll be seeing the speed limit signs change. Want to implement red light monitoring.
- Safety is the priority, looking at the sidewalk initiative and spoke about the complexities involving this.

CW SAWYER UPDATES

- Update your voter registration
 - 2024 is a big election year, with 3 elections happening this year
- Parks cleanup day
 - April 21 at Montclair Rec Center
 - You can sign up below:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D49A8AA29AAFFC70-47419645-district#/>

- Traffic Study
 - Traffic study on Exposition between Quebec and Leetsdale kickoff meeting will be February 27, a community survey is attached to it. Community outreach will start next week.
 - D5 survey results are in and correlate with what we are hearing/seeing

- West side D5
 - Gas station is being built on vacant land south of Greek Orthodox church on Dahlia. It is in Glendale. It is not the city of Denver
 - Logan mentioned any questions please reach out to him he has a contact with Glendale (Logan.Fry@denvergov.org)

- D5 Projects Night
 - Thank you so much for coming we had over 200 people and about 20 agencies
 - We appreciate your time and partnership, will be happening again likely in next January.
 - South of Alameda, Near Southeast Area Plan implementation will be happening. All of the property former Ch 59 and 2010 zoning code. This will move all the existing properties into the current zoning code. We are the pilot project for it. In the next year or so outreach will be coming for this big project. We want to ensure that the zoning will match the outcomes of that land.

The next Community Cabinet meeting will be on April 6, 2024, at noon.

Adjourned at 1:10 p.m.