

Ralston Complex Group  
Agenda  
Sept. 8, 2011

Inn attendance: Shelley Cook, Eddie Lyons, T.O. Owens, Lindi Stinton (Independence Neighbors), John Sullivan, Bill Knott, Cheryl Humann, John O'Lane, Lee Humrich, Russ Drabek, Ken Piel, Lynne Herron, Vicky Reier, Mike Lee-Parks and Urban Design Manager, Mark Floyd-Civil Engineer

1. Questions and/or follow up from group members-Vicky presented 10 yr. crash data for intersection of Ralston Rd. and Carr St. as follow up to questions about vehicles driving into the fence at the field/K-8 park site; data reveals that accidents in the area total 95 for the ten years for an average of 9 per year however, the average in the last 5 years is closer to 5-6 per year. Most are rear end or broadsides and sideswipes; there is only 1 accident reported into the fence.
2. Presentations
  - a. Ralston Creek Drainage project-channel improvements Mark Floyd  
Flood projects in Arvada date back to 1976. Major bridge and channel and bridge projects have taken place in the City since that time. The most recent major project was the Van Bibber project in 2005. Since that time staff has been discussing the need to continue the drainage project from the outfall behind the Safeway store on Ralston Rd. Several designs and solutions were presented, some of which left the park alone and used steep retaining walls and a deep channel for the Ralston Creek. No action was taken.

In late 2009 staff renewed work on the project with a new focus and plan that involved the replacement of the box culvert under Garrison St. and improvements to the channel but also required the removal of all the structures in the park, the relocation of Apex programs to other sites, and the complete re-creation of the park. Since that time a project team of ten City staff members, Apex staff, and various consulting teams have been working to establish a unified approach to not just the bridge and park projects but to coordinate all projects in the Ralston Complex area as to design, concepts, and schedules. This comprehensive approach has resulted in a cohesive set of projects. (K-8 Park, Ralston Central Park, Garrison St. bridge and channel work, Triangle redevelopment, Ralston Road corridor)

The drainage project and the park will utilize the same grading plan, saving time and money, and ensure that the park design complies with the federal flood plain requirements. Mark showed aerial photos that illustrate the current flood plain designation and the flood plain at the completion of the project. As a result of the drainage improvements it is estimated that 92 homes will lose the flood plain designation and, if approved by FEMA, will not be required to carry flood insurance on their home.

As Project Engineer for the drainage improvements Mark reported that the design for the bridge and channel are 85% complete. Nine properties on 59<sup>th</sup>

Ave have been contacted about the purchase of sections of land at the north edge of their properties that abuts the creek and will be needed to make the channel improvements. The plans are currently being reviewed by the Corps of Engineers, FEMA, Urban Drainage, and the Division of Wildlife. The box culvert, bridge, street, and channel work will begin in Jan. 2012 and contractor estimates that the work will take around 300 days to complete. More trees will need to be removed mid-winter and, when ever possible, memorial trees will be relocated within the park. Relocation of the utilities has begun and will continue through December. Deconstruction of the buildings on site will be done in December.

Cost of the project is estimated to be \$10 million and will be paid out of the Storm Water fund. Urban Drainage is contributing \$350,000 for work from Estes to Carr St.

b. Garrison St./Ralston Central Park/Hoskinson Park Mike Lee  
The park design is the result of public input provided at 2 public meetings. Mike explained that this park is different than any other park planning process due to the constraints for the federal flood plain requirements. All park amenities, structures, and landscaping have to either be outside of the flood plain or be built in such a way that they do not interfere with drainage/water flow. Trees will be planted in compliance with the City's tree ordinance; some memorial trees may be moved to the K-8 Park, the skate park, or the Hills at Standley Lake. The relocation of trees has critical timing factors that make the relocation to other areas the best option for sustaining these trees. Other memorial trees will be placed in the memorial tree park at the south-west corner of the park. Tree replacement will be a part of the landscape plan for the park.

The park includes a splash pad, two age appropriate playgrounds, walking loop trails, picnic pavilion, numerous picnic tables and benches, large grassy play areas, a restroom, hard court surface, and other play spaces. The trails will be lit on the interior of the park during park hours. The parking lot and exterior trail will have security lighting or be lit by street lights.

The park development is estimated to cost \$3.85 million and is primarily being paid for from Capital Improvement funds but other funds include a reinvestment by Apex PRD, a Joint Ventur grant, other potential grant funds, and City funds.

3. Next month- AURA Triangle Redevelopment

4. Questions/comments from the group or others in attendance:

a. Can the City develop a tree sponsorship program to help cover the cost of tree replacements-we will take that under consideration

- b. Can the trails be lit all the time-light fixtures are subject to vandalism and we do not light trails in other parks. Since there is street lighting on the exterior trails, no other lighting is planned for.
- c. Can KATV do a story on the park and drainage project-reminder and update?-Vicky will follow up with KATV

**Next meeting set for Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2011 at 6:30-8:00 in the council conference room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of City Hall**