

District 5 Registered Neighborhood Organization & Homeowners Association Leadership Lunch

Hosted by Amanda Sawyer, City Councilwoman for District 5

Tuesday, August 10, Noon-1:30pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Renee Arrington, Lowry United Neighbors; Sandi Berenbaum Cranmer Park-Hilltop Community Assn.; Mike Borquez DPD District 3; Cristal DeHerrera, DEN; Cari Ervin, Windsor Gardens; Carolina Flores, DEN; Rachel Gruber, DEN; Cat Holmes, Lowry United Neighbors; Steve Kregstein, Dakota Hills HOA; Adriana Lara, Denver Fire; Meredith Levy, D5 Parks & Rec Advisory Board; Heidi Lewis, DPD District 2; Carla McConnel, Lowry United Neighbors, Patricia Mulligan, Mayfair Neighbors; Carrie O'Shea, Historic Montclair Neighborhood Assn; Captain Greg Pixley, Denver Fire; Bill Poole DEN; Steve Portenga, Bellevue-Hale Neighborhood Assn; John Sadwith, Crestmoor Park Homes Assn.; Rodney Sanchez, DPD District 3; CW Amanda Sawyer, City Council District 5; Jeannine Shaw, Denver Water; Danielle Shepard, ECNA; Sara Visser, City Council District 5

Welcome & Introductions, CW Sawyer

CW Sawyer welcomed everyone, led introductions, and notified attendees that she would leave the meeting shortly before 1:00 to attend the Finance and Governance Committee Meeting. She then introduced Guest Speaker: Cristal DeHerrera, from DEN.

Guest Speakers, Cristal DeHerrera, DEN Chief of Staff and EVP; and Bill Poole, Sr. VP of Planning and Design

- To reach DEN staff, email Rachel Gruber, Manager of Regional Affairs, rachel.gruber@flydenver.com
- See Power Point Presentation at bit.ly/Aug10RNOPresentation
- Cristal began DEN's presentation with an update on DEN going in and out of the COVID-19 health crisis.
 - In 2019, everything was going well. After COVID hit, passenger traffic was cut in half – there were more security guards than passengers.
 - DEN is back to pre-pandemic passenger traffic levels; 2019 ended at nearly 34 million.
 - DEN did much better navigating COVID than other global counterparts, in part because of DEN's: location, strong domestic network, and position as a large hub for United, Southwest and Frontier.
 - A 7th runway is in the works because of growth; in some ways, the pandemic increased DEN's growth globally by several years.
 - DEN's 53 sq. miles of land can accommodate 12 runways (see slide that shows current and planned runways).
 - Fun fact: DEN is home to the longest runway in America, which creates opportunity.
 - DEN by the Numbers – see slide for passenger growth ranking, economic impact, etc.

- DEN is projected to reach 100 million passengers as soon as early 2030s. DEN is preparing to support the growth and be welcoming to passengers.
 - It takes 10 years for full runway process – implementation to build-out
 - The time is now to look at and evaluate for #7 and potentially #8.
 - Forecasting involves partnering with airlines, FAA and other regulatory bodies to be thoughtful about the process. We built a process to evaluate and be flex and react to changes to trend differently.
- Bill continued the presentation
 - Environmental Review is a public process that must be done; there will be focus groups with opportunities for the public to weigh in with concerns, ideas.
 - Planning Studies will be completed to analyze current airfield and space demand and capacity, as well as runway configuration and length
 - The FAA will oversee the NEPA process
 - DEN will work with City Council to get info out about noise and other issues that will be considered; there will be a forum to express the public's thoughts directly to FAA
 - Cristal said DEN is working to be thoughtful about how milestones are structured moving forward; it is important that DEN, the City of Denver and City Council, the Mayor and the FAA have milestones to ask: Does this make sense? How do we proceed? Is this a fatal flaw? Is there something to rethink/do different?
 - Project timeline will take at least seven years, with three of those years being environmental review, four or so construction
 - DEN is currently working thru procurement, finalizing scope of work and fee, and simulation modeling to help inform the environmental study
 - Hoping for construction on the 7th runway to begin in 2025, with the opening towards end of 2028.
 - CW Sawyer asked if RNOs and HOAs could request DEN present at their meetings. DEN representatives are happy to present to groups on this and other topics. Contact Rachel Gruber rachel.gruber@flydenver.com

Q: The original plans DEN indicated fourth concourse – is there any thought on that? And how is construction going at DEN?

A: Great Hall in the terminal is targeted to finish in early November, before holiday traffic. It is \$25M under budget and those savings will roll into Phase Two, which has broken ground. Parts of the security checkpoint will be moved to Level Two on the west side. Thank you for patience. If you have ideas about signage or if something was confusing, please let DEN know to make things easier. A new D Concourse wouldn't be built until all current concourses are full.

CW Sawyer Updates

- Citywide
 - Do we refer the \$450 Bond Package to the voters? It went to Committee last week, will go to Council next week and Council will vote on it on Mondays, August 23. D5 projects

in the Bond package include the Crestmoor park playground, sidewalks on 14th and the north/south streets from Rosemary to Yosemite, and a traffic light on Alameda and Forest. It is not enough for D5, however, there is \$3M for the Zoo and for the Nature & Science Museum and a couple of other things that D5 residents frequently access. CW Sawyer believes the Bond package will go to the voters to decide.

- Redistricting: the boundaries of D5 will change and the At-Large City Council Member positions may be eliminated.
- District 5
 - 8th Ave Traffic Study: D5 will meet with Fehr & Peers next week to talk about data collection.
 - Mississippi/Parker Rd. rezoning: Public Hearing on August 30; proposed rezoning to put in two large apartment buildings and townhouses
 - Leetsdale & Grape Rezoning: this was rezoned prior to CW Sawyer's tenure and now the land has been purchased; be aware that there is going to be a lot of development of that land; she feels it is not great, but there is not much to be done at this point to make sure that it makes sense for our community; no affordable housing was negotiated and the developer is paying the linkage fee to offset that; now we can only reiterate that affordable housing is needed
 - D5 Annual Mailer is coming to mailboxes in September; please ask your community to complete the Resident Survey at bit.ly/D5ResidentSurvey2021; D5 Team uses responses to make legislative decisions
 - Please send your RNO/HOA Annual Meeting information to D5 if you want us to attend.
 - If you want us to promote your organization's event, send to sara.visser@denvergov.org by 10th of the month.
 - Next RNO-HOA is October 5 and will likely cover the Redistricting Process
 - D5 Website is new and improved with lots of resources: bit.ly/CityCouncilDistrict5.

Q: Who decides on redistricting?

A: This and the question about doing away with At-Large Council seats would be a City Charter Change and would have to be voted on as public vote.

Q: Grape and Leetsdale project location?

A: The whole empty parcel behind Newberry Brothers Florist was rezoned in early 2019; the neighborhood didn't negotiate density or design, only issues like HVAC locations and restaurant noise restrictions, so there are very few limits on what can go on that site; it will likely be ~350 units and 4-5 stories, although not finalized. Community Planning and Development is aware of our concerns.

Q: Bike lane associated with that project?

A: A bike lane on Leetsdale is not being discussed at this time.

Community Partner Information Sharing

Denver Water: Jeannine Shaw, jeannine.shaw@denverwater.org

- University and First Ave. at Cherry Creek Mall: water main install began at the end of June and will go until the beginning of the holiday shopping season; traffic will remain open in both directions on East First Ave. but there will be various lane closures from University Blvd. to Marion St. 24 hours a day, seven days a week throughout the project. Working hours will be from 7am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.
- Water main replacements in Montclair are wrapping up this week; thank you for patience; DW is replacing lead surface lines and there is one block left to pave and landscape and concrete restoration
- Hilltop near Crestmoor Park near Alameda and Jasmine: work will wrap by mid-September, with active work on S. Ivy and Jasmine where installation across Alameda will likely happen August 14 & 15; DW is working closely with the Denver Fire Station there.
- Ongoing Lead Reduction Program: reminder that if you received a pitcher and filter, continue to use until service lines are replaced; if you need a replacement filter, call Customer Care at 303.893-2444; filter-focused community meetings were held and recordings are on website: denverwater.org/your-water/water-quality/lead/events-outreach
- If you're not sure if you're enrolled, call customer care or you can check online at denverwater.org/your-water/water-quality/lead

Q: Is there a place to have water tested?

A: Call Customer Care at 303.893-2444 or go to denverwater.org/your-water/water-quality/lead/using-our-lead-test; you can request free test kit and find out if your address is part of the Lead Reduction Program.

DFD: Adriana Lara, adriana.lara@denvergov.org (720) 913-3482; Captain Greg Pixley, greg.pixley@denvergov.org

- Denver Days was a great success and DFD was glad to be part of the celebrations
- DFD is glad to be able to do more outreach again
- Request DFD at events where they can speak to young kids about fire safety discussion and bring a fire engine: denvergov.org/Government/Departments/Fire-Department/Community-Outreach/Community-Event-Request
- DFD has responded to 75,000 calls this year, some significant; DFD is ever-present as best we can be
- Please get the COVID-19 vaccine. Thank you!

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

- **Montclair Park:** tennis court is complete; horseshoe pits and benches will be ready soon.
- **Robinson Park:** 2nd Ave sidewalk construction has begun with expected completion fall 2021.
- **Crestmoor Park paths:** the paths are underway in phases. Also making updates to picnic area. Playground is in proposed RISE bond

- **Verbena Park playground upgrade** is in design process. D5 donated \$5000 and an anonymous donor donated \$25,000 to add the extra features community requested. No further fundraising efforts are necessary.
- Citywide Activity Guide is a bit different this season, organized by specific rec center instead of type of activity
- Montclair Rec Pool is not opening on August 16 because of unexpected repairs, likely opening later November.
- DPR Advisory Meeting is the 2nd Wednesday of every month; there is a Zoom sign up for public comment; if you have specific questions, email Meredith meredithprab@gmail.com

Q : re: additional 20 yards of path between Cedar and the tennis courts that are not planned for completion in Phase 1.

A: There are no updates now, but Meredith is intent on ensuring the path is fully completed.

Q: re: fall Rapids soccer games in the park, parking challenges, particularly on Saturday and Sunday.

A: Meredith will reach out to Permitting and Partnerships.

Q: Is there a place online where we can see Robinson Park playground drawing

A: Go to denvergov.org/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Parks-Recreation/Planning-Development/Park-Facility-Projectson for an update of all DPR projects and Minutes of previous community meetings.

Q: Are there any updates of Verbena Park?

A: Update from CW Sawyer after this meeting: The District 5 office gave \$5,000 and an anonymous donor gave \$25,000 (secured by Yoal Kidane Ghebremeskel, Executive Director of Street Fraternity) to cover the additional items that the community wanted. The purchase is being finalized and no additional community fundraising is happening.

DPD District 3: Officer Matt Grimsley, matthew.grimsley@denvergov.org (720) 913-1218

- DPD 3 is seeing more of the same - property crimes are the most common and catalytic converter theft from cars
- Remind community members to help with crime prevention: take items out of cars, close garages
- RE: catalytic converter thefts, ask your local auto repair car shop if they can help you protect your vehicle; DPD has volunteers reaching out to shops to encourage them not to purchase converters; although they are not against the law, they have no VIN numbers like bike to help track them
- Arrest numbers are up
- DPD 3 will be at the Lowry picnic on August 14 at Crescent Park
- Commanders Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting is Sept on 14 at 6:00pm in person at DPD 3, 1625 S. University Blvd.; the Commander addresses the community and will have up-to-date crime stats- stats on the website are several months old.

- In-person Neighborhood Watch Training is August 18, 6:00pm, in-person at DPD 3, 1625 S. University Blvd. Email D3NeighborhoodWatch@denvergov.org to RSVP.

Q: Is there any update of STAR program – is it helping take a load off of the officers?

A: The program is currently focused on DPD 6 but will be expanding into East Colfax late this year. The info can be found in the July D5 newsletter: <https://conta.cc/3egBAPW>

STAR Behavioral Health Program Succeeding and Expanding

After the success of the Support Team Assisted Response (STAR) Pilot Program over the past year, Denver Department of Public Health & Environment (DDPHE) is expanding the program. The STAR Program deploys Emergency Response Teams that include Emergency Medical Technicians and Behavioral Health Clinicians to engage individuals experiencing crises related to mental health issues, poverty, homelessness, and substance abuse rather than police. [Click here to learn more about STAR and other behavioral health programs available through the City and County of Denver.](#)



DPD District 2: Heidi Lewis Heidi.Lewis@denvergov.org 720-913-1094

Officer Lewis had to leave the meeting early. Please contact her directly with questions.

The next RNO-HOA Leadership Luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, October 5, noon-1:00pm. Scheduled Guest Speaker is Emily Lapel, Denver Council Legislative Analyst, who will discuss Redistricting. December meeting guests will likely include Neighborhood Inspection Services.

Adjourned at 1:08pm