

President's Sustainability Committee
National Western Center Review - Minutes
September 8th, 2014, 12:30-2:00 pm
TILT 104

Members Present: Carol Dollard - Facilities Management
Jocelyn Hittle - Denver Operational Initiatives
Stacey Baumgarn - Facilities Management
Paul Doherty – Faculty Council
Jacob Kimicek – Student Sustainability Center
John Henderson - Student Affairs
Johnny Roos - ASCSU
Michael Streight - SoGes
Brian Dunbar - IBE
Doug Max – Athletics

Guests Present: Per Hogestad – Facilities Management
Eric Anderson – National Western Center

1. Introduction

- The National Western Center redevelopment plan has five partners, Colorado State University being one.
- Colorado State University will have a physical presence on the site. Other partners just want a supporting role.
- Site is 177 acres total.
- The partners are working to reinvigorate the area while serving the needs of the users.
- The Institute for the Built Environment and Facilities Management have been heavily involved in the planning a design of the project.
- The North Denver Cornerstone Collaborative is an initiative to redevelop many facets of the area, including I-70.
- The Guiding Principles are complete –
 - Community and Neighborhood Integration
 - Engage the River and Nature
 - Celebrate Western Heritage
 - Inspire Health and Wellness
 - Build Cultural Crossroads
 - Be Pioneering: Break Trail and Foster Innovation
 - Create Fun and Entertaining Experiences
 - Grow Local, Regional, and Global Intelligence
 - Embrace an Ethic of Regeneration
- The Facilities Program draft is complete.
- The planning team is looking for feedback about the sustainability considerations for the guiding principles.
- **Site Plan Needs and Planning Process**
 - Multiple site plan alternatives were presented, each with different space and use considerations.
 - Each site plan is a test fit and has not gone through a complete design process.
 - The team wants to use the space thoughtfully and innovatively, i.e. Cycle race track under I-70.
 - Other thoughts - markets, events, lighting, art, kiosks, to activate the neighborhood.
 - Constraints –
 - Two 72" in sanitary pipes running through site. The pipe management company is ok with covering the pipes and the team is considering how to do this thoughtfully.

- There are many drainage issues.
- South Platte River cuts through the site.
- I-70 also runs through the site.
- A major rail line runs through the site and cannot be relocated.
- The two main neighborhoods to the East and West of the site have a desire to connect to each other.
- A large portion of the site is a superfund site. The City of Denver should be cleaning the site.
- The Planning team has been using the surrounding neighborhood's Master Plans to determine the needs and future of the area.
- A consultant completed a feasibility study to understand the full scope of work of the project.
- The City of Denver will meet with every property owner in the study area to explain the redevelopment project.
- The City has interest in developing another large events center to take the burden off the Convention Center.
- The planning team is hoping to reuse or repurpose facilities when not in use by the Stock Show, i.e. the horse barn may house horses year round for horseback lessons, physical therapy, mounted police use, etc.
- The site needs roads and paths for basic functioning.
- CSU will have a continual presence in the area.
- Farmer's market possible in the arena with other options
 - Test a farmer's market under the viaduct next summer to test the interest.
 - Looking for a farmer to host this.
 - How can a permanent market space work?

3. Parking

- 12,000-15,000 spaces needed to accommodate peak use.
- Public transit is very challenged, cannot accommodate the capacity needed.
- Plans for a large parking structure south of I-70 are very expensive and do not accommodate the full parking need.
- The planning team is looking how to best increase mode split and in turn, increase the effectiveness of transportation options.
- Pedestrian and vehicle access the site is challenged.

5. Framework Review

- The planning team is balancing best practices over a 10-year timeframe. Best practices may become obsolete.
- The PSC generated the following ideas for the planning team to consider –
 - Ground source heat pump to generate heat from the sewer line
 - Community gardens
 - Living museum
 - Living farm
 - Trolley
 - Composting
 - Sport event management
 - River/water education
 - Local art
 - "Changing Face of Agriculture"
- Send more ideas and thoughts to Jocelyn Hittle or Brian Dunbar.