

**District 5 Community Cabinet Meeting**  
**Hosted by Amanda Sawyer, City Councilwoman for District 5**  
**Tuesday, August 1, 2023, Noon-1:20pm**  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES**

CW Amanda Sawyer (Council District 5), Nicole Aviles (District 5), Owen Brigner (District 5), Logan Fry (District 5), Juan Sipion (District 5), Rachael Friedman (Denver CASA), Cari O'Shea (HCMAI), Officer Matt Grimsley (DPD3), Ryan Harris (DPD3), Andrew Latson (Montclair Rec Center), JD Chism (Denver Fire), Chy Montoya (Denver Fire), Alice Sanburg (CCHN), Betsy Rubner (Driving Park Historic District), Aaron McCauley (TAVA Waters), Ira Frosch (Candlewyck Condos), Libby Smith (Park Forest), DeAnna Mayes (CCEA), Norman Chandler (South Hilltop), Mickey Greenberg (WDCA), Hilarie Portell (Colfax-Mayfair BID), Bill Tanner (CCEA), Lou Raders (CCNN), Ashley Denault (Denver Water)

\*Others may have joined during the meeting

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

CW Sawyer welcomed everyone, led introductions, and then introduced guest speaker: Rachael Friedman, Denver CASA

**GUEST SPEAKER: DENVER CASA**

**Rachael Friedman (Presentation Attached)**

Contact information: [rfriedman@denvercasa.org](mailto:rfriedman@denvercasa.org)

- [Denver CASA](#)
  - Model is that every child deserves a caring, loving, and responsible adult in their lives
  - A volunteer representative from Denver CASA will receive a referral from a social worker in Denver Human Services and then take the case and remain there until a case is completed
  - Most cases with a Court Appointed Special Advocate involve abuse, neglect, and/or substance misuse
  - Twice a month, volunteers from Denver CASA visit with the child they are representing with the goal of creating a mentor relationship. These visits might include attending a sporting event or going to a park
  - Other responsibilities of advocates include writing court reports, attending court hearings, communicating with other professionals on the team, and advocating for the youth's best interests including education and health advocacy
- Impacts from having a CASA
  - Children who have a CASA are more likely to:
    - Find a safe, permanent home

- Succeed in school
  - and are half as likely to re-enter the foster care system
- Older Youth Program
  - Launched a mentor-focused Older Youth Program to help teenagers transition to adulthood
- Donation Opportunities
  - Visit [denvercasa.org](https://denvercasa.org)
  - On the website, there is a Wishlist with preferred items to donate
  - To learn about volunteer or donation opportunities, you can subscribe to Denver CASA's newsletter, which is on their main page

## **PARTNER UPDATES**

### **Denver Parks and Recreation, Meredith Levy, [meredithprab@gmail.com](mailto:meredithprab@gmail.com)**

- Crestmoor Park playground and walking paths
  - Construction has not started
  - Anticipated design procurement is September of this year
- High Line Canal Trail – Windsor:
  - Draft scope of work under review and will send out to bid for design later this month
- Lindsley Park picnic area improvements
  - Consultant team is working on construction drawings for internal review. Once construction drawings are approved, will go through procurement for construction contractor. Anticipated completion Summer 2024
- Lowry Sports Park Complex picnic and paver replacements
  - Currently under construction. Anticipated completion end of this year
- Verbena Park playground and athletic fields
  - Construction mobilization beginning this month for basketball court, athletic field drainage, and picnic area. Contractors will need to remobilize in the spring to complete the work in two phases due to long lead time for playground equipment
- Ben Bezoff Park basketball court improvements
  - Construction has not started. Waiting to hear back from project manager regarding timeline for procurement
- Next PRAB meeting is: August 9, 5:30-7:30pm  
<https://www.denvergov.org/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Agencies-Departments-Offices-Directory/Parks-Recreation/Planning-Community-Engagement/Parks-and-Recreation-Advisory-Board-PRAB>

## **Q&A**

- Norman Chandler said the Alameda Parkway between Monaco Parkway and Quebec Street had not been mowed for quite some time.
  - A: CW Sawyer said District 5 is working on getting a meeting with Parks to figure out why this parkway has not been being mowed consistently
- Norman Chandler said he noticed there has been resurfacing work on Dakota.

- A: CW Sawyer said this is exciting because this undergrounding work has been occurring for the last four years and will finally be completed

**Montclair Recreation Center, Andrew Latson, [Andrew.Latson@denvergov.org](mailto:Andrew.Latson@denvergov.org)**

- Montclair Recreation Center will be at Mayfair Park for National Night Out on August 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Learn more about the activities the Rec Center provides here:  
<https://denver.prelive.opencities.com/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Agencies-Departments-Offices-Directory/Parks-Recreation/Recreation-Centers-Pools/Recreation-Centers/Montclair-Recreation-Center>

**Denver Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, Joe Levi, [jlevi@ozarch.com](mailto:jlevi@ozarch.com)**

- While Mayor Mike Johnston's Administration gets their footing, the DOTI Advisory Board is currently concentrating on:
  - Implementing Vision Zero through better slowing tools, monitoring traffic, and increased pedestrian visibility
  - Helping determine a fair billing for sidewalks and trash collection
  - Requesting items such as traffic calming measures and protected bicycle lanes be included in the budget
  - Demanding review of permits for use of the tree lawn for fencing and other uses

**Denver Water, Ashley Denault, [Ashley.Denault@denvergov.org](mailto:Ashley.Denault@denvergov.org)**

- Learn more about Denver Water here: [denverwater.org](http://denverwater.org)
- Check your sprinklers and the timing of them to ensure lawns are not being over-watered. Learn more about summer watering tips here:  
<https://www.denverwater.org/residential/rebates-and-conservation-tips/summer-watering-rules>

**DPD District 3: Officer Matt Grimsley, [matthew.grimsley@denvergov.org](mailto:matthew.grimsley@denvergov.org) (720) 913-1218 or Officer Mike Borquez, [michael.borquez@denvergov.org](mailto:michael.borquez@denvergov.org) (720) 913-1183**

- DPD2 will be National Night Out on August 1<sup>st</sup> at Mayfair Park from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- DPD3 will be National Night Out on August 1<sup>st</sup> at Cook Park from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Project 529 Garage
  - DPD has an app where you can register your bike to locate it if it becomes lost or stolen. Learn more at:  
<https://project529.com/garage/organizations/denverpolicedept/landing>
- DenverTrack
  - Don't forget to register for DenverTrack by going to this website:  
[denvergov.org/DenverTrack](http://denvergov.org/DenverTrack)

- According to Lieutenant Ryan Harris, no vehicle that has registered for DenverTrack and has the sticker on the car has had their vehicle stolen

**Denver Fire Department, Captain JD Chism, [John.Chism@denvergov.org](mailto:John.Chism@denvergov.org)**

- Denver Fire received a grant to switch over to a new air mask system that is worn when inside an active fire. Captain Chism said this will enhance safety of the firefighters inside those fires
- Chy Montoya gave an update on the June summer camp for youth that had over 55 children in attendance
  - Of the 13 Denver City Councilmembers, seven were sponsors of the event, including Councilwoman Sawyer’s Office

**Q&A**

- Norman Chandler asked about the new ‘Move Over’ law and what the difference is?
  - A: CW Sawyer clarified this is a state law. Lieutenant Ryan Harris said he is also not sure and will do further research and send information when he is able to give a definitive answer.

**CW SAWYER UPDATES**

- Emergency Declaration on Homelessness
  - Mayor Johnston signed an emergency declaration order with the goal of housing 1,000 unhoused Denverites by the end of the 2023 calendar year. You can learn more about that emergency order here: <https://denvergov.org/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Agencies-Departments-Offices-Directory/Mayors-Office/News/2023/Mayor-Mike-Johnston-Signs-Emergency-Declaration-to-Address-Homelessness>
  - CW Sawyer has a lot of questions and concerns about this order on cost, logistics, enforcement, and location
    - She voted ‘NO’ at City Council on July 24, 2023 on approving the extension of the Mayor’s emergency order. You can watch that dialogue and vote, which starts at 14:34, here: [https://denver.granicus.com/player/clip/15505?view\\_id=180&redirect=true&h=5a60642aef0e3f1a57d6aa0dfce6e0dc](https://denver.granicus.com/player/clip/15505?view_id=180&redirect=true&h=5a60642aef0e3f1a57d6aa0dfce6e0dc)
  - CW Sawyer said she will not participate in the Mayor’s townhalls unless her questions and concerns are answered. Regardless, these meetings are important and the community should absolutely participate and attend
  - CW Parady and CW Gonzales-Gutierrez will most likely attend these townhall events in District 5
  - There are two dates for a community conversation in District 5 with Mayor Johnston:
    - Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at the Montclair Recreation Center from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

- Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at George Washington High School from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Charter Review Committee
  - As the Chair of the Finance and Governance Committee, Councilwoman Sawyer has opened Charter review, which will examine proposals to amend the City and County of Denver’s Charter. Any change will be referred to the voters on the November 2024 ballot.
  - One of the proposals being considered is changing term limits for the Denver Mayor and Denver City Councilmembers to 8 years (two, four-year terms) instead of 12 years (three, four-year terms). Please share your feedback by August 4<sup>th</sup> by taking the survey at: [Bit.ly/DenverTermLimits](https://bit.ly/DenverTermLimits)
- Bellevue-Hale ADU Legislative Rezoning
  - Councilwoman Sawyer is considering a legislative rezoning of the Bellevue-Hale statistical neighborhood, including parts of Mayfair, to allow for accessory dwelling units (ADUs)
  - Share your feedback via the community survey, which closes on August 29<sup>th</sup>. Take the survey here: [Bit.ly/HaleADUSurvey](https://bit.ly/HaleADUSurvey)
    - Similar to the conversation had in early 2023 in Montclair, the survey results are extremely valuable for the District 5 Council Office to determine community support for the proposal. In Montclair, a plurality of residents who took the survey did not support the rezoning proposal so Councilwoman Sawyer did not move forward with it.
  - There will be two community meetings
    - September 12, 2023 via Zoom at 6:00 p.m. Register here: [Bit.ly/HaleADU\\_Sept12](https://bit.ly/HaleADU_Sept12)
    - September 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Location is TBD
  - The District 5 Council Office will send a postcard with this information to all affected properties and will also hire a company to flyer all affected properties. In addition to that, the flyering company will be delivering two lightbulbs to each single-family home to enhance community safety as part of the Councilwoman’s ‘Lights On’ Initiative
- Annual Survey
  - The postcard should be arriving in mailboxes within the next few weeks
  - In 2022, 1,500 residents filled out the survey, which is the most ever
  - The information from the annual survey is invaluable, and the District 5 Council Office takes your feedback to help guide the annual work plan
  - The survey closes on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Please take the survey here: [Bit.ly/D5AnnualSurvey23](https://bit.ly/D5AnnualSurvey23)

## Q&A

- Ira Frosch asked what ADUs stands for and what the emergency declaration is referring to?
  - A: CW Sawyer said ADUs stand for accessory dwelling units and the emergency declaration is referring to Mayor Mike Johnston’s emergency declaration order.

You can learn more about that emergency declaration here:

<https://denvergov.org/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Agencies-Departments-Offices-Directory/Mayors-Office/News/2023/Mayor-Mike-Johnston-Signs-Emergency-Declaration-to-Address-Homelessness>

- Mickey Greenberg asked about the 20 MPH speed limit signs and what this will accomplish?
  - A: CW Sawyer said the data shows vehicles involved in lower speed accidents significantly reduces bodily injury
  - You can learn more about the 20 MPH local speed limit reduction here: <https://denvergov.org/Government/Citywide-Programs-and-Initiatives/Vision-Zero/Speed-Limits>
- Bill Tanner asked about the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and potential rezoning to accompany it and whether CW Sawyer has heard any updates on this?
  - A: CW Sawyer said a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Study would be required before a BRT line could come to Colorado Boulevard and no conversation on that has occurred yet
- Lou Raders said the possibility of a BRT entering the Leetsdale/Speer corridor is necessary and wondered if CW Sawyer has heard of any updates on this?
  - A: CW Sawyer said she is meeting next week with the Denver Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DOTI) to talk about Denver Moves: Cherry Creek. CW Sawyer said basing a plan off a potential future BRT is not appropriate and needs to be much more thoughtful.
- Libby Smith asked when the Highline Canal work would be coming?
  - A: CW Sawyer said the design phase is in process currently, which means construction might occur late 2024 or early 2025.
- Libby Smith asked if parking will be moved to the other side of Dayton Street between Alameda and Kentucky?
  - A: CW Sawyer said it doesn't sound like the parking is going to change. Those rules are set by the Executive Director of DOTI, so that will depend on when Mayor Johnston has a new appointee in that position.
- Mickey Greenberg asked why the DOTI update section was skipped over?
  - A: CW Sawyer said the DOTI Advisory Board Member, Joe Levi, was not able to be in attendance at this meeting but his updates will be in the minutes.

**The next Community Cabinet meeting will be on Tuesday, October 3, 2023, from noon – 1:00 p.m.**

**Adjourned at 1:20 p.m.**