



TO: Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
FROM: Jeff Dillon, Director, Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Consent Agenda
DATE: May 19, 2014

A. Minutes Approval of Minutes from April 28, 2014

B. Informational Items

1. Park Development Update

Capital Improvement Projects:

Mesa Memorial Park

Park construction is in process at Mesa Memorial Park with anticipated completion in late summer. The Mile High Youth Corps will be involved in the project by providing some work along the natural drainage way on site.

The PRAB unanimously agreed to name the property Bill Bower Park on April 28. The city's commemorative naming committee has also reviewed the application and will be recommending the name to the City Manager. Her decision will be taken as an Information Item to Council.

Capital Improvement Bond:

Crest View Park

The current plan is for Crest View Park to be improved in late summer 2014 as part of the Capital Improvement Bond that was passed in November 2011. Improvements at the park will include providing a new playground, addressing issues of accessibility, and other infrastructure deficiencies.

A public meeting to discuss the conceptual improvement plan will be held on May 14 at 6:00 p.m. the Boulder Friends Meeting House. The conceptual layout plan for Crest View Park was developed based on comments and feedback that was received at the initial neighborhood meeting.

Harlow Platts Park Shelter

As part of the 2011 Capital Improvement Bond, the department received funding for the development of a picnic shelter with restrooms at Harlow Platts Community Park (under the bond project category of “Park Shelter Improvements”). This critical project has been prioritized through community input, demonstration of ongoing high shelter reservations at the park and public outreach through the recent Parks and Recreation Master Plan process.

The department held a third open house on May 6th to present the final layout for the restroom and shelter facilities. The new conceptual improvement plans that were developed in close coordination with neighbors over a number of meetings. Comments and feedback that were received at the meeting were in support of the May 6th plans.

The department will be engaging a consultant to prepare construction documents. Construction is anticipated to begin this fall.

2. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Efforts

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) & Conservation Crew

The 2013 year-end IPM and Conservation Crew report has been drafted and is undergoing final review. Last year was the tenth year that the department employed a seasonal IPM and Conservation crew paid for mostly by Lottery Funds. The crew also performed education and outreach (including working with volunteers, jail crews, community service and youth corps), mapping and GIS work, and natural lands maintenance for a total of approximately 5060 hours spent maintaining the >1100 acres of natural lands throughout the parks system. A four person crew has been hired again in 2014.

3. Civic Area Update

There are three major stages of work on the Civic Area: early activation through events, near-term site development and a later stage delivery of major capital projects. The department has a leadership role on two, i.e., Activation and Near-Term Site Redevelopment. The department will also be a participant in the work in Phase II Major Capital Projects (see attached Timeline for a high-level project overview).

Activation

The Civic Area Team, comprised of project managers (Jody Tableporter, Paul Leef) and city and department staff, will be delivering events this summer to reactivate the Civic Area.

The Civic Area Team has established four criteria for 2014 Civic Area events: create a “splash”, foster productive partnerships, pilot programs that relate to capital projects, and bring people to the Civic Area. Most of the events below involve partnerships, some like Bot Joy create a real splash and others, like Parks and Recreation Month bring people to the Civic Area for recreation. The city’s role this year as more of an events enhancer may change in 2015 as we evaluate 2014 successes, challenges and our initial steps towards proactively curating events.

Following is a list of events that Civic Area management is actively engaged in enhancing/promoting:

<u>Arts</u>	<u>Partners</u>	<u>Date</u>
Bot Joy Mural 13 th & Arapahoe	Library/arts, BMoCa, CU, Farmer's Market, Boulder High	May 3
Heritage Day	The Dairy, Downtown Boulder	August 13th
<u>Recreation</u>		
Get Movin' Challenge	Boulder athletes, sponsors	Month of May
P&R Month (under development) -	Instructors, clubs, sponsors	Month of July
BMoCa Game Changer (under development)	BMoCa, Artist, Food Trucks?	July/August
<u>Community</u>		
Library/Parks Summer Festival	Library, entertainers, sponsors	June 28th
Public Lands Day/daffodils	1,000 Friends of the Civic Area, PLAY Foundation	Sept 27
LongTable Event (deferred to 2015)	Local Chef's, Farmers, Boulder High	Summer 2015
<u>Education</u>		
Civic Camp for Teens– Innovation, Resiliency, Flood anniversary (idea)	Design-thinking educators, Chamber (not yet approached), sponsors	August
Creekside interpretive exhibit and/or delivery of Catalytic project items (idea)	TBD	Mid-late summer

Events sponsored by other organizations will also be held at the Civic Area as is usual.

Phase I Site Redevelopment

Phase I Site Redevelopment refers to the comprehensive physical redesign/reconstruction of the Civic Area that is being proposed for PAYGo funding. Key upcoming dates are a May 22nd submission of additional detail to the Council and a final submission in November. During early summer, parks planning and the Civic Area project managers will retain a consultant to complete the initial design work, hopefully with the support of a GoCo planning grant (pending).

The city will be requesting \$8.7M to complete the site redevelopment. The \$8.7M will support three objectives set out by the community during the extensive planning/visioning process:

1. **The Creek at the core** (\$5.5M). The redevelopment will occur along the length of the Creek and feature the development of a nature play area and enhanced indoor/outdoor connections to the library on the north and south sides.
2. **Connections and access** (\$1.2M). The site redevelopment plan will identify ways to improve access East-to-West and North-to-South across Canyon Boulevard, as well as improvement within the Civic Area such as way-finding.
3. **Community places** (\$1.98M) Serve as a venue for community gathering, platforms and plazas will be enhanced, at both the East and West ends.

Note: The objectives listed above are not three separate projects. Numbers 1, 2, and 3 together represent an integrated set of projects that create an integrated destination. If choices were made to select two of the three objectives, a two-legged stool would result (a beautiful creek/park with no spaces for community involvement or a place that connects well with downtown but lacks either the unifying piece (the creek) or activity space).

This estimate does not include Phase II Major Capital Projects such as year-round Farmer's Market structure and Innovation Center.

Phase II Major Capital Projects

The vision plan identifies a number of new buildings/capital projects, from a year-round Farmer's Market to an Innovation Center. Under this phase of work, focused work groups, comprised of internal city staff and external partners, will meet to resolve issues that stand between vision and delivery of the buildings such as the existence of risk-sharing operating partners and financing.

The work groups are defined below and will convene for 3 bi-monthly sessions and ultimately produce a short-list of deliverable capital projects for the Civic Area. These projects will likely be the subject of a 2016 Bonding bill.

Food: The vision plan includes the aspiration to “expand the Farmer's Market as a vital component of the area” and “possibly expand it to year round (or extended season) local foods marketplace.” Topics for this group will include options for the Civic Area to support the local foods sector and due diligence on the Farmer's Market expansion.

Art: The master plan identified the need for more culture and arts and performance space at both the East End and West End and to “expand....cultural, arts, science, educational or entertainment amenities that are otherwise lacking in the community.” The Art work group will, therefore, address both art and broader cultural facilities needs such as a performance venue, a science museum, and programming as well as a curated performance season.

Event Space: In the master plan, providing “new community meeting space and gathering places” is seen as essential to delivering the Civic Heart of Boulder. This group will focus on determining the need and feasibility of delivering additional meeting

space for organizations (the Civic Use Pad) as well as space that can serve multiple purposes such as meeting space plus a demonstration kitchen.

The city will also convene internal, cross-function groups to discuss:

Innovation/services: In the Master Plan, the Civic Area serves as the, “primary location for city management and government, including functional and interactive places for the community to interface and conduct city business and be creative.” The topics for this work group, therefore, will include potential new municipal buildings and innovation center.

Connections: The Master Plans seeks to: improve the Civic Area’s pedestrian and bicycle amenities, address surface lots and parking needs, improve way-finding to/from downtown, reduce barrier effects across major throughfares, and reestablish a “new urban design and streetscape character for Canyon Boulevard – to make it more of a ‘boulevard’ with attractive landscaping that is comfortable for pedestrians, bicycles, and accessible by transit.” The Connections group will have a wide-ranging remit to address this list of interrelated objectives.

It is very likely that the discussions of different groups will overlap. For instance, the event space group may discuss combined meeting and innovation space, the later being the purview of the Innovation/services group. Additional combined group meetings will be held to address shared topics.

Below are two links. For general information:

<https://bouldercolorado.gov/planning/boulder-civic-area-project>

4. Upcoming Planning and Development Public Engagement Opportunities

Crest View Park Open House

May 14, 2014

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Boulder Friends Meetinghouse

Boulder Community Day (Community Clean Up Day and Kids to Parks Day)

May 17, 2014

Scott Carpenter Park

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Valmont City Park Public Meeting

Tentatively scheduled for late June

Time T.B.D.

Municipal Service Center (The Yards)