

Ralston Complex Group
Agenda
August 11, 2011

In attendance: Shelley Cook, Eddie Lyons, T.O. Owens, Kelly Robinson, John Sullivan, Carol Whipple, Mike Miles, Cheryl Humann, Linda Davis, Lee Humrich, Regina Reis, Russ Drabek, Ken Piel, Vicky Reier, Mike Lee-Parks and Urban Design Manager

1. Questions and/or follow up from group members-none
2. Ralston Complex Group webpage-Vicky showed the web page set up for the Ralston Complex Citizen Group
<http://arvada.org/about-arvada/ralston-complex-citizen-group>
3. Presentations

- a. Arvada K-8 Park

Mike Lee explained the process of 3 public meetings, meetings with R1 School District staff, and meetings with students at Arvada K-8 in the development of the design for the new park. The park design was presented and is 75% complete. The park will be constructed using dirt removed from the Garrison St./Ralston Central Park resulting in cost savings for both parks. The park plan includes tennis courts, softball field, open green field space, playgrounds different than the school playground, a trail-circular track, and trail connection. The property is owned by the school district; the City will develop the park and maintain it similar to the joint use agreements that exist for other parks and schools in Arvada. The final Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) has not been signed.

Cheryl Humann explained that the circular track and football field were built when the school was constructed as a high school-the change in use at the building and the current requirements mean that those items are no longer needed for the school. The tennis courts, softball field, and trail will meet the school needs.

Questions were presented regarding a fence along Ralston Rd.- Mike responded that fencing is not included in parks along equally busy arterials; the tennis courts and other features are 60 feet from the roadway; the park is surrounded by berms and trees on the perimeter. The berms are staggered to allow PD to see into the park from the roadway and create a practical barrier from traffic on all sides. Vicky will talk with PD and request crash stats for the intersection of 58th and Carr St.

In response to questions about bathrooms and drinking fountains, Mike explained that we do not include those in any neighborhood parks because people are close enough to access their homes; bathroom/water facilities are extremely high cost and not funded for this project.

Funding for the project comes from the City's dedicated Capital Improvement Funds for Parks, Jefferson County, R1, and Apex.

The dirt bike track has some interest from adults. Mike is meeting with the interested parties to develop and reasonable plan to replace the track near its old location in the Lutz complex.

b. Apex program relocation

Mike Miles reported that the construction of the indoor turf complex, Apex Field House, is moving quickly ahead. Heavy summer rains caused some delays. They anticipate opening the first field in Dec. 2011. The current programs are regional and draw people from all over the metro area and beyond. The second field will allow for higher level competitive play and larger tournaments. It is expected to open early in 2012. Sports include indoor soccer, lacrosse, and indoor football.

Mike reported that the programs for dance, cheer, ceramics, and gymnastics will be moved to the Simms St. Center located at 82nd and Simms St.

Construction is underway at that site and they anticipate moving from the Garrison St. facilities by Oct. 23, 2011. All programs will experience an upgrade in facilities, especially the gymnastics programs. As with the indoor turf programs, only 30% of the program participants come from the local area; 70% of the participants come from the entire Denver Metro area.

4. Next month-Garrison St. project-bridge, channel, and park plans- Sept. 8th.

5. Questions/comments from others in attendance

Questions related to the fence, placement of the tennis courts, port-a-pottys at K-8 Park, (responded to above) and road width for the Ralston Corridor- the corridor plan has not been adopted by council and it appears the roadway at this location will not change much from its current place. Staff is working closely to make sure we do not build something that will be torn out in the future years. Maintenance costs for the park have not been determined yet. The trail connection in Hoskinson Park will be redone during construction in that area; the bike/pedestrian trail from the Ralston Creek Trail, south on Carr St. and through the park will be adequate for both uses.